

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**PRESENT:** DAVID SIKES, ALFRED CASON, WENDELL HUGH DIXON, DARRIEL NOBLES, HOWARD KAUFOLD, JOHN M. JONES AND HELEN HARRIS.

**Call to Order:** Chairman Sikes called the January 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2017 Regular Board Meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. Chairman Sikes asked Commissioner Cason to give the invocation.

Before the invocation was given Chairman Sikes announced the passing of Mr. Donnie Mann. Mr. Mann served on the Board of Election for many years and highly respected in the community. Chairman Sikes asked that we pray for his family and to remember them in their prayers, and then gave the visitation and funeral arrangements for Mr. Mann.

**Invocation:** Commissioner Cason gave the invocation.

**Swearing-In Ceremony:** Judge Larry Threlkeld performed the Swearing-In Ceremony for John David Sikes as the Chairman of the Toombs County Board of Commissioners. Chairman Sikes also took the Loyalty Oath. Commissioner Darriell Nobles and Commissioner Wendell Dixon had already been sworn in prior to the meeting. They did not have any opposition and will be returning for the next four years on the Board of Commissioners.

Chairman Sikes spoke after being sworn in and stated, "I have never served in our Nations Military and I have often regretted that, so as I've grown older I have asked myself the question, how I may serve the Citizens of the United States. So I threw my hat in the ring to be able to serve you politically and to serve you hold heartedly and to serve you with the humbleness, ability of everything that I have to give back to you as citizens. I take this opportunity with extreme humbleness and to be completely candid with you, I'd take it very seriously and I am very honored that you choose me and give me this opportunity, as it is a big deal to me and to my family. You guys are now my family and I will work every day to the best of my ability to assure that with your best interest in my heart. I thank you so much for this opportunity. I will serve you with all that I can; Thank you guys."

**Approve Agenda:** Chairman Sikes stated that he needed a motion to approval the Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:** Chairman Sikes stated that he needed a motion to approve the Minutes of the December 20, 2016 Regular Board Meeting.

Commissioner Cason made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the December 20, 2016 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

**December 28, 2016**  
**Called Board Meeting:** Chairman Sikes stated that he also needed a motion to approve the Minutes of the December 28, 2016 Called Board Meeting.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve the Minutes of the December 28, 2016 Called Board Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**Development Authority Report:**

Mr. Bill Mitchell thanked David for joining as the Chairman. He stated that it had been an eventful year and he was looking forward to the coming year. The Leadership Toombs Montgomery Economic Development will be held January 26 (Thursday). This session offers an inside into the economics of our community today and a vision of tomorrow. It also presents an understanding of the existing and new industries and economical development affects by our local development authorities.

Toombs-Montgomery Youth Leadership is putting their best foot forward and will have the graduation project on February 7, 2017 from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM

The next meeting for the Development Authority will be held January 19, 2017 (Thursday) at noon. We do have a project coming in, it's the solar project. This company is looking for 1500 acres near the Nuclear Plant to tap into a solar farm for Georgia Power.

The Greater Savannah Regional Georgia Authority met with Mr. Mitchell for two and a half hours in which they toured the spec building.

**Department Reports:**

Director Drew James of the EMS reported there were 7,402 calls for service in the year 2016. There were 624 runs for the month of the December and about 24,000 miles driven. The average response time was six minutes, where the national average is twelve minutes. The service is considering a peak unit where the volume is the highest to help with some of the runs, possible 8 am to 8 pm, Monday through Friday. Also within the next two week, will be the Youth Academy. This is a program they launched in the fall of 2015. The program had fourteen, seventeen year old that were in the local area. This program allows them to see every aspect of our jobs.

Johnny Moser, Vol. Fire Dept. On fire related calls for 2016, they had 172 fires, they were 43 rescue calls. The department can have a truck dispatched and for the truck to be in route within two minutes. Mr. Moser recognized two of his men, Lt. John Hayes and Lt. Robert Tillman; they were promoted to Captain Status and pinned during the meeting.

Sheriff Alvie Kight, Jr. Sheriff Kight thanked everyone for working with him and was looking forward to the coming year. Sheriff Kight discussed the many officers that had lost their lives throughout the nation. His employee are required to have twenty hours of training per year. Sheriff Kight thanked the Commissioners for the raise they received; he is looking into what the State may do to help with the salaries. A hand-out was given to the Commissioners and to the County Manager. This hand-out reflected the numbers of inmates that have to be housed. Most of the time when someone comes to jail, they are not in good health. Currently there is forth three sex offenders and we have to check on them occurring to be sure they are where they are suppose to be at. Sheriff Kight stated that they have almost a full capacity at the jail. He also discussed the fines that have been collected.

E-911 staff answered 46,708 emergency calls that came through our system for the year of 2016. The breakdown of those calls is in the sheets that Sheriff Kight gave the Commissioners.

Judge Tommy Smith, State Court: Judge Smith explained the difference in the Courts and what each court covers. Maps that were displayed on the overhead projector explained how much coverage is required for their courts to be overseen. He discussed the difference in

paying a fine verses jail time. Some can do Community Service to pay off their fines when they are unable to pay. Judge Smith shared the amount of the revenues that are collected each year, in which the amount is twice what their budget requirement is.

Chairman Sikes asked Mr. Manager is there any more department reports? Manager Jones stated, No that is all. Chairman Sikes stated that in his eagerness to kick this meeting off tonight, I forgot to recognize that we do have a State Senator in the house, Senator Blake Tillery is here and it is great to have him here tonight.

**Public Participation**

Chairman Sikes stated that we are at the point of our meeting for the public participation. If there is any member of the public that wish to bring something before the commission, we ask that you step to the microphone to my right and state your name and address. We ask that you limit your time to two minutes or less.

Hearing None, Mr. Manger will you read the next item?

**Consideration of  
2017 Beer and Wine  
Licenses: John's  
Country Junction,  
Country Pantry dba  
Quick Fair, Norman-  
town Grocery, Big  
Ma's, and Frank's  
Country Club:**

Manager Jones stated the consideration of the five businesses on the agenda that have met the requirements to be renewed on their Beer and Wine Licenses. They all have complied with the Beer and Wine Ordinance and the Commission needs to approve the renewals.

Commission Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to renew the Beer and Wine Licenses for the following businesses, John's Country Junction, Country Pantry dba Quick Fair, Normantown Grocery, Big Ma's and Frank's Country Club. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Sikes asked Manager Jones to read the next item.

**Consideration of  
Appointment of Sam  
Polk and the Re-  
Appointment of  
Jeremy Joyner and  
Powell Collins to  
Toombs County  
Hospital Authority  
for January 1, 2017  
to December 31, 2019:**

Manager Jones stated he was going to combine the next three items for the Commission to Consider for the Hospital Authority for a term of January 1, 2017 until December 31, 2019. Dr. Bob DeJarnette declined on being re-appointed and it has been recommended that Sam Polk fill his position and Jeremy Joyner and Powell Collins both are being re-appointed to the Hospital Authority Board.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to the new appointment of Sam Polk, re-appointment of Jeremy Joyner and Powell Collins to the Board of Toombs County Hospital Authority for the terms of January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Sikes asked Manager Jones to read the next item.

**Consideration of  
Approval for Re-  
Appointment of  
County Attorney:**

Manager Jones stated the consideration of Approval for re-appointment of the County Attorney for the year of 2017.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to re-appointment Howard Kaufold to be the County's Attorney for the year of 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Sikes asked Manager Jones to read the next item.

**Consideration of  
Approval of  
Resolution Designating**

Manager Jones stated the consideration of approval of resolution designating Ameris Bank as Depository and Authorizing with-drawal of Municipal Public Moneys for Clerk of Court. As you know, Chess Fountain retired and Nancy Pittman was elected the new Clerk

**Ameris Bank as  
Depository and  
Authorizing With-  
drawal of Municipal  
Public Moneys for  
Clerk of Court:**

of Clerk. This Resolution is required by the bank for Nancy Pittman to open up these accounts for the Clerk of Courts Office.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to allow the Chairman to sign the Resolution, designation Ameris Bank as Depository and Authorizing with-drawal of Municipal Public Moneys for Clerk of Court, Mrs. Nancy Pittman. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Sikes asked Manager Jones to read the next item.

**Consideration of  
Approval of Annual  
Maintenance for EMS  
Heart :**

Manager Jones stated the consideration of approval of annual maintenance for EMS Heart Monitors. On the ALS Ambulances we have these Heart Monitor Machines on board. This is the annual contract to have maintenance on the machines. This maintenance covers parts for any repair that may be needed on these machines. This Contract is with Physio-Control, Inc. and the cost is \$ 7,140. and will be paid out of the Ambulances Budget account. The board needs to approve the Chairman to sign that contract.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to allow that Chairman to sign the contract with Physio-Control, Inc. for the Maintenance for EMS Heart Monitors in the amount of \$7,140 and the fund from the Ambulance Budget Account pay for the contracted price. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Sikes asked Manager Jones to read the next item.

**Consideration of  
Purchase of Security  
Cameras for Jail:**

Manager Jones stated the consideration of purchase of security cameras for the jail. These cameras will be paid from the Jail Fund. The Jail Fund is certified by statue, where we can take and place funds that will be used for any improvements or any necessary work that may be needed at the jail.

Sheriff Kight spoke on the importance of having coverage with a camera system. It is not only protects for the jailors and inmates but it also captures and records any event that may arise, on film in case it is needed for court evidence. Often the cameras will deter an incident from even occurring.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to purchase the security cameras for the Jail and to pay for the cameras using the Jail Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Sikes asked Manager Jones to read the next item.

**Consideration of Moving  
February 21, 2017  
Regular Meeting due  
to Conflict with ACCG  
Legislative Day:**

Manager Jones stated next, consideration of moving February 21, 2017 Regular Meeting due a conflict with the ACCG Legislative Day Meeting in Atlanta. The Association County Commissioners of Georgia have an arrangement where they would try to bring every County up, by region, to Atlanta during the Legislative Session. Our Regions Meeting will conflict with our meeting in February on that Tuesday. If the Regular Board Meeting could be moved to the fourth Tuesday of February instead of the third Tuesday, this would allow us to attend the ACCG Legislative Meeting for our County. If it is approved for the meeting to be held on the fourth Tuesday, it will be published in the paper and on the Counties Website to inform the public.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to move the Regular Commissioners Board Meeting to the fourth Tuesday of February, so the Commission and Manager can attend the meeting in Atlanta. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeff McCormick, who is sick tonight and stated earlier that he, was extremely sorry for missing the meeting. Chairman Sikes stated that the virus that is going around in our area is extremely bad and spreads quickly. Please pray for him and the wellness of our Community.

**Appointment of Committees:**

Jeff McCormick will be the Vice-Chairman; he will be over Roads and Bridges Chairman, and Public Safety. Alfred Cason will be over Roads and Bridges and Recreations. Darriel Nobles will be the Landfill Chairman and Recreations.. Mr. Wendell Dixon will be Public Safety Chairman and our County Liaison with the Development Authority.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to accept the Appointment of the Committees. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Sikes stated, "Mr. Manager, will you give your report please."

**County Manager Report  
Financial Report:**

Manager Jones reported the end of the year financial report with the notation that these numbers have not been audited; the auditors will be coming in the month of March; with Audit and Financial Statement reported back in the month of June. For the year of 2016 General Fund Expenses were one and a half percent under budget. We were slightly over in Revenue. The Local Option Sales Tax Collection for the year was down with a difference of two point one nine percent from the prior year.

**EMS Report:**

Drew James gave the EMS Report earlier in the meeting.

**Miscellaneous:**

On our Health Insurance we are running really well on claims relevantly to the overall premiums that we are paying. Our goal is seventy-five percent of premiums. The insurance plan year end is on June 30, 2017. Everything is going very well with the Wellness Program. For the next four weeks there will be weight loss program that the employees can participate in. The final inspection on Glynn James and Ezra Taylor Road should be coming up shortly. The resurfacing and widening of some of the roads are coming along quite well.

**2016 Budget  
Amendment:**

The Commission was provided in their packet a Budget Amendment for the Board to review and approve. Each line item by department has to be balanced and the Boards approval is needed for these to be balanced. This Budget Amendment is moving certain Departments that were un-budget to the Departments that were over-budget for the year. This is the third Amendment, the Board just needs to approve.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to accept the 2016 Budget Amendment. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Sikes asked anyone had any questions for Manager Jones.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

**Commissioners Comments:**

**Commissioner Nobles:** Commissioner Nobles announced Toombs County is a member of the Altamaha River Partnerships. This is a group of Counties that have come together that border the Altamaha River from where it starts all the way from Darien Georgia. They have a meeting once every three months to promote traffic and recreational activity in the Altamaha River. This group usually meets in Jessup Georgia. We have invited them to come to Toombs County on January 27, which is this coming Friday, at 10:30 AM and meet at Benton Lee's Steakhouse Restaurant at Gray's Landing. Toombs County is very fortunate; we are the only landing on the Altamaha River that has a Restaurant. This is a time when we can show them the park and the boat landing. Junior (Sheriff Kight) make a statement that he appreciates our support, I want to reverse that to the Constitutional Officers to tell you how much we appreciate you working with us. Commissioner Nobles thanked the work the fire fighters have done. He extended his appreciation to all the other departments that works for the County.

**Commissioner Cason:** Commissioner Cason wanted to coincide with our Chairman; he stated he gives all of our reports. Thank You.

**Commissioner Dixon:** Commissioner Dixon looked forward to working with the Chairman and the Commissioners, Drew James and his crew, Johnny Moser and his crew, Fuzzy and his people, Brenda and her folks, Junior – your people and you, Alvin, Tommy Smith, Bill Mitchell, John and Helen, and Howard. I hope I have not left anyone out. We have a good group of people to work with and I look forward to working with all of you for the next four years.

**Chairman Sikes:** Chairman Sikes made his closing statements with this being said: Twenty Seventeen will be a year that we focus on safety, where we focus on are hard surfacing roads, where we focus on maintaining the lowest tax rate possible, where we focus on safety for travel ways, and we will focus on developing a plan that will carry Toombs County into the future. Our buildings, the way that we look and the way our roads receive guest, visitors, you will of us, because the people that are coming to do business here will want to be a part of us more and more. I thank each and every one of you, the Constitutional Officers, the Volunteers, the Commissioners, I am very, very humble as a said in the beginning, I am very thankful for the opportunity; and as Blake Tillery always said, My phone number is 912-690-3165, write it down and call me if you need me and if I can help, I assure you, I will. Thank you Guys and with that, I need a motion to close the meeting.

**Adjournment:** Commissioner Nobles made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Dixon. Motion carried unanimously. The Meeting is adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 PM

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John David Sikes, Chairman

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Helen Harris, County Clerk