

**TOOMBS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**March 19, 2024**

**Room 263**  
**5:30 PM**

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

**Invocation:** Commissioner 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 Nobles 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 February 20, 2024.

**February 20, 2024**

**Regular Board Meeting:**

Vice-Chairman Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the minutes from February 20, 2024 Regular Board Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**Development Authority Report:**

Toombs County Development Authority (TCDA) Regular Monthly Meeting will be held, Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 12 noon, in the Chamber & Development Authority Boardroom. Groundbreaking and Expansion Announcement for Tumi, 2501 Matthews Industrial Circle, Vidalia will be on Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. Greater Vidalia Chamber (GVC) Regular Monthly Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. in the Chamber & Development Authority Boardroom. Greater Vidalia Chamber (GVC) ConnectHER Event will be held on Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Dahlia Event Center, 200 SW Main Street, Vidalia. Myths and Realities of Small Business Funding will be held Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Southeastern Technical College (STC) Economic Development Center (EDC), 100-A Brinson Road, Vidalia. Leadership Greater Vidalia (LGV) Graduation will be held on Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Department Reports:** **Drew James**, Director of EMS, stated there were 593 calls for service for the month of February.

**Public Participation:** None

**Consideration of the Request to Close the East Portion of Dee Mosley Road:** Manager Jones stated in the packet was a copy of the map of Dee Mosley Road. The Commissioner's Office had two request sent in for consideration of closing the road.

Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to close the East Portion of Dee Mosley Road. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of the Request to Close the West Portion of Dee Mosley Road:** Manager Jones stated the request was to close the West Portion of Dee Mosley Road.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rollins to close the West Portion of Dee Mosley Road. Motion carried unanimously

**Consideration of the Request to Close Niederriter Lane:** Manager Jones stated in the packet was a copy of the map of Niederriter Lane and the request to close Niederriter Lane.

Vice-Chairman Nobles made a motion to close the Niederriter Lane but due to the lack of a second motion, the motion died therefore the road will remain in the county road system.

**Consideration of Proposal to Install a BAS Front End Monitoring and Control System for HVAC Maintenance for the Toombs County Government Center from Manufacturer Trane:** Manager Jones stated a copy of the proposal was included in the packet. This was part of the original design however doing the value added engineering phase in order to meet budget this was removed. After consideration of regulating the heat and cooling aspect in the building, management recommended the BAS Front End Monitoring and Control System for HVAC Maintenance to be approved in the amount of \$79,055 with Trane and to pay with SPLOST funds. The estimated return of this system, based on our cost and anticipated energy savings would in 5.1 years payback.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to install a BAS Front End Monitoring and Control System for HVAC Maintenance for the Toombs County Government Center from Manufacturer Trane in the amount of \$79,055 and to be paid from SPLOST funds. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Proposal for Fencing the Property Line between the Railroad and the Toombs County Government Center:** Manager Jones stated in the negotiation with the railroad to acquire a 50 foot right-of-way, we agreed to put up a barrier along the property line to so there would not be easy access for pedestrians to cross the railroad tracks. Central Fence Company gave four options on fence and after discussion with the Architect, Management recommended that the board approve the proposal for a 2,100' of 4' High Residential Black Vinyl Coated chain link fence starting at the Sheriff's Office and running all the way down town Lyons. This would be purchased with SPLOST Funds.

Vice-Chairman Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to up-grade to the commercial grade fencing for the property line between the Railroad and the Toombs County Government Center. The cost of the fence and installation will be \$30,827 and will be paid with SPLOST funds. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Approval of a MOU – Affiliation Agreement between Toombs-Montgomery EMS and Rescue Training, Inc.:** Manager Jones stated the proposal is similar to the agreement with South-Eastern Technical College (STC). This allows EMT students to do their Clinicals at our station. This group is people who specialize in rescue events. EMS Director Drew James would like to create this relationship and the Agreement has been reviewed by the county attorney. Management recommended that the Board approves this proposal and authorizes the Chairman to sign the MOU.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the MOU affiliation agreement between Toombs-Montgomery EMS and Rescue Training, Inc. and approve the Chairman to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of Approval of Contract for State Court Public Defender:** Manager Jones stated a copy of the contract was in the Commissioners Packet. Johnny Vines, who performed his duties very well, has stepped down as Public Defender in State Court due to continuing scheduling conflicts with other courts he practices in. State Court Paul Cook and State Court Solicitor Tom Peterson, III are satisfied with the selection of Paul W. Calhoun, III to serve as the State Court Public Defender. Management recommended the Board approve the contract for Paul W. Calhoun, III to serve as State Court Public Defender and approve the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Dixon to approve the contract for Paul W. Calhoun, III to serve as State Court Public Defender and to approve the Chairman to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

**County Manager Report**

**Financial Report:**

Manager Jones stated in the Commissioners Packet there was a copy of the Financial Report for the first two months of the year. Sales Tax was up fourteen percent compared to February 2023. The office is currently filling out the application for TSPLOST for band one projects, projected to let in the fourth quarter of 2024. The widening and paving Old Normantown Road, for the city limits to the store in Normantown and the other is the Cedar Crossing Alston Road beginning at the dead man's curve and going to the county line of Montgomery County. This project is projected to start in the spring of 2025. We had over 25 events at the EMA EOC Training Room for February with a total of 146 participants. In the packet was a copy of the check for \$44,483.00 which represents Toombs County share cash return of premiums for the Workmen's Comp Plan. We are eligible because of our continued participation since 2015 in the ACCG Workman Compensation Program. A summary of all the Fire Calls within Toombs County by all four Fire Departments and the Wellness Program Monthly Progress Report was included in the Packet as well. The Cedar Crossing EMS station was completed about twelve years ago and the last year or so there has been some renovations, mostly on the outside of the building. The foyer will be repainted and the Election Office does not use a portion of the building anymore so that portion of the building will be turned back to the EMS Department as well. The Atlanta Journal Constitution had an article about open records request where they had asked all 159 Counties to receive some information; one in seven counties failed to respond according to their report. We were not on the list of counties that did not respond because the Open Records Clerk, Helen Harris, responded to the request in a timely manner.

**Miscellaneous:**

**Standing Committee**

**Reports:**

None

**Commissioners Comments:**

**Adjournment:**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:49 PM.

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David Sikes, Chairman

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

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Helen Harris, County Clerk