

**APPLING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CALLED MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY – June 22nd, 2023 @ 10:00 A.M.**

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/INVOCATION/PLEDGE

The Appling County Board of Commissioners held a called meeting on Thursday, June 22nd, 2023 at 10:00 AM at the Courthouse Annex to propose and review FY'2024 Budget. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Leslie Burch and he welcomed all those in attendance. Commissioner Edwards gave the invocation and County Manager Meadows led the group in the pledge. Present were Chairman Leslie Burch; Commissioners Randy Sellers, Theodore Wilkerson, Daryl Edwards, Doug Harris and Charlie Leggett. Also present were County Manager Al Meadows, County Attorney Tracy Brown and County Clerk Robyn Evans.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Harris made a motion to approve the agenda as typed; Commissioner Sellers; unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Litter Pick-Up/Pipe Cleaning Bid Approval

The only bid received for the above was from Dennis Burton, DBA DAP Services in the amount of \$174,675.00. Mr. Burton is Peggy Smith's father and she will be completing the work under his business if awarded. Commissioner stated that the bid was a significant increase from last year's contract and asked if Bacon Public Detention Center or GA Dept. of Corrections had been contacted. County Manager Meadows stated that the bid request was sent to contacts at Bacon PDC with no response. Commissioner Sellers asked about local inmate crews completing the litter pickup and County Attorney Brown advised that was no longer allowed. Commissioner Edwards asked who oversees the litter pickup progress and County Manager Meadows stated that it's his responsibility. Commissioner Leggett asked why aren't the county employees cleaning our pipes, etc. Ms. Peggy Smith was present and asked to answer that question. She stated that the road department is called to assist if help is needed but light debris and sand, etc. are removed by her crew if possible. Commissioner Harris asked if amount is a hard money contract and Ms. Smith stated it was. Commissioner Wilkerson made a motion to accept the bid in the amount of \$174,675.00 which contains two cycles; Commission Sellers seconded, unanimously approved.

FY'2024 BUDGET REVIEW

County Manager presented the proposed budget to the Board. Each department was reviewed and questions asked when clarification was needed. However, the review was stopped after page four (4) as another event was beginning at noon, which required the County Manager's presence.

Chairman Burch asked that the budget review continue at the next regular monthly board meeting in July. Commissioner Wilkerson made a motion to accept this recommendation; Commissioner Edwards seconded; unanimously approved.

COUNTY MANAGERS REPORT


County Manager Meadows discussed the Road Dept. Surplus Sale by silent bid and reminded everyone of the Appling EMS re-grand opening. He also reminded those present of the Fireworks Display to occur on Saturday, July 1st, 2023 at 9:00 PM.

ADJOURN

There being no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.

Robyn Evans, County Clerk

Leslie Burch, Chairman


ATTEST





**APPLING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY-JUNE 6TH, 2023 @ 5:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/INVOCATION/PLEDGE

The Appling County Board of Commissioners held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 6th, 2023 at 5:30pm at the Courthouse Annex. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Leslie Burch and he welcomed all those in attendance. Mr. Linton Deloach gave the invocation and Chairman Leslie Burch led the group in the pledge. Present were Commissioners: Theodore Wilkerson, Daryl Edwards, Doug Harris and Charlie Leggett; Commissioner Randy Sellers arrived late. Also present were County Manager Al Meadows, County Attorney Tracy Brown and Administrative Assistant LaFonda Solomon.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Wilkerson made a motion to approve the agenda as typed; Commissioner Edwards seconded; unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Harris made a motion to approve the regular monthly meeting minutes for May 2nd, 2023; Commissioner Edwards seconded; unanimously approved.

PRESENTATION

A. Retirement – Johnie Faye Waters

County Manager Meadows announced the retirement of Ms. Johnie Faye Waters after 18 years of dedicated service. He stated she was unable to attend the meeting but to show our appreciation for her services, refreshments would be served in the Administration office June 7, 2023 at 10:30am and the public is welcome to stop by and wish her farewell.

B. Harris & Company, PC. – FY’ 2022 Annual Audit Review

Mr. Campbell O’Steen presented a summary of the FY’ 2022 Audit to the board and provided each a bound audit booklet and manager’s report. He stated the county’s net position is moving in the right direction; there is relatively strong performance across the board. Mr. O’Steen stated the federal government has mandated that ARPA funds must have a budget for FY’ 2024. There will be no additional funds coming into this account but all funds must be budgeted. Commissioner Edwards asked if there was a time frame to spend ARPA funds. Mr. O’Steen stated the county has until December 31, 2024 to “specify” a use for the funds and until December 31, 2026 to “utilize” the funds. The only audit finding and concern is the segregation of duties within the office, which is due to the small number of staff in administration. He stated with small counties there is no way to hire enough people to rectify this issue but the administration office does a good job of having controls in place. He will send an electronic copy of the audit to be posted on the county’s website.

OLD BUSINESS

A. TIA 2024- Nails Ferry & Ten Mile Bid Award

McClendon Enterprises with the bid amount of \$3,830,750.17 was the overall lowest bid for this project. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to accept the low bid; Commissioner Harris seconded; unanimously approved. Commissioner Harris reiterated that this project will be fully funded with the TIA funds. A copy of the bid tabulation is attached to these minutes.

B. 2018 SPLOST- Ambulance Quotes & Approval Request

County Manager Al Meadows recommended to use the remainder of the 2018 SPLOST funds allocated to the EMS, in the amount of \$160827.00, to purchase a new ambulance. The lowest quote for the new ambulance is \$234,205.00. He recommended to cover the difference of \$73,378.00 by using ARPA funds. Commissioner Harris asked the difference or comparison of the Ford and Chevy quotes. Meadows recommended the Chevy and stated the only difference is the GM or Ford motor. Commissioner Harris made a motion to accept the bid for the Chevy using the remainder of the 2018 SPLOST funds designated to EMS and use ARPA funds to cover the difference; Commissioner Leggett seconded; unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Appling County (AC) Recreation Dept – Proposal/Renovation, Phase 1 AC Rec Complex

Mr. Timmy McGuirt presented a proposal to the board to improve the complex and begin with phase 1 by replacing the fencing surrounding home plate on all five (5) fields. He stated the money is currently included in the FY'2023 recreation budget. He will have the project completed before the end of the fiscal year. Commissioner Sellers made a motion to approve; Commissioner Wilkerson seconded; unanimously approved.

B. Dive Team – A/C for new Building

County Manager Meadows proposed to relocate the county Dive Team to the Agriculture (Extension Services) center building that currently houses recreation department supplies. The building is in need of an air conditioner unit to prevent deterioration of the Dive Team equipment. The A/C unit will cost \$3500-\$5500. He stated the building is fully insulated. Commissioner Leggett asked how soon this could begin as the Dive Team has been waiting for a location for a long time. Mr. Meadows said they could begin next week with cleaning out the facility. Commissioner Edwards asked if the A/C unit was bid out. Meadows stated no, that if he kept the amount within the limit of his approval, it did not require a bid. Commissioner Leggett made a motion; Commissioner Sellers seconded; unanimously approved.

C. EMA Grant Proposal

Mr. Brent Carter with EMA was not in attendance to present this proposal.

D. County Fireworks Contract – Saturday, July 1, 2023

County Manager Meadows stated Falcon Fireworks has submitted a proposal for the same display as last year at \$15,385.00. They have permits in place for Saturday, July 1, 2023 at 9:00 PM. The permits are good until midnight and if the fireworks are not used on that day, they must be disassembled. Commissioner Wilkerson asked the price of the display. County Manager Meadows restated \$15,385.00 and that the item is budgeted. Commissioner Wilkerson asked if there were alternate dates available. County Manager Meadows stated the vendor had rolled the

dates from last year and does not have another date open. Commissioner Wilkerson made a motion to approve the date and agreement; Commissioner Harris seconded; unanimously approved. A copy of the agreement is attached to these minutes.

E. Department of Family & Children Services Lease Agreement Renewal FY' 2023/24

County Manager Meadows proposed to offer the lease to DFACS for the amount listed on the current lease. Commissioner Edwards made a motion; Commissioner Harris seconded; unanimously approved.

F. Pineland Behavioral Health & Development Disabilities FY' 2023/24 Lease Renewal

Knicole Lee presented an informational packet outlining the services that Community Outreach Intervention Network Services provides to Appling County as well as surrounding counties. She stated C.O.I.N.S received the first CCHB grant during COVID but since COVID is not considered to be a pandemic anymore, they are having to reapply for a non-COVID related grant. She gave information as to how much money the facility has saved the county, as well as, the hospital by handling uninsured individuals. The Pineland lease renewal is coming due within this same time frame. Mrs. Lee asked for support and continuation of their lease. Commissioner Harris asked what support she is seeking. Mrs. Lee asked if the lease could be renewed and rent waived for six (6) months as they are on a strict budget since the grant has to be applied for. Commissioner Harris asked if the six (6) month rent would be reimbursed once the grant is received. Mrs. Lee asked for the rent to be waived totally as she has invested \$75,000 into the building. County Manager Meadows proposed to renew the Pineland lease and waive the rent until January 1, 2024. Commissioner Harris made a motion; Commissioner Wilkerson seconded; unanimously approved.

G. Board Member Appointments

Appling Hospital Board: Melissa Hartley, Cameron Mayers

County Manager Meadows stated that Ms. Melissa Hartley and Mr. Cameron Mayers wish to be reappointed to the Appling Hospital Authority Board. Commissioner Edwards stated it was not that easy - that the commissioners are supposed to present three names for each vacant seat and the Hospital Board selects the individual to fill each seat. Commissioner Harris said he just received this information and has not contacted anyone or come up with any names. Commissioner Harris made a motion to Table this item; Commissioner Leggett seconded; unanimous.

Region 9 EMS Council

County Manager Meadows recommended Kelsey Powell to be appointed to the Region 9 EMS Council. Commissioner Harris asked Ms. Powell was it her desire to serve on this board. Ms. Powell answered, yes. Commissioner Harris made a motion; Commissioner Leggett seconded; unanimously approved.

Appling Development Authority: David Douglas, Sidney Wildes, Jack Patton, Norma Nunez-Cortez & Charlie Leggett

County Manager Meadows asked if this item needed to be tabled as well. Commissioner Edwards stated this board was different and did not require the submission of three names. County Manager Meadows recommended all members be reappointed to serve another term.

Commissioner Harris stated he would like to be notified earlier of the term expiration dates so that he does not have to make a quick decision, and some of the members have been serving for a month now since their term ended. Commissioner Wilkerson made a motion to reappoint all members; Commissioner Harris seconded; unanimously approved.

Heart of Georgia Aging Advisory Committee: Alberta King, Annie Martin

County Manager Meadows recommended a vote to reappoint Mrs. Alberta King and Ms. Annie Martin to serve another term. Commissioner Leggett made a motion; Commissioner Wilkerson seconded; unanimously approved.

Public Input

None

Sheriff's Report

Sheriff Mark Melton informed the Board of the activity over the Memorial Day weekend. He spoke of a citizen that was missing over the previous weekend but was successfully found. He stated there are two drag racing tracks that are operating in the county and are bringing in funds to the community. He spoke about the increase of homeless individuals in the county. He asked the board to review the vicious dog ordinance and consider an ordinance to cover animal neglect as well. Commissioner Leggett asked if there was a recommendation through any organization of what to add to the vicious dog ordinance. County Attorney Tracy Brown said he will research some dog ordinances as well as homeless if the Board wanted him to. Sheriff Melton invited everyone to come to their quarterly luncheon on June 7, 2023.

Recreation Department

Mr. Tim McGuirt shared that district baseball events would begin on Thursday and end on Monday. State tournament would be June 20 and the recreation department will be hosting the 10 and under girls. He gave updates on the swim, tennis and golf teams. He stated registration for fall activities will begin soon.

Roads & Bridges

Mr. Brooks Johnson gave updates for the road department. He stated they have begun road building. He spoke about how they were able to use a drone to locate a beaver dam. There will be a one-day road closure on Lake Mayers Road for a pipe replacement; they will notify the public in advance. He reminded everyone of the surplus auction and the various items.

Executive Session

None

County Manager's Report

County Manager Meadows spoke about the fire that occurred on May 24, 2023 at the historic Viruskey house on Main Street. He commended the fire chief, Mr. Linton Deloach and all the firefighters for their teamwork and selfless service.

He gave an update on the meetings regarding the public library. He stated he believed the issue would be resolved in alignment with our Christian values. If it is not resolved, Appling, Clinch,

Pierce and Bacon counties have indicated withholding funds and possibly withdrawing or creating a new region or independent library for each county.

He stated budget worksheets have been received from all departments but working copies will not be presented tonight. A public work session is scheduled for June 22, at 10:00 am. County Manager Meadows stated the courthouse has been pressure washed and workers are now painting some of the exterior. The sprinkler system has been repaired and the grounds are continuing to be beautified.

County Manager Meadows introduced the new game warden for the region, Mr. Dylan Bennett.

Chairman's Comments

Chairman Burch stated his comments were somewhat personal and that he was glad to see each one that was on the board tonight. He reminded the citizens that all the commissioners have families and home lives too and are no different than anyone else.

Adjourn

There being no further business or discussion the meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm.

LaFonda Solomon, Administrative Assistant

Leslie Burch, Chairman


ATTEST



