

MINUTES

TERRELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING

DATE: SEPTEMBER 5, 2017

TIME: 6 P.M.

PLACE: TERRELL COUNTY GOVERNMENT BUILDING

COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF PRESENT: CHAIRMAN WILBUR T. GAMBLE III, VICE CHAIRMAN ERNEST JOHNSON, COMMISSIONERS BRAD STAFFORD, LUCIUS HOLLOWAY, AND CRIS WEBB, COUNTY ATTORNEY JIMMY SKIPPER, AND ASSISTANT SANDRA O'STEAN

PRESENT: BO HAMBY, EZEKIEL HOLLEY, MAUREEN WELSH, GREG WELSH, LARRY HAGAN, MARY ELLEN HARNAGE, GARY FREEMAN

CALL TO ORDER - CHAIRMAN WILBUR T. GAMBLE

PRAYER - PASTOR LARRY HAGAN

APPROVAL OF AGENDA - SEPTEMBER 5, 2017 - THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 5, 2017 AGENDA WAS MADE BY ERNEST JOHNSON AND THE SECOND WAS GIVEN BY LUCIUS HOLLOWAY. THOSE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE ERNEST JOHNSON, LUCIUS HOLLOWAY, BRAD STAFFORD, AND CRIS WEBB. THE MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - AUGUST 1, 2017 REGULAR MEETING, AUGUST 3, 2017 SPECIAL MEETING, AND AUGUST 23, 2017 SPECIAL MEETING - THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 1, AUGUST 3, AND AUGUST 23, 2017 MINUTES WAS MADE BY LUCIUS HOLLOWAY. THE SECOND WAS GIVEN BY BRAD STAFFORD. THOSE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE LUCIUS HOLLOWAY, BRAD STAFFORD, CRIS WEBB, AND ERNEST JOHNSON. THE MOTION CARRIED.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - T. GAMBLE STATED HE HAD ASKED THE COUNTY ATTORNEY JIMMY SKIPPER FOR LEGAL OPINION ON ROBERT LEWIS'S REQUEST LAST MONTH FOR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING ACCESS TO CARTER PROPERTY OFF OF OLD FIELD ROAD. THE RESULT REGARDING THE LAND LOCKED PROPERTY WAS THE ROAD IS NOT A COUNTY MAINTAINED ROAD AND THE COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT CAN NOT LEGALLY DO ANY WORK TO PROVIDE ACCESS. THERE ARE A FEW OPTIONS THAT THE LAND OWNERS HAVE AS FAR AS PRIVATELY DOING SO. THE CHAIRMAN WILL CONVEY THESE OPTIONS TO MR. ROBERT LEWIS. THE CHAIRMAN NOTED THERE IS A NEW SOLAR ENERGY GROUP MAKING A PROPOSAL AND THIS WILL PROBABLY BE COMING UP ON THE AGENDA IN THE FUTURE AFTER NEGOTIATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS NEXT WEEK AND AFTER THE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MAKES A DECISION ON THE FINAL OFFER WHICH IS A BETTER OFFER THAN PREVIOUS PROPOSALS. IT IS NOT ON THE SEPTEMBER 5, 2017 AGENDA; BUT THE CHAIRMAN WANTED THE BOARD TO BE AWARE OF THE INFORMATION. ALSO, HE MENTIONED EACH COMMISSIONER HAS BEEN GIVEN A PACKET CONTAINING A REPORT OF OVER DUE TAXES WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED FURTHER ALONG IN THE MEETING. HE ADDED THE BUDGET IS VERY TIGHT AS HAS BEEN THE EXPECTED CASE AND THE COUNTY NEEDS TO BE CAREFUL IN SPENDING THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR.

TREASURER'S REPORT - PHONSO DONALDSON READ THE AUGUST 2017 TREASURY REPORT.

CLERK'S REPORT - SANDRA O'STEAN READ THE BANK BALANCES FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2017. THE VENDOR ACTIVITY WAS PRESENTED AS A WRITTEN REPORT FOR REVIEW. THE INMATE COUNT FOR AUGUST 2017 WAS READ. AN INVOICE FROM HOPKINS FOR AN ICE MACHINE INSTALLED AT THE JAIL WHICH IS TO BE PAID FROM THE SPECIAL PURPOSE SALES TAX JAIL FUND WAS PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL. THE AMOUNT OF THE INVOICE WAS \$ 5,345.70. LUCIUS HOLLOWAY MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE INVOICE AND PAY THE \$5,345.70 FROM THE SPECIAL PURPOSE SALES TAX JAIL FUND AS MONIES ARE AVAILABLE IN THAT ACCOUNT. ERNEST JOHNSON GAVE THE SECOND. THOSE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE LUCIUS HOLLOWAY, ERNEST JOHNSON, CRIS WEBB, AND BRAD STAFFORD. THE MOTION CARRIED. THE ASSISTANT CLERK MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DAWSON/TERRELL COUNTY CHRISTMAS PARADE TO BE HELD ON DECEMBER 9, 2017 AT 6 P.M. AND URGED THE COMMISSIONERS TO PARTICIPATE AND TO CONTACT MARTHA ANN COE FOR APPLICATIONS TO ENTER THE PARADE. SHE ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT GEORGIA'S FIRST LADY, SANDRA DEAL, HAD REQUESTED FROM EACH COUNTY AN ORNAMENT PORTRAYING THE COUNTY'S COURTHOUSE TO BE SENT TO THE MANSION TO BE HUNG ON THE GOVERNOR'S CHRISTMAS TREE. MR. ED DUSKIN WAS ASSISTING SANDRA IN OBTAINING FROM THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AN ORNAMENT WHICH DID PORTRAY THE TERRELL COUNTY COURTHOUSE.

MINUTES SEPTEMBER 5, 2017 REGULAR MEETING CONTINUED

COMMISSIONER HOLLOWAY DISCUSSED THE JAIL POPULATION THAT HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY REPORTED AND GAVE HIS OPINION THAT THE INCREASE IN NUMBER OF INMATES COULD BE IN PART DUE TO THE PROBATION OFFICE RELOCATING TO CUTHBERT AND PROBATIONERS VIOLATING THEIR TERMS OF PROBATION BY NOT BEING ABLE TO TRAVEL TO CUTHBERT. THE SHERIFF ADDED HIS COMMENTS THAT THE INMATE COUNT CONTINUALLY GOES UP AND DOWN.

EMS / 911 REPORT – BO HAMBY READ THE STATISTICS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2017.

EXTENSION SERVICE REPORT - A WRITTEN REPORT WAS SUBMITTED.

WARDEN / ROAD SUPERVISOR REPORT – A WRITTEN REPORT WAS SUBMITTED. COMMISSIONER STAFFORD URGED THAT BILLY MCCLUNG, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATOR, BE CONTACTED TO INSURE THAT PREPARATIONS ARE BEING MADE TO DEAL WITH THE HURRICANE IRMA WHICH IS PROJECTED TO PASS THROUGH THIS AREA.

SHERIFF'S REPORT – A WRITTEN REPORT WAS SUBMITTED. AN INCREASE IN CITATIONS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST WAS NOTED BY CHAIRMAN GAMBLE.

DELINQUENT TAX REPORT - A WRITTEN REPORT WAS SUBMITTED BY TAX COMMISSIONER MARY ELLEN HARNAGE. THE CHAIRMAN STATED THAT THERE ARE SOME ACCOUNTS THAT ARE INACCURATE, ESPECIALLY THE UTILITY COMPANIES' ACCOUNTS. HE REPORTED THAT THE INTERESTING THING TO TAKE FROM THIS REPORT WAS THAT THE ACCOUNTS THAT ARE DELINQUENT OVER TWO (2) YEARS OLD TOTAL AN AMOUNT OF APPROXIMATELY 1 MILLION DOLLARS. HE REITERATED HIS OPINION THAT IF ACCOUNTS ARE ENTERING TWO (2) YEARS IN DELINQUENCY, FIFAS SHOULD BE EXECUTED AND THE PROPERTY FORECLOSED ON. LINDA ANN SPILMAN REPORTED THE TOTAL OF COLLECTIONS SHE RECEIVED IN THE DELINQUENT TAX OFFICE FOR THE MONTH AND FOR THE YEAR TO DATE. SHE EXPLAINED THE PROCEDURES SHE FOLLOWS TO COLLECT THE DEBTS. DISCUSSION FOLLOWED ON WHY FIFAS ARE NOT BEING FOLLOWED BY FORECLOSURES AND ACCOUNTING NOT BEING PROPERLY DONE WHEN PAYMENTS ARE TURNED IN. THE TAX COMMISSIONER, THE DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR, AND THE SHERIFF WERE GIVEN THE URGENCY OF WORKING TOGETHER AND GETTING THE FIFAS RECORDED, ADVERTISING THE PROPERTY IN THE PAPER, AND FOLLOWING THROUGH BY FORECLOSING AND SELLING THE PROPERTY.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT – A WRITTEN REPORT WAS SUBMITTED.

GARBAGE ASSESSMENT REPORT - SANDRA O'STEAN READ THE REPORT FOR GARBAGE ASSESSMENT FOR BILLING YEAR 2016-17 AND GAVE AN UPDATE ON THE ACTIVITY ON DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS. SHE REPORTED ON THE ACCOUNTS OVER \$250.00 WHICH ARE READY TO BE TURNED OVER TO DELINQUENT TAX SERVICES (DTS) WITH THE EXPECTATION OF HAVING A SALE OF PROPERTY. DISCUSSION FOLLOWED IN REGARDS TO WHY ACCOUNTS ARE NOT TURNED OVER IN THE YEAR THEY BECOME PAST DUE. THIS WAS ANSWERED WITH THE BOARD HAVING SET THE POLICY IN PLACE FOR THIS A FEW YEARS BACK.

OLD BUSINESS:

LMIG FY2018 PROJECT LISTS TO BE REVIEWED –COMMISSIONERS WEBB AND STAFFORD SUBMITTED LISTS OF ROADS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR IMPROVEMENT IN YEAR 2018. THE LISTS WILL BE COMPLETED AND DISCUSSED AT A FUTURE MEETING.

TAMMY LANE ROAD – REPORT FROM CONTACT WITH SUMTER ELECTRIC BOARD MEMBER REGARDING COSTS TO MOVE POWER LINES — COMMISSIONERS STAFFORD AND WEBB GAVE AN UPDATE FROM A MEETING AND CONVERSATION RYAN CANNON OF NASH ENGINEERING HAD WITH SUMTER ELECTRIC AUTHORITIES. COMMISSIONER STAFFORD STATED RYAN CANNON WILL BRING A NEW DRAFT OF THE PROJECT TO THE NEXT MEETING. COMMISSIONER HOLLOWAY SAID HE HAD TALKED WITH MOST OF THE LANDOWNERS FROM OLD MILL ROAD AT GEORGIA AVENUE DOWN TO THE NEXT TO THE LAST HOUSE ON TAMMY LAING AND THEY ARE WILLING TO GIVE RIGHT OF WAY FOR THEY HAVE ENOUGH SET BACK ON THEIR PROPERTY TO ALLOW FOR MORE RIGHT OF WAY. MORE DISCUSSION WILL BE HELD AT NEXT MEETING. GARY FREEMAN, COUNCILMAN FOR THE TOWN OF SASSER REPORTED THERE WAS AN ERROR MADE WITH THE 2016-17 IMPROVEMENT ON PART OF D E SHORT ROAD. THE IMPROVEMENT WAS DONE FROM THE CITY LIMIT SIGN ON D E SHORT ROAD DOWN TOWARD THE CHURCH FOR .5 OF A MILE. COMMISSIONER STAFFORD REPORTED THE PART THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN DONE WAS FROM THE ENTRANCE OF D E SHORT ROAD AT CALLIS ROAD AND GOING DOWN TO THOMAS'S SHOP WHICH WAS .5 OF A MILE. EACH PARTY INVOLVED WILL BE CONTACTED AND THE INFORMATION WILL BE RESEARCHED AND THIS WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE NEXT COMMISSIONERS' MEETING.

NEW BUSINESS:

PRESENTATION OF AWARD TO BILLY MCCLUNG FOR 20 YEARS SERVICE — BILLY MCCLUNG WAS NOT PRESENT.

BIDS FOR PROPANE GAS FOR FY2018 — SANDRA O'STEAN READ THE PROPOSALS RECEIVED FROM MODERN GAS AND THOMPSON GAS. THE PROPOSAL FROM MODERN GAS WAS \$0.95 PER GALLON AND THE PROPOSAL FROM THOMPSON GAS WAS \$1.04 PER GALLON. A 5% ALLOWANCE IS MADE FOR BIDS FROM LOCAL VENDORS AND THOMPSON'S BID WAS HIGHER THAN THIS. ERNEST JOHNSON MADE THE MOTION TO AWARD THE BID TO MODERN GAS AT THE RATE OF \$0.95 PER GALLON. LUCIUS HOLLOWAY GAVE THE SECOND. BOTH PARTIES WILL BE SENT A LETTER WITH THE RESULTS.

SOUTH GA REGIONAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY (SGRITA) DEFAULT — CHAIRMAN GAMBLE GAVE AN UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF THE SOUTH GEORGIA REGIONAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY AND SOME INFORMATION ON THE PROMISSORY NOTE TO PEOPLES SOUTH BANK OF WHICH TERRELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ARE A PARTY. \$200,000.00 WAS GUARANTEED IN THE PROMISSORY NOTE BY TERRELL COUNTY. THE DEMAND FOR PAYMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED BY THE COUNTY AND THE LEGALITY OF THE ISSUE CAN BE DISCUSSED AT A FUTURE MEETING WHEN THE DEMAND IS MADE. THIS MEETING WILL PROBABLY BE AN EXECUTIVE SESSION.

MORATORIUM ON SPENDING — CHAIRMAN GAMBLE EMPHASIZED TO ALL DEPARTMENT HEADS THE NEED TO USE RESOURCES THEY HAVE ON HAND AND DO NOT SPEND. NO NEW REVENUE IS EXPECTED UNTIL JANUARY 2018.

TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE (TAN) — CHAIRMAN GAMBLE STATED THE COUNTY WILL TAKE ON A NOTE UP TO \$500,000.00 IN ORDER TO PAY EXPENSES FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE CALENDAR YEAR AND WILL SEEK RATES FROM THE LOCAL BANKS. BRAD STAFFORD MADE A MOTION TO TAKE OUT A TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE FROM ONE OF THE LOCAL BANKS AT THE BEST RATE POSSIBLE TO BE NEGOTIATED BY THE COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE IN THE AMOUNT OF UP TO \$500,000.00. ERNEST JOHNSON GAVE THE SECOND. THOSE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE BRAD STAFFORD, ERNEST JOHNSON, LUCIUS HOLLOWAY, AND CRIS WEBB. THE MOTION CARRIED.

CRIS WEBB MADE THE MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AND LUCIUS HOLLOWAY GAVE THE SECOND. THOSE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE CRIS WEBB, LUCIUS HOLLOWAY, BRAD STAFFORD, AND ERNEST JOHNSON. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED BY CHAIRMAN GAMBLE.

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

APPROVED BY: Wilbur T. Gamble III
WILBUR T. GAMBLE III CHAIRMAN

DATE APPROVED: 10-3-17