

# MINUTES

## TERRELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

DATE: JUNE 6, 2017

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

PLACE: TERRELL COUNTY GOVERNMENT BUILDING

PRESENT: BO HAMBY, KATHY WADE, GREG WELSH, DAVINA DAVILA, EZEKIEL HOLLEY, ED DUSKIN, ALICE CARTER

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: CHAIRMAN WILBUR T. GAMBLE III, VICE-CHAIRMAN ERNEST JOHNSON, LUCIUS HOLLOWAY, BRAD STAFFORD, CRIS WEBB

CALL TO ORDER - CHAIRMAN GAMBLE

PRAYER - REVEREND EZEKIEL HOLLEY

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – A MOTION TO APPROVE THE JUNE 6, 2017 REGULAR MEETING AGENDA WAS MADE BY BRAD STAFFORD. ERNEST JOHNSON GAVE THE SECOND. THOSE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE BRAD STAFFORD, ERNEST JOHNSON, LUCIUS HOLLOWAY, AND CRIS WEBB. THE MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 2, 2017 REGULAR MEETING WAS MADE BY LUCIUS HOLLOWAY. THE SECOND WAS MADE BY ERNEST JOHNSON. THOSE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE LUCIUS HOLLOWAY, ERNEST JOHNSON, BRAD STAFFORD, AND CRIS WEBB. THE MOTION CARRIED.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - THE RESULT OF ATTORNEY JIMMY SKIPPER'S RESEARCH REGARDING AUTHORITY OF THE CHAIRMAN TO MAKE OR SECOND A MOTION IN THE MEETINGS WAS MENTIONED BY CHAIRMAN GAMBLE. EACH COMMISSIONER HAD BEEN SENT A COPY OF THE WRITTEN RESULT. CHAIRMAN GAMBLE ALSO STATED THE FYE 2017 REMAINING BUDGET NUMBERS ARE VERY TIGHT AND URGED ALL DEPARTMENTS TO KEEP A WATCH ON SPENDING.

TREASURER'S REPORT - PHONSO DONALDSON READ THE REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2017.

CLERK'S REPORT – SANDRA O'STEAN READ THE REPORT FOR MAY 2017 BANK BALANCES & EXPENDITURES. VENDOR ACTIVITY AND FUEL REPORT WERE SUBMITTED IN WRITTEN FORM.

EMS-911 REPORT - DIRECTOR BO HAMBY READ THE MAY 2017 EMS – 911 REPORT. AT THIS TIME, HE ASKED TO MOVE UP ON THE AGENDA THE ITEM UNDER NEW BUSINESS CONCERNING PLACING AN OLDER AMBULANCE ON SURPLUS STATUS AND LISTING IT ON GOV.DEALS FOR SALE. THE MOTION TO MOVE THE ITEM UNDER NEW BUSINESS DECLARING THE AMBULANCE AS SURPLUS AND SELL ON GOV.DEALS WEBSITE UP ON THE AGENDA WAS MADE BY ERNEST JOHNSON. THE SECOND WAS GIVEN BY BRAD STAFFORD. THOSE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE ERNEST JOHNSON, BRAD STAFFORD, LUCIUS HOLLOWAY, AND CRIS WEBB. THE MOTION CARRIED. DIRECTOR HAMBY STATED THE AMBULANCE TO BE DECLARED AS SURPLUS WAS AN OPERATING VEHICLE AND HE HAD CHECKED WITH THE WARDEN AND WAS TOLD NEITHER THE CI OR ROAD DEPARTMENTS WANTED THE VEHICLE. A MOTION TO PLACE SAID AMBULANCE ON SURPLUS STATUS AND TO LIST IT ON THE GOV.DEALS WEBSITE FOR SALE WAS MADE BY ERNEST JOHNSON. A SECOND CAME FROM BRAD STAFFORD. THOSE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE ERNEST JOHNSON, BRAD STAFFORD, LUCIUS HOLLOWAY, AND CRIS WEBB. THE MOTION CARRIED.

EXTENSION SERVICE REPORT - NO REPORT DUE TO STAFF BEING ON VACATION.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT - NO REPORT SUBMITTED. CHAIRMAN GAMBLE NOTED THE CHAMBER BOARD IS ACTIVELY SEEKING A DIRECTOR TO FILL THE VACANT POSITION..

WARDEN / ROAD SUPERVISOR REPORT - A WRITTEN REPORT WAS SUBMITTED DUE TO THE WARDEN BEING OUT OF TOWN.

SHERIFF'S REPORT - A WRITTEN REPORT WAS SUBMITTED DUE TO THE SHERIFF BEING IN COURT. THE CHAIRMAN ASKED LINDA ANN SPILMAN HOW THE COLLECTION OF OVER DUE ADVALOREM TAXES WAS GOING. SHE STATED THAT FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2017, \$50,068.00 WAS COLLECTED. \$165,295.00 IN DELINQUENT TAXES HAD BEEN COLLECTED YEAR TO DATE. CHAIRMAN GAMBLE ASKED HER SPECIFICALLY IF THE OWNERS OF SASSER FLEA MARKET AND THE ARGS STATION IN SASSER HAD PAID THEIR DELINQUENT TAXES. MS. SPILMAN REPORTED BOTH PARTIES ARE IN THE PROCESS OF OBTAINING CHECKS FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE BANKS TO PAY THEIR TAXES.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT - A WRITTEN FINANCIAL REPORT WAS SUBMITTED DUE TO THE RECREATION BOARD MEETING AT SAME TIME AS THE COMMISSIONERS. CHAIRMAN GAMBLE REPORTED THAT THE FACILITY IS LOOKING GOOD AS A RESULT OF THE RECENT IMPROVEMENTS AND THE PARTICIPATION OF THE CHILDREN IS GOOD. COMMISSIONER STAFFORD ASKED IF THE SCOREBOARDS HAD BEEN PUT IN PLACE. CHAIRMAN GAMBLE REPORTED SCOREBOARDS HAD BEEN MOUNTED ON EACH CORNER OF THE CONCESSION TOWER AT THE UPPER FIELDS AND A COUPLE OF FREE STANDING BOARDS ARE ON THE OTHER FIELDS.

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**OLD BUSINESS:**

DELINQUENT GARBAGE ASSESSMENT REPORT - SANDRA O'STEAN READ THE 2016-17 REPORT. CHAIRMAN GAMBLE ASKED IF COLLECTIONS WERE AT THE POINT WHERE THEY WERE AT THIS TIME LAST YEAR. MS. O'STEAN REPORTED COLLECTIONS ARE UP 4% FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2017; BUT ARE AT A SLIGHTLY LOWER AMOUNT THAN THIS TIME LAST YEAR.

FOLLOW UP REPORT ON FAMILY CONNECTIONS REQUEST FOR TERRELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO BE THEIR FISCAL AGENT - CHAIRMAN GAMBLE GAVE A REPORT ON HIS MEETING WITH LOCAL DIRECTOR LINDA JACOBS AND STATE GRANT MANAGER LINDA LUNSFORD. EACH COMMISSIONER WAS GIVEN A BOOK WHICH DETAILED ALL ASPECTS OF THE FAMILY CONNECTIONS PROGRAM AND WHAT THE FISCAL AGENT REQUIREMENTS ARE. BASICALLY THE AGENT WOULD MANAGE THE BUDGET OF THE PROGRAM WHICH IS ABOUT \$45,000.00. THEY ARE NOT ALLOWED TO HANDLE THE MONIES THEMSELVES AND THEY HAVE TO HAVE AN AGENCY TO PASS THE FUNDS THROUGH. THE MAJORITY OF THE BUDGET IS FOR THE SALARY OF THE FAMILY CONNECTIONS DIRECTOR. A SMALL PORTION IS USED FOR SUPPLIES, RENTALS, OR OTHER DISCRETIONARY EXPENSES. THE COUNTY WOULD PAY MONTHLY BILLS AS THEY COME THROUGH FOR THE FAMILY CONNECTIONS AND THE STATE OF GEORGIA THROUGH FAMILY CONNECTIONS WOULD REIMBURSE TERRELL COUNTY QUARTERLY. THERE WOULD BE NO NET LOSS TO THE COUNTY. THERE WILL BE PAPERWORK TO BE DONE BY THE INTERIM CLERK CHARLENE FARMER AND SHE HAD AGREED. ERNEST JOHNSON MADE THE MOTION FOR TERRELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO BECOME THE FISCAL AGENT FOR THE FAMILY CONNECTIONS PROGRAM BEGINNING JULY 1, 2017. LUCIUS HOLLOWAY GAVE THE SECOND. THOSE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE ERNEST JOHNSON, LUCIUS HOLLOWAY, BRAD STAFFORD, AND CRIS WEBB. THE MOTION CARRIED. IT WAS NOTED THAT TERRELL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT WAS THE PREVIOUS FISCAL AGENT.

FOLLOW UP ON COUNTY ENDING ITS MEMBERSHIP AND COMMITMENT TO THE SOUTH GEORGIA REGIONAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY - COMMISSIONER CRIS WEBB GAVE HIS REPORT THAT THE COUNTY'S COMMITMENT TO THE AUTHORITY IS FOR THREE MORE YEARS. A REQUEST TO TERMINATE THE AGREEMENT WOULD REQUIRE GOING THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE BODY. CHAIRMAN GAMBLE ASKED WHO HE SPOKE WITH AND IF THEY LEGALLY GAVE HIM THIS INFORMATION. MR. WEBB STATED HE SPOKE TO MRS. CONNIE HOBBS PAST CHAIRMAN AND MEMBER OF THE SGRITA BOARD. HE RECOMMENDED THAT TERRELL COUNTY GO AHEAD AND APPOINT SOMEONE TO THE AUTHORITY'S BOARD. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT ATTORNEY SKIPPER LOOK OVER THE CONTRACT THE COUNTY HAS WITH SGRITA. COMMISSIONER HOLLOWAY AGREED AND STATED THAT IN THE MEAN TIME THE COMMISSIONERS' BOARD COULD FIND SOMEONE TO APPOINT. COMMISSIONER WEBB REPORTED THAT HE HAD ALREADY SPOKEN TO GREG GARLAND WHO HAD EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN SERVING ON THE AUTHORITY'S BOARD. BRAD STAFFORD ASKED IF THIS APPOINTMENT SHOULD BE PLACED ON THE NEXT MONTH'S AGENDA. EVERYONE WAS IN AGREEMENT TO MAKE THE APPOINTMENT AT THIS TIME. THE MOTION WAS MADE BY CRIS WEBB TO APPOINT GREG GARLAND AS TERRELL COUNTY'S MEMBER TO THE SOUTH GEORGIA REGIONAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY. LUCIUS HOLLOWAY GAVE THE SECOND. ALL IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE CRIS WEBB, LUCIUS HOLLOWAY, BRAD STAFFORD, AND ERNEST JOHNSON. THE MOTION CARRIED. CHAIRMAN GAMBLE ASKED ATTORNEY SKIPPER TO REVIEW THE CONTRACT AND ADVISE THE COMMISSIONERS IF THERE IS A WAY OUT OF THE COMMITMENT TO SGRITA.

FOLLOW UP ON CONTACT WITH CAROLYN SOLOMON (CONCERNED CITIZENS FOR COUNTY ROADS) REGARDING PAYING SHARE OF THE COSTS FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS — CHAIRMAN GAMBLE REPORTED THAT A LETTER WAS WRITTEN TO THE ATTORNEY HOMERO LEON CONCERNING THE OPTIONS THAT THE COUNTY HAD DISCUSSED AT A PREVIOUS MEETING. NO RESPONSE HAS BEEN RECEIVED AS TO DATE.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE POSITION AND DUTIES OF THE COUNTY MANAGER – HANDOUTS PREPARED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER GOVERNMENT (ACCG) CONTAINING GENERAL INFORMATION NEEDED TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING THE POSITION OF COUNTY MANAGER WERE PRESENTED TO EACH COMMISSIONER AND THE ATTORNEY FOR REVIEW. CHAIRMAN GAMBLE SUGGESTED HAVING A WORKING SESSION TO LOOK OVER THE LARGE VOLUMN OF MATERIAL THAT WAS PROVIDED AND TO BEGIN THE PROCESS. A MOTION WAS MADE BY ERNEST JOHNSON TO SET THE DATE FOR A WORKING SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING THE POSITION OF COUNTY MANAGER. THE DATE AND TIME WILL BE JUNE 27, 2017 AT 10:00 A.M.. BRAD STAFFORD GAVE THE SECOND. ALL IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE ERNEST JOHNSON, BRAD STAFFORD, LUCIUS HOLLOWAY, AND CRIS WEBB. THE MOTION CARRIED. A PAID AD ANNOUNCING THIS PUBLIC MEETING WILL BE SENT TO THE DAWSON NEWS AT THE PROPER TIME.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

CHANGE MEETING DATE FOR JULY MEETING DUE TO JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> HOLIDAY - THE MOTION WAS MADE BY ERNEST JOHNSON TO CHANGE THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING DATE AND TIME DUE TO THE HOLIDAY TO JULY 11, 2017 AT 8:30 A.M.. LUCIUS HOLLOWAY GAVE THE SECOND. THOSE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE ERNEST JOHNSON, LUCIUS HOLLOWAY, CRIS WEBB, AND BRAD STAFFORD. THE MOTION CARRIED. AN ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THIS PUBLIC MEETING WILL BE PLACED IN THE DAWSON NEWS AT THE PROPER TIME. THIS WILL BE A SEPARATE ADVERTISEMENT FROM THE WORKING SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT.

APPRECIATION FOR USE OF GOVERNMENT BUILDING LARGE ROOM FOR ANNUAL BANQUET RECOGNIZING COUNTY'S SENIOR CITIZENS — REVEREND GEORGE DRAINE DID NOT APPEAR; HOWEVER, CHAIRMAN GAMBLE RELATED TO THE BOARD MR. DRAINE'S EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION FOR USE OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT BUILDING FOR THE ANNUAL BANQUET RECOGNIZING THE COUNTY'S SENIOR CITIZENS. CHAIRMAN GAMBLE REMINDED THE BOARD THAT THERE IS A POLICY IN PLACE THAT ALLOWS A FEW ORGANIZATIONS THE USE OF THE LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM AT NO COST IF CERTAIN FUNCTIONS ARE A BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY AND ITS CITIZENS AND IF APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS. THIS IS NOT A POLICY TO OPEN A DOOR FOR EVERYBODY TO USE.

EMPLOYEE INSURANCE RENEWAL JULY 2017 — MIKE PEARSON OF THE PEARSON COMPANY (INSURANCE BROKER) WAS NOT PRESENT. CHAIRMAN GAMBLE MENTIONED A COUPLE OF THE OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE COUNTY EMPLOYEES IN THE PLAN THAT BLUE CROSS HAD OFFERED THROUGH THE PEARSON COMPANY. THE COUNTY WILL CONTINUE WITH BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD AND THE NEW PLAN WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2017.

CITY OF BRONWOOD PAST DUE INVOICES FOR ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES — CHAIRMAN GAMBLE EXPLAINED THE PROCESS OF ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES PROVIDED TO EACH CITY IN THE COUNTY. THE CITY OF BRONWOOD HAD REFUSED TO PAY THREE INVOICES FOR SUCH SERVICE STATING THEY WERE UNAUTHORIZED BY THE MAYOR. CHAIRMAN GAMBLE GAVE HIS OPINION THAT THE CITY SHOULD PAY THE INVOICES AND IF THEY ARE NOT PAID, SERVICES SHOULD BE STOPPED. DAVINA DAVILA REPRESENTING THE CITY OF BRONWOOD WAS IN ATTENDANCE TO ADDRESS THE MATTER. BOTH SHE AND ANIMAL CONTROL DIRECTOR MARTHA ANN COE WERE ALLOWED TIME TO SPEAK. AFTER MUCH DISCUSSION, NOTE WAS TAKEN THAT THERE IS NO WRITTEN AGREEMENT WITH THE MUNICIPALITIES BUT THERE IS A STANDING AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES FOR ONE YEAR. THE AGREEMENT MENTIONED HAD NOT BEEN RENEWED OR WRITTEN OVER THE YEARS. LUCIUS HOLLOWAY ASKED THE BOARD TO ALLOW HIM TO MEET WITH THE ANIMAL CONTROL DIRECTOR AND THE CITY OF BRONWOOD OFFICIALS TO COME TO A RESOLUTION ON THE MATTER. ERNEST JOHNSON MADE THE MOTION TO TABLE THIS MATTER TO NEXT MONTH AND ALLOW COMMISSIONER HOLLOWAY TO MEET WITH THE PARTIES MENTIONED TO COME TO A RESOLUTION. BRAD STAFFORD GAVE THE SECOND. THOSE IN FAVOR OF THIS MOTION WERE ERNEST JOHNSON, BRAD STAFFORD, CRIS WEBB, AND LUCIUS HOLLOWAY. THE MOTION CARRIED.

DECLARATION OF AMBULANCE AS SURPLUS AND SELL ON GOV.DEALS SITE — BO HAMBY HAD REQUESTED THIS ITEM BE MOVED UP ON THE AGENDA UNDER EMS/911 REPORT. SEE ABOVE REPORT.

**TAX COMMISSIONER'S REQUEST AS NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIAL FOR AUTHORIZATION TO CONDUCT STANDARD OFFICE PROCEDURES** — MARY ELLEN HARNAGE PRESENTED THREE DOCUMENTS TO THE BOARD FOR APPROVAL AND SIGNATURE BY THE CHAIRMAN. AS NEW TAX COMMISSIONER, A REQUEST AND APPROVAL IS REQUIRED FOR THE OFFICE OF TAX COMMISSIONER TO COLLECT THE PAYMENTS OF TAGS, TITLES, AND TAXES VIA DEBIT/CREDIT CARDS, CHECKS, CASH, AND MONEY ORDERS. THIS DOCUMENT WAS PRESENTED. THE SECOND DOCUMENT WAS TO REQUEST THE AUTHORITY FOR THE TAX COMMISSIONER TO FORGIVE INTEREST AND PENALTY ON PAYMENTS RECEIVED THAT ARE FIVE DOLLARS (\$5.00) OR LESS. THE THIRD REQUEST WAS FOR THE AUTHORITY TO BE GIVEN TO THE TAX COMMISSIONER TO KEEP OVERAGES ON PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS THAT ARE UNDER FIVE DOLLARS (\$5.00) AND TO PAY THOSE OVERAGES TO THE COUNTY. ERNEST JOHNSON MADE A MOTION FOR AUTHORIZATION TO BE GIVEN ON ALL THREE REQUESTS AND HAVE THE CHAIRMAN SIGN THE DOCUMENTS. A SECOND WAS GIVEN BY LUCIUS HOLLOWAY. ALL IN FAVOR OF THIS MOTION WERE ERNEST JOHNSON, LUCIUS HOLLOWAY, BRAD STAFFORD, AND CRIS WEBB. THE MOTION CARRIED.

**AIR CONDITIONER UNIT IN COURTROOM OF HISTORICAL COURTHOUSE** — CHAIRMAN GAMBLE EXPLAINED THE NECESSITY OF HAVING TO REPLACE THE AIR CONDITIONER IN THE COURTROOM OF THE HISTORICAL COURTHOUSE PRIOR TO THE COMMISSIONERS' MEETING AS COURT WAS IN SESSION AT THE TIME. GILL HEATING AND COOLING WAS AWARDED THE BID FOR THE JOB. A MOTION TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF THE INVOICE FROM GILL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 5,625.00 WAS MADE BY ERNEST JOHNSON AND THE SECOND WAS GIVEN BY BRAD STAFFORD. THOSE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE ERNEST JOHNSON, BRAD STAFFORD, CRIS WEBB, AND LUCIUS HOLLOWAY. THE MOTION CARRIED.

**PROCLAMATION OF JUNE 2017 AS PET SAFETY IN HOT WEATHER AWARENESS MONTH** – GEORGIA GOVERNOR NATHAN DEAL AND THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES MADE A REQUEST FOR TERRELL COUNTY TO ADOPT THE PROCLAMATION OF JUNE 2017 AS PET SAFETY IN HOT WEATHER AWARENESS MONTH. THE MOTION FOR TERRELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO ADOPT GEORGIA GOVERNOR NATHAN DEAL'S PROCLAMATION OF JUNE 2017 AS PET SAFETY IN HOT WEATHER AWARENESS MONTH AND HAVE THE CHAIRMAN SIGN THE ADOPTION PROCLAMATION WAS MADE BY ERNEST JOHNSON. THE SECOND WAS GIVEN BY BRAD STAFFORD. ALL IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE ERNEST JOHNSON, BRAD STAFFORD, CRIS WEBB, AND LUCIUS HOLLOWAY. THE MOTION CARRIED. A PHOTO WAS TAKEN AND THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES IS TO POST SAME ON THE NATIONAL WEBSITE.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY THE CHAIRMAN.

RESPECTIVELY SUBMITTED BY: Sandra O'Stean  
SANDRA O'STEAN  
ASSISTANT TO THE COMMISSIONERS

APPROVED BY: Wilbur T. Gamble III  
WILBUR T. GAMBLE, III  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DATE APPROVED: 7-11-17