

**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 July Regular Board Meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

**Invocation:** Vice-Chairman Cason gave the Invocation.

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

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Cason to accept the Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:** Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve the Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held on June 15, 2021.

**Regular Board Meeting:**

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Cason to approve the minutes from June 15, 2021 Regular Board Meeting.

**Approval of Minutes:** Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve the Minutes for the Called Board Meeting held on July 8, 2021.

**Called Meeting:**

Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the minutes from July 8, 2021, Called Board Meeting.

**Development Authority Report:**

**Michele Johnson** stated they tried to keep our activities to a minimum in the month of July so everyone can have a chance to take vacation and regroup with their family time. Ms. Johnson and staff were in Tifton earlier today for the Georgia Chamber's 2021 Rural Prosperity Forum Event. Many issues were discussed about COVID and how it has affected our community. There will be a Regional Luncheon on Thursday, July 29<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon. The Chamber and Development Authority leaders will align efforts in promoting a positive TSPLOST vote. There will be a "Sizeup Public Webinar" Meeting on August 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM. A formal press release and webinar announcement are forthcoming. Our Spec building is basically completed; there is some site work to be done. They are still optimistic about Project Parallel and waiting on notification.

**Department Reports:** None

**Public Participation:** None

**Consideration of Approval of Ordinance Broadband Ready Community:** Manager Jones stated in the packet was a copy of the Ordinance Acceptance Policy, as required in that policy, there was a Public Hearing which was held preceding this meeting. Based on the comments from the Public Meeting, Management is recommending the board to move forward and approve this Ordinance. Once passed, the Ordinance will be forwarded to the Department of Community Affairs, if accepted by DCA, will designate Toombs County as a Broadband Ready Community and we will be able to start using that designation.

Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the Approval of the Ordinance Broadband Ready Community. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Contract for Grinding Yard Debris at the Landfill:** Manager Jones stated this contract is with the same company that did the grinding and removal of yard debris last year. By EPD regulations the county can only store the yard debris for one year and then we have to dispose of it. Management is recommending the board to approve this contract and to authorize the Chairman to sign the Contract with MW Collins, Inc. to grind yard debris at the rate of \$ 16 per ton.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Cason to approve the Chairman to sign the contract with MW Collins, Inc. to do the grinding and removal of yard debris from Toombs County's Landfill at the rate of \$ 16 per ton. The Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Appointments to the Toombs County Development Authority:** Manager Jones stated the county received a letter for the Executive Director, Michele Johnson, stating the terms on the Toombs County Development Authority of Harry Moses and John Robison will expire on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Names to consider for Harry Moses, representing the City of Vidalia, are as followed: Brian Bishop, Pat Dixon or Bill Bedingfield; for John Robison representing the City of Lyons: Trent Williams, Aries Haygood or Trent Akins.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rollins to appoint Brian Bishop to succeed Harry Moses in representing the City of Vidalia and Trent Williams to succeed John Robison in representing the City of Lyons on the Toombs County Development Authority Board. Both Mr. Bishop and Mr. Williams's term will be January 1, 2022 until December 31, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Sikes stated how appreciative he was for the dedication shown for the hundreds of hours Harry Moses had done on the Toombs County Development Authority Board, as well as John Robison. Michele stated there was a lot of knowledge with both of these men, we will surely miss them.

**Consideration of the Bids for Construction of Solid Waste Cells 20-25:**

Manager Jones stated there were seven companies that paid for a set of plans, McLendon Enterprises, Inc. was the only company that submitted a bid. In the Commissioners packet was a letter from the Engineer recommending the board to accept the bid from McLendon Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of \$ 2,821,509.62, with the recommendation, Management is also recommending accepting the bid.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to accept the bid of \$2,821,509.62 from McLendon Enterprises, Inc. for the construction of the Solid Waste Cells 20-25. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Approval of Repair Proposal on Solid Waste Department CAT 730 Dump Truck:**

Manager Jones stated a proposal from Yancey CAT has been received to repair the suspension leveling system in the CAT 730 and replacing the seating and seating mechanism in the amount of \$8,174.14. Management requested the board to approve the repair and to pay from the Landfill Operations Budget Funds.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Cason to approve the proposal from Yancey CAT to repair the suspension leveling system in the CAT 730 and replacing the seating and seating mechanism in the amount of \$8,174.14 and to pay the repair cost with Landfill Operations Budget Funds. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Approval of the Repair Proposal on Solid Waste Compactor 826H:**

Manager Jones stated a proposal from Yancey CAT in the amount of \$ 21,523.29 has been received to repair the articulating feature of the Compactor 826H. This machine has been taken off-line and using the C&D Compactor at the landfill while this machine is out of operation. Management requested the board to approve the repair and to pay from the Landfill Operations Budget Funds.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Cason to approve the proposed repair of \$ 21,523.29 and to pay the repair cost out with Landfill Operations Budget Funds. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Approval of Easement to Georgia Power to lay line for 509-A Maple Drive, Vidalia, GA. –**

Manager Jones stated this is an underground utility line that is consistent with civil plans. Management requested the board to approve this easement and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rollins

**EMS/EMA Building:**

to approve the Chairman to sign the Easement for the underground utilities for Georgia Power to lay line for the 509-A Maple Drive in Vidalia for the EMS/EMA Building. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of  
Appointment to fill the  
Unexpired Term of Hoyt  
S. Pittman, Jr. on the  
Board of Elections:**

Manager Jones stated Mr. Pittman has tendered his resignation at a member of the Board of Elections, which he served as the Chairman. The Board of Elections was created by the Act of Legislation in 2009; Mr. Pittman was appointed to the first board and have served since then, mostly as Chairman. His current term will end December 31, 2021, Management asked for this unexpired term position to be filled by Ms. Yolanda Hernandez. Ms. Hernandez has lived in Toombs County all of her life with the exception of one year where she attended college in Buford, Georgia. Her family has been in this area for approximately forty years. She is the eldest of six children, who have either graduated from Toombs County or is attending Toombs County. She was a 2009 honor graduate of Toombs County and a registered voter. In 2013 she graduated with a degree in Business Administration from Brewton Parker College and is pursuing a certification as a Human Resource Professional Project Management Professional. She has been employed with Georgia Southern University since 2016 and in January 2020 she was promoted to Human Resource Service Manager and on July 28, 2021 she will transition to a new position with the University as the Talent Acquisition Manager within the Human Resources responsible for students and staff in recruiting efforts on behalf of the University. Management requested the board to approve Ms. Yolanda Hernandez to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Hoyt S. Pittman, Jr.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Cason to appoint Ms. Yolanda Hernandez to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Hoyt S. Pittman, Jr. which ends on December 31, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

**County Manager Report:**

**Financial Report:**

Manager Jones stated revenue is at 48.3 % of the budget and expenses are at 46.9 % so mid-year is looking good at this time. TAVT and LOST funds remains strong at this time. All of the other revenue budgets are either on budget or above with the exception of fines and forfeitures which can be traced to the backlog of the court system. The special revenue budgets are looking good as well. SPLOST and LOST is looking strong through this time of year; there has been a low increase of 2.38 % to a 5.28 % per month increase. Landfill revenue is 1 % above budget and expenses are 4% under budget, mid-year. Revenue for EMS in on budget and expenses are 4 % over budget, this is because we are shorthanded and had to pay more on overtime hours than expected.

**Construction Project Up-Dates:** Manager Jones stated all the projects are running on schedule. We should be seeing the concrete poured the first wall for the Courthouse basement. The EMS and EMA Building is about two-thirds completed and is projected to be completed by the end of August. The Ross Bowen Complex is being delayed due to the rain we have been having; the new projected completion date is February 2022.

**Miscellaneous:** None

**Standing Committee Reports:**

**Commissioners**

**Comments:** Commissioner Nobles stated that Raymond Turner was appointed by the Region Commission, out of seventeen counties, as Chairman and he was elected as Vice-Chairman for the Council for the Aging. There are two Toombs County people leading seventeen counties on the Council of Aging. There is help for the elderly that qualify, such as legal help or just getting a ride to the doctor. If anyone knows of an elderly person that needs help in any way, let them call us for direction. Medicare can be very confusing and there is a gentleman that will come to their house and explain the options to them.

Commissioner Dixon stated that US1 expansion was coming along very well.

Chairman reminded everyone that the Celebration for Ronnie Dixon would be held on August 19<sup>th</sup> at Vidalia City Park at 6:00 PM.

**Adjournment:** Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to adjourn from the Regular Board Meeting.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Cason to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

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David Sikes, Chairman

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