

**APPLING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY – April 4th, 2023 @ 5:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/INVOCATION/PLEDGE

The Appling County Board of Commissioners held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 4th, 2023 at 5:30 pm at the Courthouse Annex. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Leslie Burch. Chairman Burch welcomed all those in attendance for the meeting. Chairman Theodore Wilkerson gave the invocation and Commissioner Doug Harris led the group in the pledge. Present were Commissioners Randy Sellers, Theodore Wilkerson, Daryl Edwards, Doug Harris and Charlie Leggett. Also present were County Manager Al Meadows, County Attorney Tracy Brown and Robyn Evans, County Clerk.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There was a change to the agenda – addition of Language Access Plan – Heart of GA/CDGB Head Start expansion under New Business. Chairman Sellers made a motion to approve this addition; Commissioner Wilkerson seconded; unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Harris made a motion to approve the regularly monthly meeting minutes for March 7, 2023; Commissioner Edwards seconded; unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Proclamation – National Crime Victims’ Rights Week

County Manager Meadows read aloud a Proclamation submitted by District Attorney Keith Higgins. This proclamation designated the week of April 23, 2023 thru April 29, 2023 as Crime Victims’ Rights Week in Appling County. Commissioner Wilkerson made a motion to approve this proclamation; Commissioner Sellers seconded; unanimously approved.

District Attorney Higgins thanked the board and invited all in attendance to attend the Victims’ Memorial Ceremony at the Appling County Sheriff’s office on 4/24/23 at 5:30 PM.

B. 2023 LMIG – Bid Award

County Manager Meadows stated that Robert’s Civil Engineering Services had reviewed the two (2) bids received for 2023 LMIG projects (Hunter Road and Others & City of Baxley Discretionary Resurfacing). GA Asphalt Producers, Inc. submitted a bid in the amount of \$2,123,077.37 and The Scruggs Company in the amount of \$2,438,976.91. County Manager Meadows recommended the board approve the bid from GA Asphalt Producers, Inc. due to it being the lowest bid and met specification requirements. Commissioner Wilkerson made a motion to approve; Commissioner Harris seconded; unanimously approved.

C. Language Access Plan – Heart of GA/CDGB Grant/Head Start Expansion

Heart of GA Staff sent County Clerk Evans new materials to be reviewed, approved and signed regarding the above project. There was an oversight on their part, in relation to the increase of Spanish speaking persons in the service area. Correction action was taken by Heart of GA staff and a new resolution was submitted for approval. Commissioner Harris had some questions in regards to the paperwork and made a motion to table this subject until clarification was received; seconded by Commissioner Sellers; unanimously approved.

APPLING HEALTHCARE

Andrea Graham, CEO of Appling Healthcare, presented a quarterly report to the board. Ms. Graham stated the OR opened in November 2022 after 2 ½ years of Covid closure. However, the ICU remains closed due to staffing challenges. The hospital plans to open a swing-bed program on April 24th, 2023. Ms. Graham stated the nursing home remains at 78-82 residents with 10 short-term beds. The full capacity level is 101 beds. She also stated demolition began last week on the EMS building that burned. The rebuild should take approximately six (6) weeks. CEO Graham reminded everyone present to take advantage of the tax credit for 2023 by donating to the local hospital.

Tony O'Steen, CFO of Appling Healthcare, spoke to the board and stated the hospital has seen continuous improvements. One area of importance identified is the Medicaid Revalidation. Mr. O'Steen stated it's very important for citizens of Appling County to complete the paperwork to revalidate. He also noted that managing costs was the main priority right now as they were still operating at a loss. They are posting information on their website, Face Book page, and in newspapers to notify citizens who may have questions and need assistance for Medicaid revalidation. CFO O'Steen did remind the Board that Indigent Care expenses will increase for the county if folks don't revalidate.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Sheriff Mark Melton gave updates for his department – announced the 6th Annual Law Enforcement/First Responder Expo is to be held on 4/5/23 at the Ag Center beginning at 10 AM. Sheriff Melton stated they are expecting over 50 agencies (including local, state, and federal). There will be representatives there from Marines, Army, National Guard, Air Force and 5 helicopters on site. School systems from the six (6) counties surrounding Appling were invited to attend. Sheriff Melton stated they are expecting to provide approximately 1200-1500 lunch plates free to those in attendance.

Sheriff Melton advised the Board that several events would be held in the coming weekend – Baxley Church of God Easter Events, St. Rosa Lima Catholic Church events, Dispatcher's Week for First (1st) Responders, Appling School system Spring Break, etc. Sheriff Melton also pointed out the Opioid issue still being a concern and there has been 30 or more recent deaths from substance abuse but over 30 have also been saved due to the supply of Narcan. He advised the board that Sheriff's Dept staff will have training again for the use of Narcan, particularly when it takes more than one dosage to be effective.

RECREATION DEPT.

Mr. Timmy McGuirt gave updates for the Recreation department stating there were 205 participants that registered for T-Ball this season. He also stated a Track Meet will be held on Thursday, April 6th, 2023 and District will be held in St. Mary's on 4/21 & 4/22. Mr. McGuirt advised that Appling will be hosting the District and State Swim Meets this summer and a Tennis Meet in June at the Appling County High School.

ROAD & BRIDGES

Road Department Director, Mr. Brooks Johnson gave updates for his department stating the bulldozer was now repaired and running well. He also stated the department had addressed several roads with standing water.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Meadows gave an update on S.P.L.O.S.T. while referencing a spreadsheet attached to the public agenda. This spreadsheet will be attached to these minutes and reference the current balances and expenditures for each project. County Manager Meadows advised the board that a training had been negotiated with Yancey/CAT for motor grader operators and the FY'2024 Budget Worksheets will soon be sent to each department for planning purposes.

ADJOURN

There being no further business or discussion the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Robyn Evans, County Clerk



ATTEST

Leslie Burch, Chairman

