

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

Date: February 2, 2021

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Terrell County Government Building

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

Others present: Bo Hamby, Christie Cooper, Seth McAllister, Bobby O'Stean, W. M. Sheridan, Freddy Grimsley, David Weil, Molly McManus, Margaret Halbrook, Rhonda Gordon, Laura Copeland, John Hannington, Paula Hannington, John Bowens

Call to order: Chairman Wilbur T. Gamble, III

Prayer: Commissioner Lucius Holloway

Approval of Agenda: *Larron Copeland made the motion to approve the February 2, 2021 agenda. Lucius Holloway gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Larron Copeland, Lucius Holloway, and Brad Stafford. The motion carried.*

Approval Minutes of January 12, 2021 regular meeting: *Brad Stafford made the motion to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2021 meeting. Larron Copeland gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Larron Copeland, and Lucius Holloway. The motion carried.*

Chairman's Report: Chairman Gamble gave a report on the road conditions and the COVID-19 statistics.

Administrator's Report: Bank balances, Vendor Activity, CI bank accounts - Davina Driver read the bank balances for January 2021 and submitted the vendor activity in written form. She explained the Commissioners' office had obtained the bank statements for various inmate accounts maintained by the administration at the correction institution. Mrs. Driver recommended that these accounts should have two (2) signatures on checks being issued from them. ***Lucius Holloway made the motion that two (2) signatures be required on checks written on the inmate accounts and those signatures are to be the warden and the county administrator. Brad Stafford gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Lucius Holloway, Brad Stafford, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried.***

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Clerk’s Report: The fuel report and the jail count were read by Sandra O’Stean.

EMS/911/EMA Report: Bo Hamby submitted a written report. He reported his department is short staffed at this time and Lee County had offered assistance in serious aide cases.

Extension Service Report: Margaret Halbrook gave a summary from the Extension Department written report. She reported one of the high school archery team members had set a State record in archery. She also reported the Extension’s production meetings had been changed from in person meetings to virtual meetings.

Chamber of Commerce: A written report was submitted by Savannah Hughes.

Road Department Report: Bobby O’Stean presented a report. He requested for assistance in obtaining six (6) handheld radios: three (3) for the Road Department and three (3) for the Correction facility as well as three (3) batteries for the radios. He submitted a proposal of \$ 8,130.00 from Mobile Communications for the radios and batteries. Administrator Davina Driver stated funds to purchase the equipment was available in the inmate communications fund account. ***Brad Stafford made the motion to purchase six (6) radios and three (3) batteries from Mobile Communications for \$8,130. Lucius Holloway gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Lucius Holloway, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried.***

Warden’s Report: Interim Warden Freddy Grimsley presented a report on the newly hired staff and results of internal searches within the correction facility. The Board commended the interim warden and deputy warden on the progress made to correct problems at the correction facility.

Fire Department: A written report was submitted by Chief Edward Harvey.

Delinquent Garbage Report: Sandra O’stean presented the delinquent garbage report for the month of January 2021. She gave a report on the upcoming solid waste tax sale of March 2, 2021.

Delinquent Tax Report: A written report was submitted by Sheriff John Bowens. Commissioner Copeland led a discussion regarding the delinquent tax letters that were recently mailed out. Christie Cooper gave reports on discrepancies in bookkeeping of which she is working on in the delinquent tax office records and in the Tax Commissioner’s office records. \$100,000 was collected for the month of January 2021.

Minutes of February 2, 2021 Commissioners' meeting continued

Sheriff's Report

Sheriff Bowens requested salary increase for deputies to \$15.75 per hour and jail staff to \$12.75 per hour. He stated turn over as the basis for increase in salaries. He is currently short three (3) deputies and three (3) jail personnel. Commissioner Stafford asked if the Sheriff had considered the health insurance benefit the Terrell County officers receive as part of their salary package which brings their pay to about \$17.99 per hour. The administrator was asked to obtain pay and insurance benefits paid by surrounding counties comparable to Terrell and bring information back to March 2021 meeting. A request for three (3) vehicles was submitted in the Sheriff's report along with a quote from Brannen Motor Company of \$39,405 purchase price for special vehicle and law enforcement equipment installed. He also submitted a lease proposal for three (3) of the same vehicles for \$41,971.45 annual payment for three (3) year lease and \$26,592.62 annual payment for five (5) year lease. The Sheriff requested that the vehicles be four-wheel drive trucks. Davina Driver reported that \$25,000 was approved in the Sheriff's budget for vehicles and \$9,250 was remaining in his budget for equipment. This matter was tabled to the March 2021 meeting. The Sheriff also requested eight (8) tasers. He stated that he had a balance in the drug fund at the Sheriff office. He wanted to purchase deputy body cameras with this money; but if there were any funds left, he would use that to help cover the cost of the tasers. He said the body cameras were a priority over the tasers. Chairman Gamble recommended that the wages and vehicles requests be tabled until March 2021 meeting in order to review information obtained regarding both matters. Commissioner Stafford asked the Sheriff to bring proposals for the costs back to the Board at the March meeting. Chairman Gamble asked the Sheriff to meet with him next day to discuss the cameras and tasers.

Recreation Department Report: A report was not available at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

New York Life present information regarding employee benefits – This matter was cancelled by New York Life representative due to illness and a request was made to table this presentation to the March meeting.

Retirement Payments – Janice Bryant did not attend due to COVID related illness. Commissioner Stafford related that Mrs. Bryant had called him just prior to the meeting. She questioned why retirement payments had not been paid. Administrator Driver reported payments had been mailed and she did not know why they had not been applied by the retirement Company. EMS Director Bo Hamby reported that his payment to his retirement account had been applied.

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NEW BUSINESS:

Renew lease of County property on Billy Strong Rd to Jim Paul – *Brad Stafford made a motion to renew the lease of County property on Billy Strong Road at a rate of \$75 per acre for farming to Jim Paul if Mr. Paul is in agreement. Larron Copeland gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Larron Copeland, and Lucius Holloway. The motion carried. The Board agreed not to lease the property for hunting rights.*

Vacancy on Tax Assessor Board – *Brad Stafford made the motion to accept and approve the recommendation of the Tax Assessor Board to appoint David Peeler as member to fill vacancy created by resignation of Joe West. Larron Copeland gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Larron Copeland, and Lucius Holloway. The motion carried.*

Delinquent Tax Notices– William Sheridan – 10-year tax bill – *Brad Stafford made the motion to waive interest, penalties, and FIFA fees for tax bill 2010 so long as the base amount of \$590 is paid within fifteen (15) days. Lucius Holloway gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Lucius Holloway, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried.*

Delinquent Tax Notices - Jerry Heath – Jerry Heath was not present. Chairman Gamble asked that this matter be tabled

Flooring in Government Building – Administrator Davina Driver made the request to place vinyl waterproof flooring in the hallway areas of the Government Building. She stated the flooring in the entire building needed replacing. She also stated carpet needs replacing in some offices in the building. She mentioned that funds from the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) could be used for the flooring. Commissioner Stafford asked Mrs. Driver to obtain measurements and costs and bring them back to the March 2021 meeting. Discussion followed regarding obtaining skilled inmates for the Terrell CI to help with work details including equipment operators for the Road Department. The Board offered their assistance in getting such inmates back to the CI.

Grievance against Sheriff - Zachary Bearden did not attend. Sheriff Bowens explained the termination of Mr. Bearden from the Sheriff Department. There was no action taken by the Board of Commissioners.

Resolution to submit application for Community Development and Building Grant – *Brad Stafford made the motion to approve the resolution to submit application for a Community Development and Building Grant. Lucius Holloway gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Lucius Holloway, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried.*

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Resolution providing for required local matching share of CDBG grant – Brad Stafford made the motion to approve the resolution providing for the required local matching share of the CDBG grant. Lucius Holloway gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Lucius Holloway, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried.

Adjourn – Brad Stafford made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Lucius Holloway gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Lucius Holloway, and Larron Copeland. 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 Terrell County Board of Commissioners

Date: March 2, 2021