

**APPLING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 5:30 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/INVOCATION/PLEDGE**

The Appling County Board of Commissioners held the regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 5:30 PM in the Courthouse Annex.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Leslie Burch and he welcomed all those in attendance.

Commissioner Daryl Edwards gave the invocation and Tracy Brown led the group in the pledge.

Present were Chairman Leslie Burch; Vice Chairman Charlie Leggett; Commissioners Randy Sellers, Theodore Wilkerson, Daryl Edwards and Doug Harris. Also present were County Attorney Tracy Brown, County Clerk Robyn Evans and Finance Clerk LaFonda Solomon. County Manager Al Meadows was absent.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairman Burch requested that the last item under new business be moved to the first item. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the revised agenda; Commissioner Harris seconded; unanimously approved

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regular Meeting- April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

Commissioner Harris made a motion to approve the minutes; Commissioner Sellers seconded; unanimously approved.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Appling Co. Hospital Authority Consulting Contract Update

Commissioner Edwards stated that the evaluation is underway and the hospital is fully cooperating. The evaluation should be complete within the next two (2) to three (3) months.

**RETIREMENT OF MRS. BECKY COLLINS**

Chairman Burch announced that Mrs. Becky Collins is retiring. He presented her a plaque, in appreciation of thirty-one (31) years of service to the County. Commissioner Harris spoke of Mrs. Collins' dedication through the years. Chairman Burch announced that a retirement celebration will be held on May 30, 2024 at the Ag Center in honor of Mrs. Collins; drop-in from 3:00-6:00 PM. The program will begin at 4:30 PM.

**FY 2025 BUDGET TIMELINE**

LaFonda Solomon gave an update on the timeline of the FY 2025 budget and stated that Tax Commissioner, Debra Carter, advised the tax digest would not be complete by the dates on the previous timeline. Adjustments were made to the dates for the publication of the tax digest in the newspaper to August 6, 2024. The Commissioners will review the proposed budget and make

revisions if needed on August 20, 2024. The budget adoption meeting will be advertised on August 27, 2024 and the FY 25 budget and millage rate will be adopted on September 3, 2024, according to the projected budget timeline.

### **BID AWARD FOR LITTER PICK-UP**

County Clerk Robyn Evans announced there was only one bid submitted for the litter pick-up contract; DAP Cleaning Service in the amount of \$174,675.00 for two (2) cycles. If awarded the bid, DAP Cleaning Service requested to start the first cycle on May 8, 2024 and the second cycle on August 1, 2024 due to daylight savings hours. Commissioner Harris informed the Board that the City of Baxley is requesting seven (7) additional miles be added to the Litter Pick-Up Contract. Mrs. Peggy Burton, representative for DAP Cleaning Service, said the miles could be added for the same quoted price per mile. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to accept the bid from Dap Cleaning Service and include an addendum to the contract to add the additional miles; Commissioner Harris seconded; unanimously approved.

### **OPEN/AWARD BID FOR BLEACHER PURCHASE/INSTALLATION**

Chairman Burch stated for legal purposes this item will be moved to executive session.

### **CUSTODIAL SERVICES AT DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY & CHILDREN SERVICES BUILDING**

County Clerk Robyn Evans advised the Board the current lease agreement with Department of Human Services (DFCS) will expire in June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. She also explained that the original lease agreement included custodial services, to be provided by the County; since 2016, these services were being paid by the state (per the request of a DFCS Director at that time, so they may utilize a state vendor). The contract was recently reviewed by their officials and noted that they would no longer be paying for these services since the agreement stated the County is responsible. Current Director, Kacie Nencioni, requested the County begin custodial services for the building beginning July 1, 2024.

County Clerk Evans asked if the commissioners wanted to bid the custodial services for DFCS facility alone or include the building with the current cleaning contracts. Commissioner Harris asked when the current janitorial contract (for all other county buildings) expire. Clerk Evans stated the current contract expires each year on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Commissioner Harris suggested solicitation of input from the current cleaning vendor. Attorney Brown advised the best course would be to bid for this service separately for the six-month period of July 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. Commissioner Harris made a motion to bid for the six-month contract; Commissioner Leggett seconded; unanimously approved.

### **2024 FIREWORKS CONTRACT**

County Clerk Robyn Evans shared the contract for Annual Fireworks Display is the same as last year's cost, in the amount of \$15,385.00 and scheduled for Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Commissioner Leggett suggested the County plan in advance for upcoming years, to hold a county-wide event for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. He stated the event could be held at the Ag Center to include amusement and recreation activities. Commissioner Leggett said he believes this would be a much more memorable event than just fireworks. The commissioners agreed that

this was a good idea. Commissioner Wilkerson made a motion to approve the fireworks contract for 2024; Commissioner Sellers seconded; unanimously approved.

## **PUBLIC INPUT**

### **Memorial Plaque on Dunn's Lake Road**

Keith Dyal presented information to the commissioners that highlighted many of the bridges and infrastructures, where building and development were supervised by Mr. John Aycock. Mr. Dyal shared with the commissioners that his family received honors from the State Capital in recognition of Mr. John Aycock. Mr. Dyal shared that in honor of Mr. Aycock, the family asked permission from the commissioners to have a memorial marker placed on Dunn's Lake Road. The state will be responsible for installing the memorial at no cost to the County. Commissioner Harris moved to have the memorial placed on Dunn's Lake Road; Commissioner Sellers seconded; unanimously approved.

### **County Ordinance**

John Mitchell addressed the board regarding the regulation of land use in Appling County. Mr. Mitchell said the county is losing revenue by not having ordinances and zoning laws in place for solar farms and bitcoin mines. He asked the board if any progress has been made regarding land use issues. Commissioner Harris said he attended a class regarding Land Use and Zoning and will be conducting more research on this issue. Mr. Mitchell asked if there were updates on the re-evaluation process (property valuation of citizens). He requested the commissioners give an update on items that are discussed in the monthly meetings to keep the public informed of the progress.

### **SHERIFF'S OFFICE** – Mark Melton

No report was given at this meeting.

### **PUBLIC BUILDINGS**- Dwight Watts

No report was given at this meeting.

### **PARKS & RECREATION**- Timmy McGuirt

Mr. McGuirt gave an update on current recreation events. He shared that Appling County will be hosting the Allstar tournaments; golf and tennis registration is now open on-line. The swim team has 125 members and has begun practicing for the season. The recreation department will be offering swimming lessons and have added a new category for infants (Mommy and Me). Jana is currently enrolled to be a certified lifeguard trainer. Mr. McGuirt said this will be an asset to the county as she will be able to train lifeguards on-site.

Wayne Cannady asked if the recreation department could have an ambulance on-site during the recreation events due to an accident that occurred at one of the games. Chairman Burch said he would check into this concern.

### **ROADS & BRIDGES** – Carroll Weaver

Mr. Weaver gave updates for the road department; landfill dozer is back in operation; Oscar Tippins Road has been completed. He stated work has begun on the dock at Carter's bite but due to the fluctuation in the river levels, the project will take longer than anticipated.

Final inspections are being completed on Nails Ferry and Ten Mile Roads. Mr. Weaver thanked the Board and contractors on the work being completed on Appling County roads and stated the road department is working on ditches and building-up roads. He asked for the citizens to be patient. Mr. Weaver thanked the road department workers for their continuous hard work.

**LANDFILL-** Robert Eunice

Mr. Eunice gave an update on the landfill. He is working with the engineer and EPD for approval on the location of the well. The result of the last inspection was 90 out of 100. The problems have since been addressed and fixed. The scrap tire event went well - 734 scrap tires were collected. The second event is scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Mr. Eunice presented a pamphlet of the signs and prices currently in effect at the landfill, with comparison to other counties and proposed changes in prices. Discussions were made regarding household garbage being brought to the landfill and possibly increasing the charges. Commissioner Harris said to continue informing the citizens that household garbage cannot be accepted at the landfill.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT/DIVE TEAM-** Linton Deloach

Mr. Deloach shared that fire departments are operating business as usual. The dive team is currently training with a new boat and equipment. Commissioner Harris asked how the fire fighters and first responders segregated at an incident scene. Mr. Deloach stated that the fire department volunteers each know their role at the scene.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to close the regular meeting and enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel and possible litigation. Commissioner Leggett seconded; unanimously approved.

Following executive session, Commissioner Harris moved to reject and not open solicited bids for the purchase and installation of bleachers, due to legal issues/concerns; Commissioner Sellers seconded; unanimously approved.

**COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT**

No report at this meeting

**CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

Chairman Burch thanked everyone for their attendance.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

LaFonda Solomon

Leslie Burch, Chairman

  
ATTEST



