

TOOMBS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
August 20, 2024

Room 263
5:30 PM

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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

Call to Order: Commissioner Dixon called August Regular Board Meeting to order at 5:50 P.M.

Commissioner Dixon announced that our Chairman, David Sikes, was attending an ACCG meeting in Albany, Georgia and Darriel Nobles is out of town at a Federal meeting held in St. Louis MO; therefore, he would be conducting the August's Meeting.

Invocation: Commissioner Cason gave the Invocation.

Approve Agenda: Commissioner Dixon asked for a motion to approve the Agenda.

Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to accept the Agenda to accept the agenda as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Dixon asked for a motion to approve the Minutes for the
July 16, 2024 Regular Board Meeting held on July 16, 2024.

Regular Board Meeting:

Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the July 16, 2024 Regular Board Meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Development Authority Report:

Michele Johnson had prior engagements, this list of events were sent to the meeting: Greater Vidalia® Chamber (GVC) & Toombs County Development Authority (TCDA) August 20, 2024 The Greater Vidalia® Chamber (GVC) Regular Monthly Meeting-Thursdays, August 22nd, 11:30 a.m., in the Chamber & Development Authority Boardroom, 2805 East First Street, Vidalia. There will be a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony - Nutrition HQ, 1305 East First Street, Vidalia - Thursday, August 22nd, 4:00 p.m. The State of the Cities & County - Lyons First Baptist Church, 144 S. Washington Street, Lyons - Thursday, September 5th, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Leadership Greater Vidalia® (LGV) Ag Session - Friday, September 13th Ribbon Cutting Ceremony- Patriot Gas, 882 Highway 29, Ailey (between Higgston and Big Al's) held, Monday, September 16th, 4:00 p.m. Greater Vidalia® Chamber (GVC) Regular Monthly Meeting-Tuesday, September 17th, 11:30 a.m., in the Chamber & Development Authority Boardroom, 2805 East First Street, Vidalia The Toombs County Development Authority (TCDA) Regular Monthly Meeting - Wednesday, September 18th, 12 noon, in the Chamber & Development Authority Boardroom, 2805 East First Street, Vidalia. The Georgia Economic Developers Association (GEDA) Annual Conference -Wednesday, September 18th - Friday, September 20th, in Savannah The Tax Allocation District (TAD) Lunch & Learn with Andrew Carnes, Regional Economic Development Manager, Northeast, Georgia Power - Thursday, September 26th, 12:30p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Department Reports:

Drew James, Director of EMS, stated there were 543 calls for service for the month of July. The EMS Department has completed the Annual drill with GEMA, FEMA, EMA and Meadows Hospital. This drill demonstrates how each department works together if there was a contaminated patient from Hatch Plant. FEMA gave high praises to EMS Department as well as the Hospital and their ER staff. The ambulance that was ordered back in 2022, Custom Trucks and Body Works has a delivery date of October 14th to our County. This Friday night may be a historic night for their department; all five high schools will be having home games. They are please to say all games will be covered. Clarke Ricks Sohn is the Vidalia High School athletic trainer. She did an in-service with our department this past month and described the technique of removing a helmet and shoulder pads. The department has built a strong relationship with her.

Public Participation:

Vidalia City Manager, Josh Beck and Fire Chief Brian Sikes presented two custom-made axes; one to the Toombs County Vol. Fire Department and another ax to the Commissioners for the appreciation shown while they used of one of the Counties Fire Trucks while one of the city's Fire Truck was out of commission. Engraved on the ax was the Toombs County EMA-Fire-Rescue Seal and the other with the Toombs County Seal along with this wording "In appreciation of your sacrifice and continued support for our department and community."

Chris Riner, 335 Mosley Road, Mr. Riner described how displeased he was with the Solar Company that created an eye sore across from his home. He continued to tell the commission of the damages they had created on some of his property from the retention ponds they had built. Silicon Solar Company will unload and load their equipment in the middle of the road, tearing up Mosley Road; sometimes you can't even get by their trucks parked in the middle of the road. Mr. Jones stated that the county had hired a consultant to help make sure they stay in compliance with EPD rules and regulations. As far as the location, we do not have zoning in our county and without zoning they have the right to place the solar panels on that property.

Consideration of Resolution Establishing Speed Limits for Glynn James Road, Joe Harden Road, Bud Jordan Road, Ezra Taylor Road and a Portion of US#1:

Manager Jones stated the proposed Resolution was included into their packet. The Sheriff's Office has requested that we combine all of them into one Resolution. All of these are basically the same from the previously passed Resolutions with the expectation of the portion of US #1 which is new. This "new portion" is the portion of US #1 that was built going around Toombs Central. If approved by the Board, this Resolution will be forward to the Department of Public Safety and added to the list of roads that the Sheriff's Office is authorized to run radar. Management recommended that the Board approved this Resolution as presented.

Commissioner Cason made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rollins to approve the Resolution as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval of Five (5) Stryker Life Pak Heart Monitors:

Manager Jones stated a proposal was presented to the Board for the cost of five heart monitors. The EMS Service has three of the five purchased in 2012 and are no longer being supported by the manufacturer. Replacing these three with additional two would give each ambulance equipped with a reliable unit for each ambulance. The cost after trade-in would be \$217,161.65 and would be paid with SPLOST funds. Management recommended that the Board approved the purchase of five (5) Stryker Life Pak Heart Monitors.

Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve five Stryker LifePak 35 Heart Monitors in the amount of \$217,161.65 and to pay with SPLOST funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Proposal for Hydraulic Cleanout on CAT 930 Front End Loader – Limb Cutter:

Manager Jones stated the CAT 930 Front End Loader which is what the county uses as a Limb Cutter, has metal in the hydraulic system of the front end loader, which came from the Limb Cutter attachment. The repair cost as CAT’s worse case estimate would be \$71,788.55 and would be paid with SPLOST funds.

Commissioner Cason made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rollins to approve the Hydraulic cleanout in the amount of \$71,788.55 and would be paid with SPLOST funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval of Additional Pipe Replacement on Old Normantown Road:

Manager Jones previously sent everyone an email that the contractor had found another location that needed the cross drain pipes replaced. Three pipes have been already replaced on this road and this is addition pipes that need to be replaced. McLendon Enterprises has quoted \$25,950 to do the repair and replacement of pipe. Management recommended the Board to approve this proposal and pay with TSPLOST funds.

Commissioner Cason made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rollins to approve the replacement of the additional pipes on Old Normantown Road and pay McLendon Enterprise in the amount of \$25,950 and pay with TSPLOST funds. Motion carried unanimously

Presentation of Proposing an Ordinance for Cryptocurrency and Data Mining:

Manager Jones presented a copy of the county’s ordinance adoption policy. For Cryptocurrency and Data Mining ordinance to be considered, it must first be presented to the board either by a Commissioner or Management. After which a draft is to be prepared and presented to the Board for consideration. The Board was presented an ordinance that addresses Cryptocurrency and Data Mining in Toombs County that was prepared by Management through the County Attorney. This draft of the proposed Ordinance will be reviewed by each Commissioner before the next meeting. The next Board meeting in September, the board will either decide or move forward. If the Board decides to move forward there will be a public hearing on this Ordinance.

Presentation of Proposing an Ordinance for Solar Energy Generation:

Manager Jones stated the same applies to this Ordinance; the county’s ordinance adoption policy is the guideline in presenting and adopting an ordinance. Management in presenting to the Board an ordinance that addresses Solar Energy Generation in Toombs County. Again, given the complexity of this issue, Management through the County Attorney, has prepared a draft for each commissioner to review before the next meeting.

The Commissioners were asked to review and provide any questions, concerns, suggestions and/or criticism and we will attempt to incorporate into the draft that will be presented at the next Board meeting in September. It will be at that the September meeting the board will either decide to decline to move forward, return back to management for more editing or decide to move forward to a public hearing.

**Manager Report
Financial Report:**

Manager Jones stated, Sales tax, while still higher the prior year month, was less than last month and is only the second time this year was less than double digit increase from the prior year. M & O Expenses are still three percent under budget.

Miscellaneous: A copy of Mauldin & Jenkins Auditor's Discussion & Analysis was in the Commissioners packet. Management is still working on the Organization of the County's Ordinance. Fire Department Calls a summary of the previous and YTD fire calls for all Fire Departments in Toombs County including the E911 call sheets for each. Workman Comp Report is also included in the Commissioner Packet. Landfill, as part of the Master Plan being prepared for the existing landfill property the county is getting a Hydrogeological Assessment Study done.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Rollins thanked the County's Road Department and the Fire Department for getting our County Roads passable again after the storm.

Adjournment: Commissioner Dixon asked for a motion to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 PM.

Wendell Hugh Dixon, Commissioner, District 2

Attest: _____
Helen Harris, County Clerk