

**MINUTES
TERRELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

Date: June 1, 2021

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Terrell County Government Building

Commissioners and staff present: Chairman Wilbur T. Gamble, III, Lucius Holloway, Ernest Johnson, Larron Copeland, Brad Stafford, Jimmy Skipper, Davina Driver, and Sandra O'Stean

Others present: Seth McAllister, Bo Hamby, Rusty Hunter, Darlene Paul, Bobby O'Stean, Jeff Hanner, Don Laing, Wes Laing, Jay Harrell, Linda Freeman, Molly McManus, David Stokes, Janice Bryant, Rev. Patrick Holloway, Margaret Halbrook, Freddy Grimsley, Christie Cooper, Ernest Kennedy

Call to order: Chairman Wilbur T. Gamble, III

Prayer: Rev. Patrick Holloway

Approval of Agenda: *Ernest Johnson made the motion to approve the agenda of June 1, 2021. Larron Copeland gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Ernest Johnson, Larron Copeland, Brad Stafford, and Lucius Holloway. The motion carried.*

Approval Minutes of May 4, 2021 regular meeting, May 12, 2021 special called meeting, and May 26, 2021 special called meeting: *- Ernest Johnson made the motion to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2021 regular meeting, the May 12, 2021 special called meeting, and the May 26, 2021 special called meeting. Larron Copeland gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Ernest Johnson, Larron Copeland, Lucius Holloway, and Brad Stafford. The motion carried.*

Chairman's Report: - Chairman Gamble reported that the historic courthouse had been sprayed for mold and that the insurance claim for the courthouse is still in litigation.

Recognition of Jack Powell and introduction of Douglas Powell – The Board of Commissioners and the audience recognized Jack Powell for his many years of service to both the Terrell County Zoning and Planning Board and the Southwest Georgia Regional Council Board. He was presented a plaque. Zoning Director Martha Ann Coe introduced Douglas Powell as member of Zoning and Planning Board to fill the unexpired term of Jack Powell. Mr. Douglas Powell gave a brief biography of himself to the Board.

Administrator's Report: The bank balances, vendor activity, CI bank accounts were presented by Davina Driver. The date will be set in July for budget planning and the department heads notified.

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Clerk's Report: The fuel report and jail count were presented by Sandra O'Stean.

EMS/911/EMA Report: Bo Hamby submitted a written report. He reported on the airplane crash that occurred on Graves Hwy and thanked everyone who aided in the situation.

Extension Service Report: Margaret Halbrook gave report of 4-H activities and Seth McAllister reported on crops and new research project regarding insects taking place in Terrell Co.

Road Department Report: Bobby O'Stean submitted a written report.

Warden's Report: Richard Kilby was recognized as incoming Warden and he presented the report from the correctional institution.

Fire Department: A written report was submitted.

Delinquent Garbage Report: Sandra O'Stean gave the delinquent garbage report.

Delinquent Tax Report: Christie Cooper reported on the upcoming property tax sale. 340 parcels will be published in the Dawson News June 10, 2021.

Sheriff's Report: On behalf of Sheriff Bowens, Davina Driver expressed the Sheriff's appreciation for the purchase of the three (3) trucks for his department. Mrs. Driver also presented the Sheriff's request for two (2) vehicle cameras and radar antennas at a cost of \$6500. The Sheriff has the funds available in his budget for the equipment. ***Ernest Johnson made the motion to approve the purchase of the vehicle cameras and radar antennas. Brad Stafford gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Ernest Johnson, Brad Stafford, Lucius Holloway, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried.***

It was also noted that an upgrade is needed on the tag reader. Commissioner Stafford will check on this matter and the Sheriff is looking into a grant application for the equipment.

Recreation Department Report: A written report was submitted. City Manager Tracy Hester mentioned the upcoming annual 4th of July fireworks presented by the City of Dawson and Terrell County. He asked the Board to assist in setting the date for the event. ***Larron Copeland made the motion for the County to work with the City of Dawson for fireworks on Saturday July 3, 2021. It was noted that the sprinklers need to be turned on a couple of weeks prior to the fireworks and the facility building and grounds be cleaned up. Lucius Holloway gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Larron Copeland, Lucius Holloway, Ernest Johnson, and Brad Stafford. The motion carried.***

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The regular meeting of the Commissioners was paused at this time to enter into Public Hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING 6:30 P.M.: Application 2021-002 Conditional use on property for microwave tower for internet service located 1837 Albany Hwy – Chairman Gamble called the public hearing to order and read the purpose for the hearing. 2021-002: Conditional use on a certain property that is zoned AG and consists of 56.61 acres located in Land Lot 19 of the 3rd Land District of Terrell County, Georgia. The property is located at 1837 Albany Hwy and owned by Jack Laing, et al. The purpose of this request for conditional use is to locate a microwave communication tower for internet service provider. Zoning Director Martha Ann Coe on behalf of the Zoning and Planning Board recommended the Board accept the application. ***Lucius Holloway made the motion to approve the Zoning and Planning Board’s recommendation to accept the application for establishing a microwave tower on 1837 Albany Hwy for internet provider. Brad Stafford gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Lucius Holloway, Brad Stafford, Larron Copeland, and Ernest Johnson. The motion carried.***

OLD BUSINESS:

Sale of County property on Billy Strong Rd – Commissioner Larron Copeland asked the Board to revisit their decision to sell the County property located on Billy Strong Road and instead use the dirt for base dirt when the road department has a need. The inert landfill area would not be disturbed. ***Larron Copeland made the motion to reverse the vote to sell the County property on Billy Strong Road and to have the County Road Dept use the property for base dirt on county roads pending National Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) researching regulations for use since it joins the former inert landfill. Ernest Johnson gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Larron Copeland, Ernest Johnson, Brad Stafford, and Lucius Holloway. The motion carried.***

Employee spouse and family health insurance payment by County – Davina Driver reported to the Board that the premium for insurance for an employee’s spouse with Aetna is \$1153.20 per month. Discussion followed regarding the fact that the Board previously, in a meeting last year, voted for the County to pay only 50% of spouse and family health insurance premiums in 2021-2022 and then pay 0% spouse and family premiums in 2022-2023. ***The Board reiterated this will take effect July 1, 2021 and also will discontinue the County paying family health insurance premium payments for an EMS employee who was not in the grandfather clause.***

NEW BUSINESS:

Young Sisterhood – Director Allyson Harvey was not present.

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Forgiveness property tax on Historical Society building – Chairman Gamble presented information and circumstances regarding unpaid taxes for 2013-2014 on property located on Stonewall Street, Dawson, Georgia now owned by the Historical Society. *Ernest Johnson made the motion to forgive 2013-2014 taxes on the property and to remove the parcel from the upcoming tax sale. Larron Copeland gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Ernest Johnson, Larron Copeland, Brad Stafford, and Lucius Holloway. The motion carried.*

Request to serve alcohol at event at 4-H Pavilion – Torrance Gardner submitted a written request to the Board for permission to serve alcohol at a private family function at the 4-H Pavilion. Margaret Halbrook who oversees the property asked the Board for guidelines in renting the facility. *Larron Copeland made the motion to deny Torrance Gardner's request to serve alcohol at the event at the Pavilion. Brad Stafford gave a second. Those in favor of the motion were Larron Copeland, Brad Stafford, Lucius Holloway, and Ernest Johnson. The motion carried.*

Bids for repairs to section Buck Jones and Anthony Roads – Two (2) bids were received for repairs to two (2) county roads. For repairs to Buck Jones Road, Jim Boyd Construction of Albany, Georgia presented proposal of \$38,000 with Zane Grace Construction of Leesburg, Georgia presenting proposal of \$27,111. For repairs to Anthony Road, Jim Boyd Construction presented proposal of \$21,975 and Zane Grace Construction presented proposal of \$23,816. *Larron Copeland made the motion to accept the low bid on each road. Ernest Johnson gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Larron Copeland, Ernest Johnson, Lucius Holloway, and Brad Stafford. The motion carried. Buck Jones Rd repair was awarded to Zane Grace Co for \$27,111 and Anthony Rd repair was awarded to Jim Boyd for \$21,975.00.*

Purchasing/leasing road department heavy equipment, trucks, pipe inventory for road department – Commissioner Copeland presented information on existing road equipment. The lease for the excavator on wheels will be expiring October 1, 2021. He recommended that the County purchase this excavator. The 524 loader 2018 model was not equipped with needed attachments. He recommended for the County to let that loader go back and get one with a grapple rake attachment. In regards to the John Deere axle tractor, a new one is needed with a transmission built to run low so as to not use the clutch as much. Jay Harrell of Flint Equipment was present and gave quotes on buyback of equipment and pricing of new equipment, all of which are State contract pricing. Discussion followed as to whether or not the equipment had to be put out for bids. *Larron Copeland made the motion to purchase the wheeled excavator for \$172,807.80 and purchase or lease the other mentioned equipment. Administrator Davina Driver stated SPLOST and T-SPLOST funds can be used for payment of equipment for roads. Ernest Johnson gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Larron Copeland, Ernest Johnson, Brad Stafford, and Lucius Holloway. The motion carried.* Commissioner Copeland stated the Alamo mower & Diamond rotary mowers

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along with the tractors are worn out. Quote of \$226,258.34 for two (2) tractors with cab and air conditioning were presented by Flint Equipment. **Larron Copeland made the motion to purchase the two tractors from Flint contingent on whether it is required to bid out or not. Ernest Johnson gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Larron Copeland, Ernest Johnson, Lucius Holloway, and Brad Stafford. The motion carried.** He and Road Supervisor Bobby O'Stean gave report that all road department trucks are aged and have very high mileage and maintenance problems. Commissioner Copeland recommended that all of the trucks be replaced at least one or two at the time. **This matter was tabled until next month in order to obtain pricing.** Commissioner Copeland also mentioned that the County needed to have an inventory of various sized pipes ready for use by the road department. **He made the motion to approve ordering pipes to maintain inventory without presenting to the Board each time that the order is over \$5,000. Ernest Johnson gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Larron Copeland, Ernest Johnson, Brad Stafford, and Lucius Holloway. The motion carried.**

Garbage collection – bid results – Bid results from three (3) vendors were read by Chairman Gamble. Those results were: Express Disposal of Albany, Georgia \$16.85 for main cart and \$11.55 for an additional cart, GFL of Americus, Georgia \$15.90 for main cart and \$8.00 for additional cart, Waste Management of Albany, Georgia \$17.50 for main cart and \$12.00 for additional cart. **Brad Stafford made the motion to award the garbage collection contract to Express Disposal to be effective end of year 2021. Larron Copeland gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Larron Copeland, Lucius Holloway, and Ernest Johnson. The motion carried.**

Family Connections – Fiscal Agent – **Ernest Johnson made the motion to approve the renewal of the agreement between Family Connections and Terrell County as fiscal agent and have the Chairman sign the necessary documents. All in favor of the motion were Ernest Johnson, Larron Copeland, Lucius Holloway, and Brad Stafford. The motion carried.**

Chairman Gamble recognized Jason Webb and welcomed him as Assistant Road Supervisor. He also expressed condolence on behalf of the County in the recent death of Mr. Webb's father.

Adjourn – **Ernest Johnson made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Lucius Holloway gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Ernest Johnson, Lucius Holloway, Larron Copeland, and Brad Stafford. The motion carried.**

Respectively submitted by: Sandra O'Stean
Sandra O'Stean County Clerk

Approved by: Wilbur T. Gamble III
Wilbur T. Gamble, III Chairman Board of Commissioners

Date: July 6, 2021