

**APPLING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY – March 7th, 2023 @ 5:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/INVOCATION/PLEDGE

The Appling County Board of Commissioners held their regular monthly meeting on March 7th, 2022 at 5:30 pm at the Courthouse Annex. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Leslie Burch. Chairman Burch welcomed all those present for the meeting. Vice Chairman Charlie Leggett 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

The only change to the agenda was to move the Opioid Settlement Vote, under New Business, to the first item on the list in that section. Commissioner Sellers made a motion to approve this change; Commissioner Harris gave a second; and it was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes from 01/10/2023 Meeting – Revision

Revision was read aloud, which stated that *the January 10, 2023 meeting minutes did not record the affirmative response when the answer if “yes” was given by Interim County Manager Mike Deal in regards to the question posed by Commissioner Wilkerson, whom asked if the SPLOST 2024 Line Item 4, of \$580,000 was to be used at the Ernest J. Parker Park.* Commissioner Wilkerson made a motion to approve this change. Commissioner Harris seconded; unanimously approved.

B. Regular Monthly Meeting 2/07/2023

C. Called Meeting 02/13/2023

Commissioner Wilkerson made a motion to approve both Items B & C Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Harris seconded; unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Approval for Final Payment of Indoor Pool Completion

County Manager Meadows stated that he was in receipt of the warranty information for the Aquatic Center and all final items had been completed satisfactorily. Commissioner Leggett asked how long the warranty was good and County Manager Meadows stated one year from the date the final check is written. The final payment due is \$229,990.83. Commissioner Wilkerson made a motion to approve the payment; Commissioner Edwards seconded; unanimously approved.

B. TIA Agreement-New Resolution due to New Leadership

County Manager Meadows informed the board that a change was made on the TIA Agreement to reflect him as the current County Manager and updated contact information. GDOT's legal team were in receipt of this information and requested that he sign a new resolution in order to reflect the updated information. No parts of the agreement were changed, other than the County Manager and contact information. Mr. Meadows requested the board approve him signing a new resolution in order to reflect the new leadership and contact information. Commissioner Edwards motioned to approve; Commissioner Harris seconded; unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

C. Opioid Settlement Participation Vote (MOU & Resolution)

Attorney Alex Johnson spoke to the board in regards to the Opioid Settlement. He stated that he was the person that originally completed all the paperwork for the county, to be included in the settlement. He stated that a resolution was required to proceed with the additional settlements, as they have added additional distributors. Commissioner Leggett motioned to approve continuing with the settlement; Commissioner Wilkerson seconded; unanimously approved.

D. Message Boards (Hazard Mitigation Grant 2019) – Brent Carter, EMA

Brent Carter with Appling Emergency Management Agency requested the board approve expenditures for Message Boards. This is a non-budgeted item for their department; all expenses would be paid out of the general fund and all but \$7200 will be reimbursed in approximately 30 days. The message boards are electronic and will have a 5-year warranty on all electronic components. The total costs were \$48,000 with \$36,000 being paid by federal funds; \$4800 paid by state; and remaining \$7200 to be paid by county. Commissioner Sellers made a motion to approve this purchase; Commissioner Edwards seconded; unanimously approved.

E. Motor Grader Upgrades

County Manager Meadows stated that county motor graders were on a 5-year rotation to trade-in. The county has a total of eight graders and two are up for trade-in this year – grader 00094 from the 4th District and grader 00081 from the 2nd District. The cost for the two new graders, minus the trade-in leaves \$538,346 and is reflected in the approved FY2023 budget. Commissioner Harris made a motion to proceed with the trade-in as quoted; Commissioner Sellers made a second; unanimously approved.

F. Tax Assessors Board Member Resignation

County Manager Meadows notified the board that Mr. Lake Carter submitted his resignation for the Appling County Tax Assessors Board. Ms. Myrna Taylor, Tax Assessor, recommended David Eason to replace Mr. Carter and the change to take place immediately. Commissioner Wilkerson made a motion to accept the resignation of Mr. Carter and appoint Mr. Eason, if he accepts. Second made by Commissioner Harris; unanimously approved.

PUBLIC INPUT

A. Melisa Hartley – Recreation Department

Ms. Hartley spoke to the board with appreciation in regards to the Recreation Department's positive changes. She stated they held their first 14U travel ball tournament at the AC Recreation Complex and had 7 teams from surrounding counties participate. Ms. Hartley stated they received excellent cooperation from the department and heard one citizen comment about the "impeccable lines" on the fields. She also mentioned the grounds and bathrooms were very clean. Ms. Hartley wanted to reassure the board of the huge potential the AC Rec. Dept. has to bring in funds for the county. She again thanked the board and the department for listening to the parents/citizens and making positive changes.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Sheriff Mark Melton gave updates for his department and stated they would be participating in the Sheriff's Association meeting in Brunswick and the AC High School Show Choir would be performing at this event. He stated there would be over 100 chaplains and 2 representatives there to speak. Sheriff Melton mentioned several other upcoming events: Career Day at the AC High School; 2023 Golden Eagle Good Citizenship; Plant Hatch Lunch & Learn Event; 2023 Law Enforcement Expo at the Ag Center. He invited the Board to attend these events.

RECREATION DEPT.

A. Updates and Recognition

Mr. Timmy McGuirt gave updates for department and stated the new Aquatic Center is completely booked for March and April; also stating that approximately 1000 people have utilized the pool in the last month. Mr. McGuirt stated the Special Education departments have been coming twice a week.

Mr. McGuirt recognized an Appling County student, whom works with the AC Recreation Department as a Lifeguard – Miss Emory Alexander. She was volunteering to assist with election poll sites, when a citizen needed CPR. Miss Alexander stepped into action and used her knowledge and skills to render aid until EMS arrived. Mr. McGuirt acknowledged her with a certificate for her courage on that day.

ROAD & BRIDGES

Road Department Director, Mr. Brooks Johnson gave updates for his department. He mentioned the road washed out recently on Hilltop Road and stated he'd never seen a road completely washed out underneath the top layer. He advised the board that the Landfill bull dozer should be repaired by the end of the month – last part has been shipped. Mr. Johnson stated that a weight limit was established for Ten Mile Creek Road for 52,000 lbs. He also advised that they were assisting the County Farm Fire Dept. with pine tree removal so they can install a water tank. He mentioned the department is still paying for beaver tails (\$40 each) due to it being mating season and the beavers causing so many issues with roads/dams.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Personnel

On a motion by Commissioner Leggett; second by Commissioner Harris; it was unanimously approved to close regular board session and enter into executive session.

After a brief period, the board returned – a motion was made by Commissioner Sellers; seconded by Commissioner Wilkerson; unanimously approved, the board closed executive session and re-opened the regular session.

Commissioner Burch stated the board discussed consulting status for former Interim County Manager, Mike Deal. Commissioner Sellers made a motion to terminate the relationship with Mr. Deal, as the consulting services were no longer needed. Commissioner Wilkerson gave a second; Commissioner Harris was in agreement to terminate the consulting services. Opposed were Commissioner Leggett and Commissioner Edwards.

COUNTY MANAGER’S REPORT

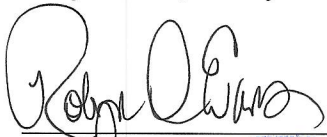
Mr. Meadows gave an update on the landfill bull dozier being repaired by Yancey CAT and stated it should be back by the end of March. He stated that he only had one additional question from the public regarding 2024 SPLOST. Mr. Meadows stated that the information requested can be found on the Appling Co. Board of Commissioners’ website under the Intergovernmental Agreement. This information includes percentage of funds to be received by category during each quarter.

ADJOURN

There being no further business or discussion the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Robyn Evans, County Clerk

Leslie Burch, Chairman



ATTEST

