

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

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

**Call to Order:** Chairman Sikes called May 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 amend the agenda and add "Consideration of a Memorandum of Understanding between The Georgia Central Railway and Toombs County Georgia". This consideration will be placed just before the County's Manager Report. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:** Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve the Minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held on April 20, 2021.

**April 20, 2021**

**Regular Board Meeting:**

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Cason to approve the minutes from April 20, 2021 Regular Board Meeting.

**Development Authority Report:**

**Michele Johnson** stated the Chamber will be starting taking some of their meeting on the road. Our next board meeting will be held at the Hardware Pizza in Lyons on May 25<sup>th</sup> at Noon. Vibrant Community Initiative Workshop at 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM on May 26 and will host those at the Pal Theater. The Chamber is accepting nominations for our next Leadership Class that is due by May 30, 2021. Ribbon Cutting for Caring Hands, 110 East Meadows Street on June 4<sup>th</sup> at Noon. Showcase Vidalia, How the West was won, June 11<sup>th</sup> at the Vidalia Community Center. The Development Authority meeting will be held on May 20<sup>th</sup> at Noon via Zoom. The Workforce Strategy Project, working with Carl Vinson Institute of Government, there will be our third steering committee meeting, May 19<sup>th</sup> to discuss our vision, priority, and action items. Dublin Construction Company is making progress with the new spec building. Vidalia Agricultural Services and Bee Company were recognized as a 2021 Small Rock Star by the State on May 3<sup>rd</sup> during Small Business Week. We nominated seven local business in September and Vidalia Agricultural Services and Bee Company was one of only six recognized in the State.

**Department Reports:**

**Drew James**, EMS Director stated in April there were 604 calls and had 22,330 miles on our units. We had a good coverage for the Vidalia Onion Festival even though on Saturday most of the activities were cancelled due to the rain. The first responder class is still going on with sixteen members in the class and they have about two more weeks from the completions of the class.

**Public Participation:** None

**Consideration of the Proposal for Health Insurance Renewal Approval for Plan**

Manager Jones stated Toombs County offers three (3) different types of medical plans: (1) Low or HSA Plan, (2) Base Plan and (3) Buy-Up Plan. The health care plans offered the present year compared to the prior year was showing a reduction in cost by 8.7%. The Dental and Vision plan will be covered

**Year 2021-2022:**

by a better plan than offered last year. The Health Insurance Advisory Committee and management recommended the board accept the Proposed Health Insurance Renewal Proposal from Veracity with no changes in the plan.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to approve the Proposal Health Insurance Renewal plan for the terms of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Proposal for Leasing Motor graders & Frontend Loader via State Contract:**

Manager Jones stated in the Commissioners Packet was a copy of a proposal from CAT to purchase seven (7) of our motor graders and one(1) Front End Loader for a total of \$507,100 and to lease six (6) motor graders and one (1) Front End Loader on a 5 year/7,000 hour full warranty with travel included under existing State Contract. Three (3) of the motor graders will have a side arm and three (3) will have the scarified in front. Each of the three maintenance crews will have one of each. § 1-2-6 Source Selection of the Toombs County Financial Policies allows the county to accept Equipment Purchases from State Contracts without using competitive bidding or proposal procedures. Based on the above, management recommended the Board to approve this lease as presented and to use SPLOST funds to pay for the annual lease.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rollins to approve the leasing of Motor Graders and Frontend Loader through the State Contract and to be paid by SPLOST funds. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2022 Superior and Juvenile Court Budgets:**

Manager Jones has received the proposed budget for Superior and Juvenile Court; year 2022. Juvenile Court Budget remains unchanged but the Superior Court budget added a position for a new law clerk which will be an increase of \$9,833 for Toombs County. Management will be recommending the Board

approve the Budget Proposal for the Superior and Juvenile Court for fiscal year 2022.

Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Cason to approve the proposed Fiscal Year 2022, Superior and Juvenile Court Budgets. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Ratifying the Ground Emergency Transport Service Agreement with Toombs-Montgomery EMS and Meadows Regional Medical Center & Successors:**

Manager Jones stated this is a renewal of a previous agreement with the hospital. There were a few changes that were negotiated by both parties. The county attorney has reviewed this agreement. Management recommended the Board ratify this agreement as presented.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to ratify the Ground Emergency Transport Service Agreement with Toombs-Montgomery EMS and Meadows Regional Medical Center and the successors. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Ratifying the Ambulance Resupply Agreement with Toombs-Montgomery EMS and Meadows Regional Medical Center & Successors:**

Manager Jones stated the County has a previous agreement with the hospital. This is where the hospital will sell the Ambulance Service the supplies that were used in the transport of the patient to the hospital. The prices were very competitive and in most cases better than the ones we were getting before. The county attorney has reviewed this agreement. Management recommended the board to ratify this agreement as presented.

Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles to Ratify the Ambulance Resupply Agreement with Toombs-Montgomery EMS and Meadows Regional Medical Center & successors. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Request from Blasigame, Burch, Garrard & Ashley, PC request for a Letter to ACCG:**

Manager Jones explained that this was the firm that is representing Toombs County in the Opioid Lawsuit started a couple of years ago. They has asked the 111 Georgia Counties that they represent in this matter permission to ask ACCG to present the letter found in the Commissioners packet to Governor Kemp and Attorney General Carr to include them on any settlement agreements the state may reach in this class action law suit.

No Motion was made for this consideration.

**Consideration of Re-Appointments to the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission Area Agency on Aging:**

Manager Jones stated a letter had been received from the Regional Commission seeking the Boards appointments to the Area Agency on Aging. Currently the two members are Darriel Nobles and John Raymond Turner. Management recommended the Board to re-appointment both Darriel Nobles and John Raymond Turner to the Area Agency on Aging serving from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Vice-Chairman Cason to re-appoint Commissioner Darriel Nobles and John Raymond Turner to the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission Area Agency on Aging, with terms of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Request from Georgia Division of Family & Children Services use of County Budget Funds:**

Manager Jones explained this is an annual form to be approved. There are no funds in the county budget at this time. Management requested approval for the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Cason to approve the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services use of County Budget Funds and to allow the Chairman to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Georgia Central Railway and Toombs County Georgia:**

Manager Jones stated the MOU with the Railroad Company was included in the Commissioners Packet for review. This is a fifty foot ROW along the railroad with the understanding the County would replace railroad crossing to tie into the parking lot of the new Courthouse after the Courthouse and parking lot construction. The County is also required to place a structure (example: fence or hedge) on the property line. Management recommended the board to approve the MOU and allow the Chairman to sign.

Vice-Chairman Cason made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the Chairman to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the Georgia Central Railway and Toombs County Georgia for the fifty foot Right-of-Way needed for the Construction of the Courthouse. Motion carried unanimously.

**County Manager Report: Financial Report:**

Manager Jones stated the YTD LOST Collections are up 3.71%. April Receipts (which represents March's Sales) were up 12.83%. M&O Budget expenses are on budget YTD April 2021. Taxes received are 8% above budget; Landfill is on budget as well.

**Propose Ordinance for a Broadband Ready Community:**

Our County is attempting to be recognized as a Broadband Ready Community by the Department of Community Affairs. In order for an ordinance to be considered, a proposal by the Board of Commissioners or the County Manager must be proposed. (Section III. PROPOSING). Section IV. PROCESSING defines the procedure of adoption. Manager Jones by presenting the proposal initiated this process. The next step will be the Chairman assigning to which ever existing committee this would fall under. The committee will meet and then present a

draft to the board at the next regularly scheduled meeting. A copy of the Model Ordinance provided by the Department of Community Affairs was included in the packet.

Chairman Sikes appointed the Policy & Procedures Committee (Commissioner Darriel Nobles and Commissioner Tommy Rollins) as the responsible committee.

**Construction Project  
Up-Dates:**

**Ross Bowen Complex** – The pad is ready and expect they will be pouring the footers this coming week. **EMA/EMS Complex** - The drive way and parking lot is being prepared; the rock has already been poured on the driveway. Completion is still scheduled for August 2021. **Courthouse/Detention Center** – A short delay on having some of the materials delivered. They are planning on laying the footings for the Courthouse & Detention Center beginning Monday. Our next scheduled construction meeting is next Tuesday.

**Miscellaneous:**

Tire amnesty was earlier this month. Spring of 2020 there were 629 tires (13 tons). This year there were 6,178 tires collected (58) tons. This will be an annual event. We have applied for a State Safety Grant; this grant will provide changing out our traffic signs and adding reflectors in the center of the roads for all of our Arterial and Collective Roads.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

**Commissioners Comments:** Chairman stated all next week we are going to have temperatures in the high 90's and some days will be 100 degrees.

Commissioner Nobles requested to dress casual for the Commissioners Meeting for June, July and August. All the Commissioners were in agreement.

Commissioner Rollins stated the grass crew that was cutting the ROW on our County Roads was doing a great job.

The State Representative race for Greg Morris's seat is going on now. Get to know the three candidates and vote on June 15, 2021.

**Adjournment:**

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

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David Sikes, Chairman

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