

**MINUTES**  
**TERRELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING 6:00 P.M.**

**Date:** March 2, 2021  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Terrell County Government Building

**Commissioners and staff present:** Chairman Wilbur T. Gamble, III, Brad Stafford, Larron Copeland, Ernest Johnson, Lucius Holloway, Davina Driver, Sandra O'Stean, Jimmy Skipper

**Others Present:** Bo Hamby, Victoria Freeman, Linda Freeman, John Hannington, Paula Hannington, Mark Fletcher, Janice Bryant, Barbara Reddick, Christie Cooper, John Kirbo, Grant Rudolph, Margaret Halbrook, Freddy Grimsley, Molly McManus, Lolita M. Davis, Gregory Fletcher, Rhonda Gordon, Birdie Davis, Mellean Davis, Walt Davis, Josephus Albritten, Paul Rakel, Ridgely Mu'Min, Sandra Walker, John Bowens, Bernice Kendrick, J. M. Jessie

**Call to order:** Chairman Wilbur T. Gamble, III

**Prayer:** Commissioner Lucius Holloway

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

**Approval Minutes of February 2, 2021 regular meeting:** *Brad Stafford made the motion to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2021 meeting. Ernest Johnson gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Ernest Johnson, Lucius Holloway, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried.*

**Chairman's Report:** - Chairman Gamble acknowledged the death of Sheriff Department employee Linda Ann Spilman and called for a moment of silence/prayer. Mr. Gamble reported that Steve Highsmith had approached him in regards to access to a one-acre piece of property that is next to the Courthouse Annex (Armory Building). Mr. Highsmith had a buyer, Federal State Inspection Service, that wanted to locate business on the property; but the sale was dependent on obtaining easement right to go through the County property. *Lucius Holloway made the motion to grant Federal State easement right to allow for ingress and egress to the property. Ernest Johnson gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Lucius Holloway, Ernest Johnson, Brad Stafford, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried.*

**Administrator's Report:** The bank balances and the vendor activity reports were presented by Davina Driver.

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**Clerk's Report:** The fuel report and the jail count were presented by Sandra O'Stean.

**EMS/911/EMA Report:** A written report was submitted. Director Bo Hamby reported that he wanted to do a vehicle exchange with the City of Dawson. A 2004 old ambulance (M-2) would be swapped for a 2003 International water truck which would aide the County Fire Department. ***Brad Stafford made the motion to approve the vehicle exchange between the County EMS and the City of Dawson. Ernest Johnson gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Ernest Johnson, Lucius Holloway, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried.*** Next Mr. Hamby reported the results of a survey done by AMB for ambulance rates. Terrell County is below the national average on its rates. Mr. Hamby asked the Board to approve the recommendation to increase the rate for Terrell County ambulance services. The rate increase would affect clients who pay or have insurance that pays for this service. ***Brad Stafford made the motion to approve a rate increase for ambulance service based on the going rate of surrounding areas mentioned in the AMB report. Ernest Johnson gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Ernest Johnson, Lucius Holloway, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried.*** Mr. Hamby mentioned to the Board that a truck listed in the County's fleet mate as EMA vehicle was not in use by his department but was used by the Correction Institution. The records for the vehicle had not been changed over. He also stated the motor in his County provided vehicle was worn out and he was going to need another one. Discussion followed that resulted in Mr. Hamby being able to use one of the vehicles that is currently located at the Correctional Institution.

**Extension Service Report:** A written report was submitted and Margaret Halbrook gave a verbal report.

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

**Road Department Report:** A written report was presented by Bobby O'Stean. Commissioner Copeland reported that he had reached out to construction companies to see if there were equipment drivers looking for a job. Also, the high schools were contacted to see if there were students who will be graduating and would like to learn the skills of running heavy equipment. The County will be looking for opportunities to provide training to employees who can operate road equipment.

**Warden's Report:** Interim Warden Freddy Grimsley gave a report for the correction facility.

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

**Delinquent Garbage Report:** Sandra O'Stean gave the report and the tax sale results. Three properties were sold. Two of these were bid in by the County.

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**Garbage customer – Cancer patient** – Commissioner Larron Copeland asked for consideration of a pauper fund for indigent and terminal illness garbage customers. It was discussed that other avenues for assistance will be sought first before setting up this type of fund. There were volunteers from the audience to help pay for the one account mentioned.

**Delinquent Tax Report:** Complaint of delinquent tax notices from Linda May Marcus and Toschia Thomas – The two parties mentioned did not attend the meeting.

**Sheriff's Report: Appointment of Ex Officio Sheriff for Collections of Ad Valorem Taxes in Terrell County** - John Bowens presented a document appointing Christie Cooper as Ex-Officio Sheriff for collection of delinquent taxes and conducting tax sale. Chairman Gamble stated that agreement had been made to relocate the delinquent tax office to the Brannen Building in the office behind the Tax Commissioner's office.

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

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Flooring in Government Building** – Davina Driver presented cost estimates to place new flooring in the Government Building. SPLOST funds can be used to purchase the materials and inmate labor can be used to do the flooring. ***Brad Stafford made the motion to approve the purchase of materials at \$9,647.38 with SPLOST funds and use inmate labor to lay the floor. Ernest Johnson gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Ernest Johnson, Lucius Holloway, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried.***

**Requests from Sheriff** – Pay raise for Deputies, taser & body cam purchases -Sheriff Bowens asked for a pay raise for the ten deputies in the Sheriff Department. He stated that he had placed the body cameras on hold and the information on the taser was not yet available. Deputy pay and benefits surveys that were taken from other counties comparable to Terrell was presented to the Board. Mr. Holloway made a statement that he is in agreement that the Sheriff employees' pay should be increased even it meant looking into doing the same for all the departments. ***The deputy pay increase was tabled.*** The request for vehicles will be placed on the budget reviews.

**Compensatory time method of implementing policy** – Sondra Walker addressed the Board regarding compensatory (Comp) time being discontinued for salaried employees. She asked when did policy change? The Chairman and the Administrator responded that the 2011 employee manual states salaried employees do not get overtime or compensatory time. Mrs. Walker stated that a representative from the State Wage and Hour Division had met several years ago with the former payroll clerk and comp time was to be paid for hours worked by Mrs. Walker. ***Brad Stafford made***

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*the motion to approve compensatory time already accrued by salaried employees; but there will be no compensatory pay for salaried employees from March 2, 2021 forward which is according to the Employee Manual. Lucius Holloway gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Lucius Holloway, Ernest Johnson, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried.*

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Southwest Georgia Regional Council – Age Friendly Communities** – Barbara Reddick presented information on the Age Friendly Community program and asked the Board to support the Southwest Regional Council in their efforts to carry out the program. There is no cost to the County. She asked the Board to approve the signing of the Resolution of Age Friendly Region Designation. *Brad Stafford made the motion to participate and to sign the Age Friendly Region Designation Resolution. Ernest Johnson gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Ernest Johnson, Lucius Holloway, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried.*

**Request to close Richard Fletcher Road** – Mark Fletcher presented a request to close Fletcher Road and gave his reasons for closure which were of safety nature. *Larron Copeland made the motion to have the County Attorney to begin the process to close Richard Fletcher Road and to blade this road one time before closing. Ernest Johnson gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Larron Copeland, Ernest Johnson, Lucius Holloway, and Brad Stafford. The motion carried.*

**Road condition on Kirbo Road** - Attorney John Kirbo and property owner Grant Rudolph presented requests to correct the water problems on Kirbo Road. There was much discussion on the situation and how various plans for correction would also affect adjoining property owners. The situation will be reviewed by the Road Superintendent and Commissioner Copeland and maybe engineer Paul Raket in order to set a plan to correct the problem.

**Road condition on Waddell & King Roads** – Property owner Mellean Davis presented her concerns about King and Waddell Roads. Both roads are under water after periods of heavy rains and become impassable. She asked again that King Road be paved. The water situations will be reviewed by the Road Superintendent and Commissioner Copeland and they will determine a plan for correction.

**Executive Session – Personnel** - *Commissioner Ernest Johnson made the motion to enter executive session. Lucius Holloway gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Ernest Johnson, Lucius Holloway, Brad Stafford, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried.*

The regular meeting was paused.

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The Board returned from executive session and resumed regular meeting.

**Brad Stafford made the motion to end executive session. Lucius Holloway gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Lucius Holloway, Ernest Johnson, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried.**

**Brad Stafford made the motion to approve the Commissioners' office to advertise for position of Warden effective immediately and to also advertise for position of Deputy Road Superintendent. Ernest Johnson gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Ernest Johnson, Larron Copeland, and Lucius Holloway. The motion carried.**

**Brad Stafford made the motion to seek outside help in the form of the GBI to conduct investigation into irregularities at the camp (CI) uncovered by us. Ernest Johnson gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Ernest Johnson, Lucius Holloway, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried.**

**Adjourn- Larron Copeland made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Brad Stafford gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Larron Copeland, Brad Stafford, Lucius Holloway, and Ernest Johnson. 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: April 6, 2021