

**TALBOT COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**FREEMAN MONTGOMERY, CHAIRMAN
FRANKLIN HOLMES, VICE CHAIRMAN
KEN CHAPMAN, COMMISSIONER
ROBERT LANIER, COMMISSIONER
SHER'LONDA WALKER, COMMISSIONER**



**SANDRA HIGGINBOTHAM
COUNTY MANAGER**

**JOSHUA BUCKNER
ROAD DEPT SUPERINTERINDENT**

May 7, 2012

The Talbot County Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing and their regular scheduled Board Meeting Monday, May 7, 2012 at 6 p.m. The meetings were held at the Commissioner's Office located at 74 West Monroe Street, Talbotton, Georgia. Chairman Montgomery, Vice Chairman Holmes, Commissioners Lanier, Chapman, and Walker were in attendance. The County Manager, Sandra Higginbotham, County Attorney, Andy Dodgen, and the County Clerk/Asst. County Manager, Carol Ison was also present. Vice Chairman Holmes arrived late.

The Chairman called the Public Hearing to order and informed everyone that the Hearing was being held in reference to a conditional use request submitted by Valu Power/Southern Linc to erect a 400 foot cellular communications tower at the intersection of Highway 80, and Fox Run Road in Junction City.

The Planning and Zoning Director Paul Higginbotham, informed the Board that the Planning and Zoning Board recommended the approval of the conditional use request.

At this time, the Chairman gave everyone in attendance the opportunity to speak in favor of, or in opposition to, the request for a conditional use to erect the cellular communications tower.

Clay Brogdon, Manager of engineering and construction for Southern Linc Wireless, and Chuck White, Mobile Manager for Georgia Power, spoke in favor of the proposed Cellular Communications Tower. Mr Brogdon gave a brief synopsis on the coverage expansion proposed for Talbot County.

No one spoke in opposition to the Conditional Use Request.

There being no other speakers, the Public Hearing was closed by Chairman Montgomery.

The regular monthly Board Meeting was called to order by the Chairman.

He led everyone in a moment of silence and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Chapman made a motion, and Chairman Montgomery seconded, for the Board to approve the conditional use request submitted by Valu Power/Southern Linc, to erect a 400 foot cellular communications tower, located at Land Lot 33, 16th District, Junction City, Parcel # 007-04-304. Vote passed 4-0-0.

At this time Chairman Montgomery asked if there were any items to be added to the agenda.

The County Manger added the following four items:

- 1) Sheriff Bobby Gates: E911 problems and Jail issues
- 2) Paul Higginbotham: Fence at Recreation Department
- 3) Hinson Pest Control Woodland Volunteer Fire Department
- 4) Transit Bus Air Conditioning Repair

Chairman Montgomery introduced Superior Court Judge Art Smith to everyone in attendance, and gave him an opportunity to speak.

Commissioner Lanier dismissed himself from the meeting for a brief moment.

Commissioner Chapman made a motion, and Commissioner Walker seconded, for the Board to approve the agenda additions. Vote passed 3-0-0.

Commissioner Walker made a motion, and Vice Chairman Holmes seconded, for the Board to approve the minutes from the April 16th and May 3rd called meetings. Vote passed 3-0-0.

Colonel Clark, representing Fort Benning and the 192nd Brigade informed the Board of upcoming events that are going to be held at Fort Benning.

He also informed the Board that this was the last meeting that Lieutenant Roger O'Steen would be attending; due to his transfer to Yakima, Washington.

Sheriff Bobby Gates approached the Board and informed them that his department was experiencing problems, communicating with the Middle Flint Regional E911 Authority.

**MINUTES
MAY 7, 2012**

The County Manager assured Sheriff Gates that Columbus Communications was aware of the problem, and was in the process of working to correct them.

Sheriff Gates ask the Board to consider scheduling a meeting with him to discuss the possibility of building a new jail.

Chairman Montgomery recommended that Sheriff Gates research to see if a Bond Issue could be placed on the Ballot to fund a new jail.

Paul Higginbotham, Building and Zoning Director, presented a drawing of the proposed recreation park that is to be built in the Geneva and Box Springs area, to the Board for their review.

He also informed them that the wooden fence that is located at the gymnasium was destroyed by fire, and needed to be replaced. The cost to replace the fence would be between \$1,000 and \$1,200.

The Board verbally agreed to replace the fence, with the total cost not to exceed \$1,200.

Commissioner Lanier came back into the meeting at this time.

Commissioner Walker directed the Building and Zoning Director to issue Box Springs Recycling Company a citation for noncompliance of the Talbot County Zoning Ordinance.

The County Manager informed the Board that Hinson's Pest Control informed her of termite damage at the Woodland Volunteer Fire Department. The quote that was submitted was for \$350.00 to repair the damage, \$790.00 to guarantee the work for one year, and an annual inspection cost of \$80.00.

Chairman Montgomery directed the County Manager to write a letter to the Mayor of Woodland informing him that the termite problem was the City of Woodlands responsibility since they owned the building.

Commissioner Chapman made a motion, and Commissioner Lanier seconded, for the Board to authorize the County Manager and County Clerk/Assistant Manger to proceed with getting bids to have the air conditioner compressor repaired in one of the transit vans. When bids are received, reviewed, and approved proceed with the air condition repair work Vote passed 5-0-0.

Commissioner Lanier made a motion, and Chairman Montgomery seconded, for the Board to approve issuing an Alcohol License to Allen Dixon, owner of Box Springs Package Plus, contingent on Mr. Dixon providing proof of residency in Georgia for one year. Vote passed 5-0-0.

Commissioner Lanier made a motion, and Commissioner Walker seconded, for the Board to approve issuing Angela Reddoch, owner of the BBQ Shack, an Alcohol License to sell and serve beer and wine. Vote passed 5-0-0.

Commissioner Lanier made a motion, and Vice Chairman Holmes seconded, for the Board to approve the contract with Occuscreen to perform criminal back ground screenings for all new employees. Vote passed 5-0-0.

Commissioner Lanier made a motion, and Commissioner Walker seconded, for the Board to approve the bid from Columbus Communications, for \$6,125.00, to purchase pagers and mobile radio's for the Volunteer Firefighters and the Sheriff's Department. Vote passed 5-0-0.

The Road Department Superintendent, Josh Buckner, did not have anything to discuss with the Board.

Chairman Montgomery directed Mr. Buckner to check the culvert pipes on Main Street in Junction City.

The County Manager informed the Board that the University of Georgia hired Erica Randall as the new Talbot County Resource Manager for the Talbot County Extension office.

Commissioner Lanier made a motion, and Commissioner Walker seconded, for the Board to approve placing Sunday Alcohol Sales on the November ballot. Vote failed, Chairman Montgomery, Vice Chairman Holmes and Commissioner Chapman were not in favor of Sunday Alcohol Sales. Commissioner Lanier abstained.

Chairman Montgomery directed the County Manager to schedule a workshop to discuss amending the current Talbot County Animal Control Ordinance.

Chairman Montgomery commended the Road Department Superintendent, his staff, and the County Manager and County Clerk/Asst. Manager for the great job they were doing.

The County Manager informed everyone that Commissioner Lanier was presented the Silver Standard of Excellence Award, at the ACCG 2012 Annual Meeting in Savannah.

She also informed everyone that due to Chairman Montgomery's upcoming retirement as a Talbot County Commissioner, he was recognized, and presented a plaque, at the meeting for his 42 years of service as a Talbot County Commissioner.

MINUTES
MAY 7, 2012

Commissioner Chapman made a motion, and Vice Chairman Holmes seconded, for the Board to move into Executive Session at 7:02 p.m., to discuss personnel matters, possible litigation, and real estate.
The vote passed 5-0-0.

Upon returning to regular session, Chairman Montgomery called the meeting back to order.

No decisions were made in Executive Session.

Commissioner Lanier made a motion, and Vice Chairman Holmes seconded, for the Board to approve paying Charlie Stephens three weeks vacation pay. Vote passed 5-0-0.

There being no further business, Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion for the meeting to be adjourned. Commissioner Lanier seconded the motion. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Freeman Montgomery
Chairman

Carol Ison
County Clerk/Asst. County Mgr.

Date