

TOOMBS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
July 16, 2024

Room 263
5:30 PM

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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

Call to Order: Vice-Chairman Nobles called July Regular Board Meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

Vice-Chairman Nobles announced that our Chairman, David Sikes, was attending the NACo (National Association of Counties) in Tampa Florida; as Vice-Chairman he would be conducting the July's Meeting.

Invocation: Commissioner Rollins gave the Invocation.

Approve Agenda: Vice-Chairman Nobles asked for a motion to approve the Agenda.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to amend the Agenda to include Consideration of Proposal for FY 2025 for the Georgia Extension Service and to place on the agenda after Public Participation. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Vice-Chairman Nobles asked for a motion to approve the Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held on June 18, 2024.

June 18, 2024
Regular Board Meeting:

Commissioner Cason made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rollins to approve the June 18, 2024 Regular Board Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Vice-Chairman Nobles asked for a motion to approve the Minutes for the Called Board Meeting held on June 21, 2024.

June 21, 2024 Called
Board Meeting:

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the June 21, 2024 Called Board Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Development Authority
Report:

Michele Johnson, announced a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Lyons Main Street Grant Opening at the Lyons Welcome Center and Altamaha Cultural Museum, 124 NW Broad Street, Lyons on Monday, August 12th at 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. Georgia Economic Developers Association (GEDA) Development Authority Executives Summit on Wednesday, August 14th in Macon, Georgia. Leadership Georgia Vidalia (LGV) Orientation will be held on Thursday, August 15th through Friday, August 16th. Toombs County Development Authority (TCDA) Regular Monthly Meeting will be held in the Chamber & Development Authority Boardroom, 2805 East First Street, Vidalia on Thursday, August 15th. Vidalia Chamber (GVC) Regular Monthly Meeting on Thursday, August 22nd at 11:30 A.M. in the Chamber & Development Authority Boardroom, 2805 East First Street, Vidalia. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Nutrition HQ, 1305 East First Street, Vidalia, Thursday, August 22nd, at 4:00 P.M.

Department Reports: None

Public Participation:

Joey Barrett, Area Manager of Georgia Power Company. Mr. Barrett stated that he serves Toombs County and nine other counties. His duties are external affairs and can be reached anytime on his cell phone.

Mr. Clint Blount, 512 Mel Blount Road. Mr. Blount was concerned for the safety of the students at the Mel Blount Home. He asked the Commissioner to look into some way to slow the speed of vehicle that travel down Mel Blount and T. H. Tippett Road. He suggested maybe speed bumps on the road and signs to be placed notifying the public of a school zone. Commissioner Rollins asked if there was just one crossing from the home to the schools side and Mr. Blount replied there are two main entrances. Commissioner Dixon asked what the speed limit on the road was and Mr. Blount replied, thirty five. Vice- Chairman Nobles asked how many kids were enrolled at the school, Mr. Blount replied, twelve and we top out at fifteen. Vice-Chairman Nobles stated he appreciated him bring the issue to the Commissioners attention and would addressed the problem and get back with him on what we can and cannot do.

Consideration of Proposal for FY 2025 for the Georgia Extension Service:

Manager Jones stated Georgia Extension Service had given four different options to choose from. The first option was no change in their budget, the second option is giving the employees a COLA raise to the employees and increasing the Ag Agents salary by two thousand dollars, the third and fourth option, with increase accordingly. Management reviewed the options and advised the Board to choose proposal two for the reason to get his salary up comparable to the surrounding Counties.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rollins to approve the second option with a COLA raise for all employees and increasing the Ag Agents salary by two thousand dollars. Motion carried unanimously.

Manager Report Financial Report:

Manager Jones stated, in the Commissioners packet the LOST and SPLOST collection from 2017-YTD 2024. Sales tax continues to show double digits percentage increases in current month compared to prior year month. Current YTD exceeds prior year by over fourteen percent. Workman Compensation report for June 30, 2024 Executive Summary of the outstanding claims are also in the packet for review. M & O (Maintenance and Operation) Budget, the annual midpoint overall M & O Budget expenses are almost five percent under budget. The E-911 department is on budget and expenses are seventeen percent under budget. Landfills revenue is eight percent over budget while expenses are two point six over budget. EMS Department's revenue is under budget and YTD expenses are on budget. Health Wellness Program, this month's Flyer addressing skin cancers and the risk factors and the signs of skin cancer. Landfills Aging Account Report was included in the Commissioner's Packet. Toombs County Fire Department for the month of June was the county's lowest call month and overall (County & Cities) the second lowest call month for 2024.

Status of Various Projects:

There are a few Right-of-Ways that need to be obtained before the contractor begin construction on Hammonds Church Road. McLendon will be adding a cross drain pipe under Ezra Taylor Road greatly relieving the stress of the water coming down Hugh Taylor Road and attempting to divert back to Hwy 280. This will finally eliminate the erosion issue we have been battling at this intersection since paving Hugh Taylor Road. After which McLendon will be moving to Old Normantown Road and begin those replacements of cross drain pipes that were beginning to fail; part of Old Normantown Road will be closed while this repair is performed. Government Center Parking Lot has been paved and most of the top soil for the park has been installed as well. The landscaper should begin next

week with the grass, plants, trees, etc. The Plaque for the Government Center has arrived.

Miscellaneous: Financial Advisors meeting was held this week to begin the planning for the long term financial plan of the county insuring we maintain our current double AA bond rating and prepare for anticipated infrastructure expenses for the county. Additionally, formulating a long term financial plan for the funding of the future expansion of the landfill and the new government requirements that we will soon be required. The County is in the process of updating County Ordinances and this project is close to being finished and ready for your review, hopefully next month. Additionally, we are preparing proposals for ordinances addressing issues in the county. July the 1st marks the beginning of next year's budget cycle. The Budget Calendar for the Commissioners' is being prepared for their review.

Commissioners Comments: None

Adjournment: Vice-Chairman Nobles asked for a motion to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rollins to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:53 PM.

Vice-Chairman, Darriel Nobles

Attest: _____
Helen Harris, County Clerk