

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

PRESENT: **DAVID SIKES, ALFRED CASON, WENDELL HUGH DIXON, DARRIEL NOBLES, TOMMY ROLLINS, BLAKE TILLERY, JOHN M. JONES AND HELEN HARRIS.**

Call to Order: Chairman Sikes called April Regular Board Meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

Invocation: Commissioner Cason gave the Invocation.

Approve Agenda: Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve the Agenda.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to amend the agenda to allow the Chairman to sign the settlement with the first party insurance dispute upon the recommendation of management and legal counsel. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve the Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held on March 19, 2024.

March 19, 2024

Regular Board Meeting:

Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the minutes from March 19, 2024 Regular Board Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Development Authority Report:

Toombs County Development Authority (TCDA) Regular Monthly Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 18th at Noon in the Chamber & Development Authority Boardroom, 2805 East First Street, Vidalia. Greater Vidalia Chamber (GVC) Regular Monthly Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 25th at 11:30 AM in the Chamber & Development Authority Boardroom, 2805 East First Street, Vidalia. Greater Vidalia Center for Rural Entrepreneurship (CRE) Entrepreneur Mixer- The Dahlia Event Center, 200 SW Main Street, Vidalia – Thursday, May 2nd at 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM. Guest speaker – Amanda Higgins. Showcasing Greater Vidalia “Out of This World” – Vidalia Community Center, 109 Old Airport Road, Vidalia on Friday, May 10th at 6:30 PM. Regional Housing Conference 2024 will be held at Southeastern Technical College (STC) Economic Development Center, 100-A Brinson Road, Vidalia, Wednesday, May 15th at 8:30 AM until 12:00 Noon.

Department Reports:

Drew James, Director of EMS, stated there were 529 calls for service for the month of March. The Vidalia Onion Festival will be coming up next week, which is our largest medical standby event of the year. Our Coverage will begin on Tuesday Night the 23rd of April until Sunday the 28th of April. On Community outreach, actually on Montgomery County side, Saturday, May 11th, Tarrytown Community Yard Sale and we will be on site to provide medical care standby and the other is to teach CPR hands-on, stop the bleed and doing blood pressure checks. Commissioner Dixon asked the status of the triage trailer. Director James stated that it was a day-to-day waiting on a phone call letting us know when we can pick up the trailer.

Chief Johnny Moser, Toombs County Vol. Fire Department, in the past year the department has been working on the ISO classification for the unincorporated area of the county. The county has received the letter that shows the results of the ISO classification evaluation that showed the results and the effective date of

July 01, 2024. Any resident or business within a five mile radius of one of the Fire Station has an ISO classification of five (5).

Public Participation: None

Consideration of Approval of Toombs County Revolving Loan Application: Manager Jones stated this is a revolving loan with Southern Mark Industries, LLC. Total project investment is \$3,000,000, in which \$2,255,000 Altamaha Bank & Trust, \$300,000 Owner, and \$445,000 Toombs Revolving Loan Fund (pending). Funding will be used for racking equipment. Toombs County Development Authority recommend the approval of the loan, subject to the following terms and conditions: Principal of \$445,000, Interest rate of 4.25% (1/2 Prime), Terms of 10-year amortization with monthly payments, Collateral: 1st position on racking equipment and personal guarantee of principle(s) and Job Creation: (26) retained/(10) new jobs. Applicant is responsible for all loan and legal fees. This was approved by the Toombs County Development Financial and Loan Committee held at the meeting on March 31st. Department of Community Affairs (DCA) will fund this type of loans for existing businesses for expansion they may have. Management recommended the Board to approve this loan application subject to DCA approval.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rollins to approve the Revolving Loan to Southern Mark Industries, LLC.; Contingent is subject the approval from DCA. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of the Authorization with the Georgia Department of Transportation for the TSPLOST Projects of the Widening and re-surfacing of Old Normantown Road and Cedar Crossing-Alston Road: Manager Jones stated these road were approved in the TSPLOST ballot that was passed a couple of years ago. The next step is for the Commission to approve the projects that will be locally delivered and TSPLOST will pay for a majority of the cost of these projects. Management recommended the Board to approve that agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the agreement with the Department of Transportation and authorize the chairman to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval of Freightliner FL7 Fire Truck from Toombs County Fire Department from Kuna Rural Fire District: Manager Jones stated Management recommended the Board to ratify this purchase of this Truck from the Kuna Rural Fire District in Idaho in the amount of \$50,000 and to pay with SPLOST Funds.

Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to ratify the purchase of one (1) freightliner for the Vol. Fire Department in the amount of \$50,000 from Kuna Rural Fire District in Idaho and to pay with SPLOST funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of the Renewal of Right of Way Mowing with K & A Mowing: Manager Jones stated this is an annual renewal and their prices have not changed from last year. Management recommended the Board to approve the contract with K & A Mowing and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Rolling made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the contract with K & A Mowing to mowing our Right-of-Ways and authorize the Chairman to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Easement Agreement from Silicon Ranch Corporation and Toombs County: Manager Jones stated that this was an easement from Silicon Ranch on Highway 297 and New Normantown Road. This is a 150 feet Right-of-Way for the possible future Utility Easement. Management recommended the Board approve this Utility Easement Agreement and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Cason made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the 150 feet Right-of-Way on Highway 297 and New Normantown Road and authorize the chairman to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of the Commission to approve the Chairman to sign first party insurance settlements upon the recommendation of management and legal counsel.

Manager Jones stated management recommended the Board to approve the Chairman to sign first party insurance settlements upon the recommendation of management and legal counsel.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the Chairman to sign first party insurance settlements. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Moving the May's Regular Board Meeting to another date:

Attorney Blake Tillery asked the Board if they wish to move the May 21st Meeting to another day due to the fact our scheduled date for May is also the Election Night and this building (Toombs County Government Center) is also a polling precinct.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to move the Regular May's meeting to a Thursday, May 23rd, starting at 5:30 pm to accommodate the Election Day. Motion carried unanimously.

County Manager Report

Financial Report:

Manager Jones stated in the Commissioners Packet there was a copy of the Financial Report as the close out of 1st Quarter 2024. M & O Budget – Expenses are currently 2% under budget for the year. Revenue is exactly on budget for the year. Solid Waste – Revenues are 2.5% above budget and expenses are 2% below budget. EMS – Revenues are 6% under budget and expense are 2% over budget. Sales taxes continue to be amazingly strong. 26.59% increase from March 2023 to March 2024. YTD increase is of 15.72%

Miscellaneous:

Standing Committee Reports:

Commissioners Comments:

Adjournment:

Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to adjourn the April Regular Board Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 PM.

David Sikes, Chairman

Attest: _____
Helen Harris, County Clerk