

**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

September 9, 2013

The Talbot County Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing in reference to the Fiscal Year End 2014 Proposed Budget, a Called Meeting to set the 2013 Millage Rate, and their regular monthly Board Meeting. The meetings began at 6 PM, and were held at the County Commission Office located at 74 West Monroe Street, Talbotton, Georgia.

Chairman Freeman Montgomery, Vice Chairman Franklin Holmes, Commissioners Ken Chapman, Robert Lanier, and Sher'Londa Walker were in attendance. Commissioner Walker did not arrive until the regular Board Meeting was in session. Also attending was County Attorney Andrew C. Dodgen, and County Manager Sandra Higginbotham.

Chairman Montgomery called the Public Hearing to order and informed everyone that the Hearing was being held to discuss the proposed Fiscal Year End 2014 Budget. The proposed budget amount is \$6,169,729.

When asked by the Chairman if anyone had any questions, the only person that spoke was James Tyrell. He asked for clarification of the proposed budget amount, and wanted to be sure the budget was balanced.

No one else had any questions, or wanted to speak in favor of, or opposition to, the proposed budget.

Chairman Montgomery closed the Public Hearing, and opened the Called Meeting to set the Millage Rate for 2013.

He presented to the Board the requested amount of revenue for both Talbot County and the Talbot County Board of Education (BOE). The total revenue for Talbot County is \$3,526,692, and the revenue amount for the Board of Education is \$3,070,721. The BOE's request includes Maintenance and Operations.

Talbot County's net mill rate is 16.004, the BOE's net mill rate is 14.109, and the State Levy is set at 0.150. The total mill rate for 2013 is 30.263.

Following the discussion, Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion for the Board to set the millage rate at 30.263, with the county's portion remaining the same as it was in 2012 (16.004). Commissioner Chapman seconded the motion. The vote passed 4-0-0.

The Called Meeting was closed by Chairman Montgomery.

At this time, Chairman Montgomery called the regular monthly Board Meeting to order, and led everyone in a *moment of silence* and the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

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The County Manager added the Tax Assessor's request to attend training for the Advanced Income Approach in Atlanta, September 18 through 20, 2013.

Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion for the Board to approve the Agenda, with the add-on, for the Board Meeting. Commissioner Chapman seconded the motion. The vote passed 4-0-0.

Commissioner Walker came in at this time.

Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion, and Commissioner Chapman seconded, for the Board to approve the Minutes from the August 5, 2013 Regular Board Meeting and Executive Session, and the July 8 and August 6, 2013 Called Meetings. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Joel Womack representing EMC Engineering Services, Inc. approached the Board requesting their approval for change orders in reference to the 2011 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Project – Drainage Improvements for Talbot County Flint Hill Phase II.

Mr. Womack informed the Board that seven (7) change orders needed to be approved for additional pipe, converting Storm MH to Weir Inlet at station 15, road repair for county water authority.

Following the discussion, Commissioner Lanier made a motion for the Board to approve the change order requests for the amount of \$16,688.43 as presented by Joel Womack. Vice Chairman Holmes seconded the motion. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Rick Morris representing River Valley Regional Commission discussed with the Board the status of the 2011 CDBG Project and submitting an application for the 2014 Community Development Block Grant. He informed them that Welcome Church Loop was the project submitted for the 2013 CDBG, but it was denied due to the 2011 Project being under the Eighty Percent (80%) threshold. He recommended the Board reapply for Welcome Church Loop on the 2014 Application.

Mobility Manager Jarrod McCarthy with River Valley Regional Commission presented to the Board handouts on Pursuing Transit Improvements. He informed the Board that a Regional Coordination and Action Plan had been established, and gave an oral presentation on the handouts. He also explained the need for rural local governments to regionalize their public transportation systems

Joyce Daniel approached the Board in reference to her previous animal control complaint. She had no new business to discuss, but again brought to the Board's attention the problems she previously encountered with the county, and getting rid of the cats that were left at a home where the owner was deceased. Ms. Daniel stated that she had contacted the county, but no one had gotten back in touch with her. She also informed everyone that the Talbot County Animal Control Ordinance addressed animal abandonment.

Dawn Wilson was not at the Board Meeting to discuss her complaint about the condition of Adams Road. The Road Department Superintendent Josh Buckner discussed with the Board the condition of the road, and reminded them the road was not paved (sand).

Commissioner Lanier made a motion, and Vice Chairman Holmes seconded, for the Board to approve the request for the Commission Office, Election, Transit, and Water Offices to take a half hour for lunch and close at 4:30 PM, with the exception of the Water Maintenance Staff. They will continue taking an hour for lunch and closing at 5 PM. The vote passed 5-0-0.

The change of office hours will be advertised in the Talbotton New Era, and will be effective October 1, 2013.

Commissioner Chapman made a motion for the Board to approve the FYE 2013 Budget Amendments in the amount of \$849,467, as presented. Chairman Montgomery seconded the motion. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Paying the In-Mate Medical Bills was postponed.

The request to fill the unexpired term of Tomeka Powell on the Election Board was postponed for further review.

Commissioner Lanier made a motion, and Chairman Montgomery seconded, for the Board to reappoint Charles Kelly to serve a two (2) year term, July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2015, on the West Central Georgia Region 7 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Council. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Chairman Montgomery made a motion, and Vice Chairman Holmes seconded, for the Board to adopt the Budget Spending Resolution for September 2013. The vote passed 5-0-0.

The Talbot County 4-H Associate and Resource Manager, Erica Randall, approached and presented to the Board a scrap book outlining the activities of the Talbot County 4-H Club. Ms. Randall also gave the Board an up-date on the growth and activities of the club.

Commissioner Lanier made a motion, and Commissioner Walker seconded, for the Board to approve the request of the Road Department Superintendent, Josh Buckner, to purchase a twenty (20) ton tag trailer for the amount of \$8500, and for the trailer to be paid with Commissioner's Chapman and Lanier's Transportation Investment Act (TIA) Funds. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Commissioner Chapman made a motion, and Vice Chairman Holmes seconded, for the Board to declare surplus the LoBoy that was originally purchased for the Water Department. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Road Department Superintendent Josh Buckner informed the Board that he needed to have the culvert on Waverly Hall Road replaced prior to the road being resurfaced. The replacement cost will be less than \$40,000. The Board directed Mr. Buckner to get bids to replace the culvert and have them ready to present at the next board meeting.

Commissioner Lanier made a motion for the Board to approve, subject to attorney approval, the contract between Robinson Paving and Talbot County for patching and resurfacing 2.060 miles on O'Neal Road (CR 76), with the cost being \$189,782. Commissioner Chapman seconded the motion. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Commissioner Lanier made a motion, and Commissioner Walker seconded, for the Board to approve the request from the Tax Assessor, Tommy Bussey, to attend the Advanced Income Approach Training that is being held in Atlanta, September 18-20, 2013. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Commissioner Lanier made a motion for the Board to approve the request for the County Manager to attend the Associated County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) 2013 Legislative Leadership Conference September 29-October 1, 2013 in Atlanta. Vice Chairman Holmes seconded the motion. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Commissioner Walker commended the Road Department Superintendent, Josh Buckner, for doing a great job.

Commissioner Chapman had questions in reference to county water implementation for his district.

Commissioner Lanier commented the article that was in the Talbotton New Era in reference to the statements made at the City of Woodland's Council Meeting about the Talbot County Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Walker made a motion, and Commissioner Walker seconded, for the Board to move into Executive Session at 7:40 PM to discuss litigation and personnel matters. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Upon returning to Open Session at 8:10 PM, Chairman Montgomery called the regular meeting back to order.

No decisions were made in Executive Session.

There being no further business, Chairman Montgomery made a motion and Commissioner Walker seconded for the meeting to adjourn. The vote passed 5-0-0.

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Freeman Montgomery, Chairman

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Sandra n. Higginbotham, County Manager

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Date