

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

**Date:** May 4, 2021  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Terrell County Government Building

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

**Others present:** Bo Hamby, Seth McAllister, Jimmy Watson, Ann Price, Darlene Paul, Bobby O'Stean, Rusty Hunter, Ryan Cannon, Diane Rogers, Gary Freeman, Jeff Hanner, Linda Freeman, Paul Rakel, Janice S. Bryant, Margaret Halbrook, Gail Faust, Conrad Garcia, Cheryl Garcia, Christie Cooper, Nanci Ayers, Lisa DeMott, Jeff DeMott, Ronnie Lee, John Bowens, Brian Fletcher

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

**Prayer:** Commissioner Lucius Holloway

**Approval of Agenda:** *Ernest Johnson made the motion to approve the May 4, 2021 agenda. Brad Stafford gave a second. Those in favor of the motion were Ernest Johnson, Brad Stafford, Lucius Holloway, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried.*

**Approval Minutes of April 6, 2021 regular meeting:** *- Brad Stafford made the motion to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2021 Commissioners' meeting. Lucius Holloway gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Lucius Holloway, Ernest Johnson, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried.*

**Chairman's Report:** Chairman Gamble reported that a public hearing was held earlier in the Government Building at 10:30 a.m. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain residents' views on the County's request to submit a CDBG application to the State in order to obtain funding for improvements in a targeted area in the northeast section of the County.

**Sale of inert landfill** – *Lucius Holloway made the motion to begin the process to sell the County property, approximately 83 acres, on Billy Strong Road where the inert landfill is located and to be guided by Attorney Skipper in doing so. Brad Stafford gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Lucius Holloway, Brad Stafford, Ernest Johnson, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried.*

Minutes of regular Commissioners' meeting of May 4, 2021 continued.....

**Use of Recreation Department ball field by Golden Peanut** – *Ernest Johnson made the motion to approve Golden Peanut Company to use the recreational facility for a softball game providing there is no conflict in events scheduled. Larron Copeland gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Ernest Johnson, Larron Copeland, Lucius Holloway, and Brad Stafford. The motion carried.*

**Administrator's Report:** The bank balances, the vendor activity, and the CI bank accounts were read by Davina Driver.

**Clerk's Report:** The fuel report was read by Sandra O'Stean. The jail report was not available in time for presentation.

**EMS/911/EMA Report:** Bo Hamby submitted a written report for the month of April. Mr. Hamby announced that the Phoebe Foundation had donated three (3) cardiac modems valued at \$4,800 to the EMS department. Mr. Hamby also stated that he had applied for a grant for salary of the EMA director. He presented an emergency management program grant (EMPG) check that had been received at the correction facility. He stated the check was for the amount of \$7,735 and in order to accept the funds, the County would be required to do a 50% match of funds. This would change Mr. Hamby's EMA annual salary from \$12,240 to \$15,470. *Larron Copeland made the motion to accept the grant for EMA salary with stipulation that if the grant is for only one year, the Director's salary reverts to current salary of \$12,240. Ernest Johnson gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Larron Copeland, Ernest Johnson, Lucius Holloway, and Brad Stafford. The motion carried.*

**Extension Service Report:** Margaret Halbrook thanked the Commissioners on behalf of the extension department staff for the updates in flooring and painting to their department and the Government Building as a whole. She reported that the 4-H archery team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the recent State Tournament. Seth McAllister gave the extension and crop reports.

**Chamber of Commerce:** Not available

**Road Department Report:** Bobby O'Stean submitted a written report.

**Warden's Report:** Interim Warden Freddy Grimsley gave a report from the correction facility which included the news that the County will be receiving forty-one (41) inmates, some with skills that is needed by County. The State Department of Corrections had conducted an inspection of the CI and the facility was rated well. The administrator reported that the cost of food at the prison was reduced considerably the four (4) months since Mr. Grimsley stepped in as interim warden and thanked him for his work.



Minutes of regular Commissioners' meeting of May 4, 2021 continued.....

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

**Delinquent Garbage Report:** Sandra O'stean read the summary of the garbage collections for April. She announced that request for proposals (RFPs) had been sent out to garbage disposal companies, and was placed on the Terrell County web site and the Georgia Procurement web site. The contract with Advanced Disposal expires September 2021.

**Delinquent Tax Report:** Christie Cooper distributed handouts that reflected the delinquent collections. She reported that delinquent tax collection has been moved from the Sheriff's office to an office on Jefferson Street behind the Tax Commissioners' office. Credit card payments are now being accepted. An ad valorem tax sale is scheduled for July 6, 2021 on approximately 431 parcels.

**Sheriff's Report:** John Bowens presented a written report. He requested the Board to approve the placement of speed limit signs (35 mph and 45 mph) on Jones Mill Rd from the City limits on out to Waller Road. *Ernest Johnson made the motion to approve placement of the speed limit signs. Larron Copeland gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Ernest Johnson, Larron Copeland, Lucius Holloway, and Brad Stafford. The motion carried.*

**Recreation Department Report:** A written report was submitted. Commissioner Copeland had concerns regarding the lack of participation and the conditions of the facility. Board member Jeff Hanner reported they are working on a \$100,000 grant for new playground equipment. Administrator Driver offered assistance with the grant process. Commissioner Johnson offered to meet with Director Wallace Price regarding participation and maintenance issues at the sports complex.

**PUBLIC HEARING 6:30 P.M.:** Comments and concerns regarding closing Richard Fletcher Road – *Chairman Gamble paused the regular session and called to order the public hearing at 6:30 p.m.* Zoning Director Martha Ann Coe asked questions regarding road frontage. Chairman Gamble answered that if the road is closed; it is no longer a county road and there will be no frontage. *Chairman Gamble closed the public hearing at 6:32 p.m. and called the regular meeting back into order.*

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Sign resolution certifying the abandonment of Richard Fletcher Road** – *Ernest Johnson made the motion to approve the signing of the resolution certifying the abandonment of Richard Fletcher Road. Larron Copeland gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Ernest Johnson, Larron Copeland, Lucius Holloway, and Brad Stafford. The motion carried.*



Minutes of regular Commissioners’ meeting of May 4, 2021 continued.....

**Cost for relocation of Sumter EMC’s facilities on Tammy Lane** – Commissioner Copeland reported that EMC officials could go no less than the quote of \$79,522.47 for the relocating utilities on Tammy Lane. *Ernest Johnson made the motion to approve the payment of \$79,522.47 to Sumter Electric for moving the facilities in order to go forward with improvements to Tammy Lane. Lucius Holloway gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Ernest Johnson, Lucius Holloway, Larron Copeland, and Brad Stafford. The motion carried.*

**Report on employee pay salaried versus hourly** – Attorney Jimmy Skipper read the federal laws which defined requirements for an employee to be salaried. The employees in the Superior Clerk of Court’s office do not qualify as salaried employees. Chairman Gamble stated there is no vote needed to follow the law. Salaried employees who do not meet criteria as outlined in the federal law will be changed to hourly pay.

**Review quotes for truck for EMS/911/EMA Director** – A quote from Childre Chevrolet of \$6,901.52 for repairs to the vehicle that the EMS/911/EMA director currently drives was presented to the Board. Quotes from Brannen Motor Company, Unadilla, GA for new Ford F-150 series truck for \$32,775, \$42,300, and \$45,410 as well as quotes from Sunbelt, Albany, GA for a F-150 XLT truck for \$42,770, \$30,921.84, and \$30,536.84 were presented for review. There was discussion as to disposition of the EMS truck which currently needs repairs and discussion regarding the transfer of the light bars and equipment over to the new vehicle. Mr. Hamby stated the vehicle has to have electric front seats. *Larron Copeland made the motion to purchase one of the trucks from Sunbelt after calling to check on the \$400 difference between the two quoted trucks and checking on the electric seat. Ernest Johnson gave a second. All in favor of the motion were Larron Copeland, Ernest Johnson, Brad Stafford, and Lucius Holloway. The motion carried. Disposition of the old truck was tabled.*

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Review resolution outlining procedures for correcting clerical errors to tax digest** - Tax Assessor Darlene Paul explained the reason for the resolution was to allow the Tax Commissioner and the Tax Assessor to work together to correct clerical errors rather than having the public come to the Board for correction. *Ernest Johnson made the motion to approve the resolution which outlined the procedures for correcting clerical errors in the tax digest. Larron Copeland gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Ernest Johnson, Larron Copeland, Lucius Holloway, and Brad Stafford. The motion carried.*



Minutes of regular Commissioners’ meeting of May 4, 2021 continued.....

**Appointment to Zoning Board** – Zoning Director Martha Ann Coe announced that Jack Powell had submitted his resignation as a member of the Zoning Board. The Zoning Board recommended the appointment of Douglas Powell to fill the unexpired term of Jack Powell. The term expires in 2022. *Brad Stafford made the motion to appoint Doug Powell to the Terrell County Zoning Board to fill the unexpired term of Jack Powell. Lucius Holloway gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Lucius Holloway, Ernest Johnson, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried.*

**Liberty House services** – Director Diane Rogers gave a presentation on domestic violence programs available for Terrell County and surrounding counties.

**County match of funds for CDBG Grant documents and signature of required documents** – *Larron Copeland made the motion to approve the County to increase its funds match in order to obtain a \$125,000 grant and to approve the Chairman to sign the required documents for the grant. Lucius Holloway gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Larron Copeland, Lucius Holloway, Brad Stafford, and Ernest Johnson. The motion carried.*

**Delinquent property tax and tax sale issues** – Ann Kimsey – *Ernest Johnson made the motion to forgive the penalties and interest in the amount of \$1,053.41 with the balance of tax due \$1,746 to be paid prior to the July 6 tax sale. - Loretha Carter Clark – Ernest Johnson made the motion to approve forgiveness of penalties and interest for years 2010 to 2020 provided the balance of \$5,000 plus is paid prior to the tax sale. Larron Copeland gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Ernest Johnson, Larron Copeland, Brad Stafford, and Lucius Holloway. The motion carried.*

**Employee Health Insurance- Renewal July 1, 2021** – The current carrier Blue Cross Blue Shield is increasing the cost of employee health insurance by 19%. Administrator Driver presented coverage information and quotes from Aetna. *Lucius Holloway made the motion to accept the plan for employees’ health insurance from Aetna. Ernest Johnson gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Lucius Holloway, Ernest Johnson, Brad Stafford, and Larron Copeland. The Board tabled the discussion of spouse and family coverage paid by the County. The Insurance broker will be contacted to schedule meetings with departments individually in order to answer questions regarding coverages.*

**Motion approved to enter executive session** – *Brad Stafford made the motion to enter executive session at 7:40 p.m. Ernest Johnson gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Ernest Johnson, Larron Copeland, and Lucius Holloway. The motion carried.*

Minutes of regular Commissioners' meeting of May 4, 2021 continued.....

**Motion approved to return to public meeting – Ernest Johnson made the motion to close executive session and to return to regular public meeting. Lucius Holloway gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Ernest Johnson, Lucius Holloway, Brad Stafford, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried.**

**Discuss Warden and Assistant Road Supervisor positions- Ernest Johnson made a motion to schedule a special called meeting for the purpose of interviewing applicants for the positions of Warden and Assistant Road Supervisor. Brad Stafford gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Ernest Johnson, Brad Stafford, Lucius Holloway, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried. The meeting was scheduled for May 12, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.**

**Adjourn – Brad Stafford made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Ernest Johnson gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Ernest Johnson, Larron Copeland, and Lucius Holloway. The meeting adjourned.**

Respectively submitted by: Sandra O'Stean  
Sandra O'Stean County Clerk

Approved by: Wilbur T. Gamble III  
Wilbur T. Gamble, III Chairman Board of Commissioners

Date: 6-1-21