

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

PRESENT: **ALFRED CASON, BUCK MOON, DARRIEL NOBLES, TOMMY ROLLINS, JOHN M. JONES AND HELEN HARRIS**

Call to Order: Commissioner Nobles called January Regular Board Meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. Commissioner Nobles announced Chairman Sikes had the flu therefore he would be standing in for David. Commission Nobles welcomed Commissioner Moon on his first meeting since he was elected and it was good to see Wendell Dixon at the meeting.

Invocation: Commissioner Cason gave the Invocation.

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

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

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Nobles asked for a motion to approve the Minutes for the December 19, 2024 Regular Board Meeting:

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

Development Authority Report: Michele Johnson was not at the meeting so John Jones gave the report that Michele had prepared. Leadership Greater Vidalia (LGV) "Old Fashioned Field Day Session" Team Building Session-Friday, January 24th. Greater Vidalia Center for Rural Entrepreneurship (CRE) Business Builders Series "Launch Luncheon"- Thursday, January 30th, 11:30 AM to 1 :00 PM in the Dot Foods Business Hub. Greater Vidalia Chamber (GVC) 2025 Annual Meeting – Friday, February 7th at 5:30 PM at the Vidalia Community Center, 107 Old Airport Road, Vidalia. Leadership Greater Vidalia (LGV) "Health and Social Services" Session – Thursday, February 13th. Greater Vidalia Chamber (GVC) State of Economic Development "Empowering Revitalization" Luncheon, Tuesday, February 18th at 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM, Lyons First Baptist Church, 144 South Washington Street, Lyons. Toombs County Development Authority (TCDA) Regular Monthly Meeting – Thursday, February 20th at 12:00 Noon, in the Dot Foods Business Hub, Greater Vidalia Center for Rural Entrepreneurship. Greater Vidalia Chamber (GVC) Monthly Monthly Meeting – Thursday, February 27th at 11:30 AM in the Dot Foods Business Hub.

Department Reports: **Drew James**, EMS Director, stated for the month of December there were 567 calls for service. Starting out for the New Year, since the year 2008, the EMS service had depended on EPCR (Electronic Patient Care Report) to be done through our billing services software. Each call for service, the staff is required to do an EPCR on each patient. As of February 1, 2025, the department will switch to use the States Software to do these reports. The States Software is a much

friendly-user software and the reporting will be sent to the billing company from the States Software.

Sheriff Jordan Kight stated the jail was averaging 140 to 150 inmates.

Public Participation: **Wendell Dixon**, 702 Adams Street, Vidalia, GA. Mr. Dixon welcomed Commission Buck Moon onto the Commission Board. Mr. Dixon, in the previous year's, made name tags for each person on the Board, as well as the County Manager and Clerk. Mr. Dixon presented Commissioner Moon with a name tag so that he would have a matching name tag. In addition to the name tag, Mr. Dixon also gave Commissioner Moon a laminated news article where Commissioner Moon had been sworn into office.

Appointment of Vice-Chairman: Tabled; the Chairman will announce his decision during the Commissioner's Meeting that will be held on February 18, 2025.

Appointment of Attorney: Manager Jones stated each year, the Commission appoints an Attorney; **County** Attorney Blake Tillery was the Attorney last year.

Commissioner Cason made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Moon to appoint Attorney Blake Tillery (Tillery Law Firm) to be the attorney for Toombs County for the year 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Assignments: Tabled until February 18, 2025, this is time Chairman Sikes will make these assignments.

Consideration of Approval of the Following: Manager Jones stated all of these businesses are all renewals of existing licenses holders and have met the requirement to renew this year. The Board may elect to vote on each Alcohol license or vote as a whole.

- Dennis Sport Shop
- Frank's Country Club
- John's Country Junction
- Fruteria Rodriquez
- Normantown Grocery
- Big Ma's
- Benton Lee's

Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the Alcohol License for Dennis Sport Shop, Frank's Country Club, John's Country Junction, Fruteria Rodriquez, Normantown Grocery, Big Ma's and Benton Lee's. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval of 2024 Budget Amendment: Manager Jones stated at the end of each year there are necessary entries to be made to reflect the financial changes within the budget. The largest is the FEMA Grant due to the Hurricane Helene.

Commissioner Moon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the Budget Amendment as presented by Manager Jones. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Request to Close Jarahn Collins Road: Manager Jones stated in 2011 the County adopted a policy on closing a road. In the Commissioner's packet there was a copy of such policy along with the Georgia Code 32-7-3; procedure for abandonment of a road and a copy of the road we are reviewing. There are impact statement from the Director of the Toombs County Bus Shop, Toombs County Public Works Director, EMS Director, Caption of the Code Enforcement and E-911. All have returned and stated the closing of this road will not impact the delivery of their services that the County requires. Once the Board approves to move forward, the County

is required to advertise in the Legal Organ for two weeks, notify any adjacent owners by mail, and place signs of a Public Hearing to discuss the closing of the road. The Public Hearing will be held at 5:00 PM at the next Regular Board Meeting (February 18, 2025). After the Public Hearing during the Commissioners Meeting a decision will be made to close the road or not to close the road.

Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Moon to proceed in the next step in closing Jarahn Collins Road because it does not serve a public purpose. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Request to Close a Portion of Raymond Rollison Road and a Portion of Ohoopce Station Road:

Manager Jones stated in the Commissioner's Packet there was a request and the map of the proposed closure and the Impact Statements. The Road does not serve a public purpose and the Board was asked if they would like to proceed with the next step by holding a Public Hearing held on February 18, 2025. At that time during the Commissioners Meeting a decision will be made to close the road or not to close the road.

Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to proceed in the next step in closing a portion of Raymond Rollison Road and a portion of Ohoopce Station Road as it does not serve a public purpose. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Annual Maintenance Contract Stretchers & CPR Machines with Stryker for Toombs-Montgomery EMS:

Manager Jones stated that is contract was an annual contract with both. If approved the contracts will be paid from EMS Budgeted Funds

Commissioner Moon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rollins to approve the Annual Maintenance Contract with Stryker for Toombs-Montgomery EMS, for the Electrical Stretchers in the amount of \$11,076.80 and the CPR Monitors in the amount of \$8,608.52; pay the two invoices with EMS Budgeted Funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval Proposal John Deere Gator

Manager Jones stated the EMS Department has requested to purchase a John Deere Gator and Skid Unit for the purpose of accessing possible patients from the football games and large gathering such as festivals. Director James explained about a year and a half ago they had an injured hunter in the south end of the county. Our staff had to carry the patient about a mile by foot to the ambulance. Toombs County Football field now has new turf on the field and the ambulance cannot go onto the field. The Vidalia Onion Festival is the largest events the service covers and it would be a great help in covering that event. This is just three good examples of how it would be beneficial to the EMS department to have this equipment. If approved the EMS Department will start asking for donations to cover the expense of a trailer to pull with our F-250 truck.

Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Moon to approve the purchase of one (1) John Deere Gator in the amount of \$16,400 and for the Skid Unit in the amount of \$2,500. The Georgia Trauma Grant received will be applied to the purchase in the amount of \$7,119.92, the remaining balance of \$11,780.08 will be paid with SPLOST funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval of Addendum 5 to

Manager Jones stated the Board will need to increase the "not to exceed" the amount of \$50,000,000 for debris pickup and to authorize the Chairman to sign. FEMA will reimbursing us for the cost at 100 % which will expire

Contract With Looks Great Services of MS, Inc.:

on February 3, 2025. The county is asking GEMA for an extended time up to 180 days.

Commissioner Moon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the Addendum 5 to Contract with Looks Great Services of MS, Inc. to not exceed the amount of \$50,000,000 and to authorize the Chairman to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval of IGA with Department of Natural Resources Construction and Restoration of Outdoor Recreation Facilities:

Manager Jones stated Toombs County has been awarded a \$500,000 Grant and the county will need to sign this IGA (Inter Government Agreement) with DNR (Department of Natural Resources) before the funds will be given to the county. The board needs to authorize the County Manager to sign.

Commissioner Cason made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Moon to approve the Inter Government Agreement with the Department of Natural Resources Construction and Restoration of Outdoor Recreation Facilities. The County was awarded a \$5,000,000 grant and the board authorizes the County Manager to sign so that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will release the funds to Toombs County. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Proposal for Removing Existing Lighting and Replacing with LED Lighting at Health Department Building:

Manager Jones stated the proposal from Rhodes Electric to remove the existing lighting and replace with LED lighting was \$24,400. This building has not had any significant improvement since it was built. If approved to proceed the bill will be paid with SPLOST funds.

Commissioner Cason made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Moon to approve Rhodes Electric to remove the existing lighting and replace with LED Lighting at the Health Department Building. Rhodes Electric's invoice will be paid with SPLOST funds in the amount of \$24,400. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Ratifying Proposal for Emergency Repairs on Victory Circle:

Manager Jones stated there was a meeting with GDOT (Georgia Department of Transportation) and the City of Lyons to review the damage that Swift Creek had done on Victory Circle after the flood that happened. McLendon Enterprises has done emergency repairs so that the residence and emergency vehicles has passage as well as moving the water lines for the City of Lyons. This work only places the road in the prior condition before the flood. The County is working with FEMA trying to get additional funds to improve the condition of this road. McLendon Enterprise quoted the repairs in the amount of \$38,385 and the bill will be paid from TSPLOST funds.

Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the emergency repair on Victory Circle; for McLendon Enterprise quoted repair cost of \$38,385 and the bill be paid with TSPLOST funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Response to GDOT Proposed 4-Way Stop at the Intersection of SR 15 and Lyons-Center Road:

Manager Jones stated GDOT (Georgia Department of Transportation) has proposed a four (4) way stop at the intersection of SR 15 and Lyons-Center Road. Hofstadter & Associates (County's Engineers) has done an evaluation of this intersection and their report was included in the Commissioners Packet.

After discussion among the Commissioner's and Sheriff Kight; Manger Jones was asked to draft a response letter to the GDOT (Georgia Department of Transportation). Additional discussion on the proposed 4-way stop at the Intersection of SR 15 and Lyons-Center Road will be in a later meeting.

County Manager Report
Financial Report: Manager Jones stated excluding Hurricane Helene/FEMA items, we finished the year with revenue exceeding budget and expenditures came under budget as well. SPLOST, county wide revenue was over the projected budget revenues; possibly because of inflation. Solid Waste at the Landfill, revenue was up because of the debris from Hurricane Helene. Sales Tax for the year was pretty strong compare to previous years. Sales Tax for the year was pretty strong compare to previous years.

Miscellaneous: In the Commissioner's packet there is additional items such as, payment status of the BLE – Hydrology Study assessment at the landfill for a long term site plan for the Landfill and the property owned by the County. Summary of House Bill 581, Home Stead Exemption. Toombs County in the year of 2008 elected to have a floating exemption rate for residential homes. The Counties floating exemption rate is a better rate than the House Bill 581 is presenting to be state wide. There is no reason to take action on the Bill. The summary of Medical Claims, both monthly and year-to-date; along with a summary of the fire calls in the community and a copy of the E-911 reports. There has been discussion on potential enhancement to our retirement plans for our employees and will be presented to the board at a later date. Year-to-date the debris that has been collected is 1.8 million cubic yards of debris. As of last Friday we had 60 trucks in the community and they have identified approximately 4,000 piles of debris to be picked up. In the near future, we will need to set a date for final pickup. In the next several months the county will have extra volunteers to help. AmeriCorp are volunteers that will be looking at homes that have no insurance or that are under insured and will visit them to see if they qualify for help. The Amish, out of Canada, will help rebuild, the database they are using is on "Toombs Strong" website. Team Rubicon is a Veterans Organization that will cut trees and get them to the edge of the road; this is for people that are not physically able to do this type of work themselves; this is just for residential.

Standing Committee Reports

Commissioners Comments

Adjournment: Commissioner Nobles 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 6:28 PM.

Commissioner Nobles, District 3

Attest: _____
Helen Harris, County Clerk