

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
CAROL ISON, CLERK/ASST. MANAGER
JOSHUA BUCKNER, ROAD
SUPERINTENDENT

July 21, 2014

The Talbot County Board of Commissioners held a Called Meeting, Monday, July 21, 2014 at 6:00 PM, to discuss the Fiscal Year End 2015 Budget. Chairman Freeman Montgomery, Commissioners Ken Chapman, Robert Lanier, and Sher'Londa Walker were in attendance. The County Attorney Andrew Dodgen, County Manager Sandra Higginbotham and County Clerk/Assistant County Manager, Carol Ison was also in attendance. Commissioner Walker arrived a few minutes late.

Attorney Morton Harris was also present at the meeting.

Chairman Montgomery called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Chapman made a motion to go into Executive Session at 6:10 pm, to discuss personnel and possible litigation. Commissioner Lanier seconded the motion. Vote passed 3-0-0.

Commissioner Walker arrived at the meeting during Executive Session.

Chairman Montgomery called the regular meeting back to order at 7:30 pm.

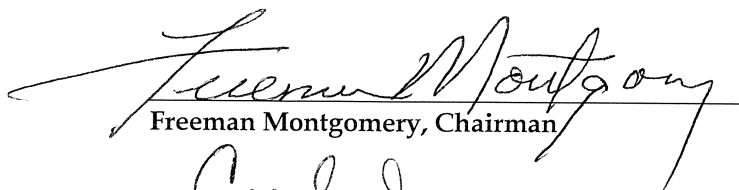
No decisions were made in Executive Session.


A discussion was held on the proposed FYE 2015 Budget. Copies of the proposed Budget were given to each commissioner for their review.

The County Manager informed the Board that there was an error within the Budget that she was researching.

No decision was made. The proposed FYE 2015 Budget will be discussed at the August 4, 2014 Regular Board Meeting.

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Lanier made a motion for the meeting to be adjourned. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion. Vote passed 4-0-0.


Freeman Montgomery, Chairman


Carol Ison, County Clerk/Asst. County Manager

8/4/14
Date

**TALBOT COUNTY
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SANDRA HIGGINBOTHAM
COUNTY MANAGER
CAROL ISON, CLERK/ASST. MANAGER
JOSHUA BUCKNER, ROAD
SUPERINTENDENT

August 4, 2014

The Talbot County Board of Commissioners held their regular scheduled monthly Board Meeting on Monday, August 4 2014 at 6:00 pm. The meeting was 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. Also attending was the County Attorney, Andrew Dodgen, County Manager Sandra Higginbotham and County Clerk/Assistant County Manager, Carol Ison. Commissioner Walker arrived a few minutes late.

Chairman Montgomery called the meeting to order and led everyone in a moment of silence and the recitation of the "Pledge of Allegiance".

Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion, Commissioner Chapman seconded, for the Board to approve the agenda as presented. Vote passed 4-0-0.

Commissioner Lanier made a motion, Commissioner Chapman seconded, for the Board to approve the Minutes from the July 7, 2014 Regular Meeting, July 21, 2014 Called Meeting and July 7, 2014 Executive Session. Vote Passed 4-0-0.

Commissioner Walker arrived at the meeting at this time.

Earnestine Carter residing at 325 Terry Circle in Shiloh, told the Board that as a result of the work that was done on the Street and Drainage project in the Flint Hill District, she is experiencing a lot of water run off on her property. She asked the Board to assess the situation to see if there was anything that could be done to correct the problem.

Chairman Montgomery informed Ms. Carter that he would go out and assess the property to see if anything could be done to correct the problem.

Josh Buckner, Road Department Superintendent informed the Board that Robinson Paving was in the process of preparing a bid package for resurfacing Thirty Five roads through out the county.

He informed them that the bid request for the resurfacing projects would need to be advertised for four consecutive weeks.

Linda Johnston of 115 Gardenia Way requested an update on her request to have the existing water lines on Juniper Trail relocated.

The County Manager informed the Board that the Water Department Superintendent, Marcus Thomas was in the process of doing research to determine if there are adequate rights of way to relocate the existing water lines and what cost would be associated with the proposed project.

A discussion was held in re to scraping the road beside Vicki's Café in Geneva to allow the property owners access to their property.

The County Attorney informed the Board that there was not sufficient evidence to prove the road was ever dedicated a County Road.

Following the discussion, the Road Department Superintendent was directed to scrape the road beside Vicki's Café in Geneva.

The County Manager informed the Board that she was in the process of trying to locate an Architect for the proposed building construction at the Geneva/Box Springs Park.

Commissioner Chapman made a motion, Vice Chairman Holmes seconded, for the Board to approve the proposed Spending Resolution to authorize the Board to continue making expenditures from all funds for the month of August 2014. Vote passed 5-0-0.

The proposed On-Site Sewage Management System Ordinance was postponed for further research.

The request by Gerald Carter for a Beer and Wine License was postponed.

The County Clerk/Assistant County Manager was directed to contact Sheriff Gates and get his approval to proceed with the application process. She was also directed to contact Mr. Carter and request his presence at the next Board meeting. Mr. Carter will need to present the required documentation in order to be approved the issuance of a Beer and Wine License.

A sealed bid was received from Robinson Paving for \$354,115.43, for the, 2014 Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG), Dennis Creek Road, Resurfacing Project. No other bids were received.

Following the bid opening and discussion, the Board directed the Road Department Superintendent to contact the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to determine if a portion of Dennis Creek Road could be resurfaced, instead of resurfacing the entire length of the road.

Commissioner Lanier made a motion, Commissioner Walker seconded, for the Board to approve the proposed Supplemental Programmatic Assessment Resolution for Fort Benning. Vote passed 5-0-0.

Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion, Commissioner Lanier seconded for the Board to approve Josh Buckner proceeding with the installation of two signs in the Quito Community on Old Shiloh Road. The signs will read "Quito Community Established in 1830's and will be placed on Shiloh Road at the Harris County line and at Highway 85. Vote passed 5-0-0.

Commissioner Lanier made a motion, Commissioner Walker seconded, for the Board to approve the purchase order request from O'Neal Volunteer Fire Department to purchase Turn-Out Gear with a cost of \$2,970.00. Special Purchase Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) funds will be used for the purchase. Vote passed 5-0-0.

Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion, Commissioner Lanier seconded, for the Board to approve the travel request for Carol Ison to attend the Clerks Conference in Athens, September 7, 2014 thru September 9, 2014. Vote passed 5-0-0.

Chairman Montgomery scheduled a Called Meeting/Workshop for 6 PM, Monday,

August 11, 2014 to discuss the Fiscal Year End 2015 Budget and the Dennis Creek Road resurfacing project.

The County Attorney informed the Board that the Rights of Way Certification for Pobiddy Road had been completed and sent to GDOT.

He informed the Board that the Retirement Plan for the Constitutional Officer's would be discussed in Executive Session.

A discussion was held with Constitutional officers regarding the counties retirement plan.

Tax Commissioner William Huff stated "Jeff Ingram came to my office some twenty years ago and said that Constitutional Officers were not allowed to participate in the county's retirement plan".

Commissioner Walker made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:05 pm to discuss possible litigation and personnel matters. Commissioner Chapman seconded the motion. Voter passed 5-0-0.

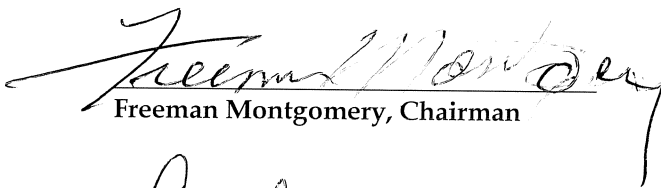
Chairman Montgomery called the Regular Meeting back to order.

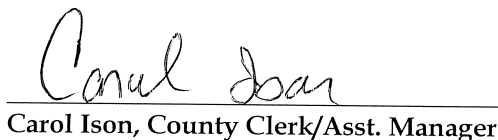
No decisions were made in Executive Session.

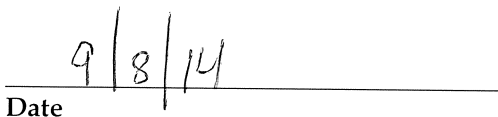
Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion for the Board to appoint Marjorie Howard to fill the unexpired term of Cheyenne Pinkston on the Talbot County Board of Elections and Registration, term expiring December 31, 2017 and also to appoint Ms. Howard as the Election Chairperson. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion. Vote passed 5-0-0.

Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion, Commissioner Walker seconded, for the Board to approve rescinding their previous motion that was made March 4, 2013 to add the Constitutional Officers to the Retirement Plan. Vote passed 5-0-0.

There being no further business, Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion for the Board Meeting to adjourn. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion. Vote passed 5 -0-0.


Freeman Montgomery, Chairman


Carol Ison, County Clerk/Asst. Manager


Date

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FRANKLIN HOLMES, VICE CHAIRMAN
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SHER'LONDA WALKER, COMMISSIONER

SANDRA HIGGINBOTHAM
COUNTY MANAGER

JOSHUA BUCKNER
ROAD DEPT SUPERINTERINDENT

August 14, 2014

The Talbot County Board of Commissioners held a Called Meeting Monday, August 11, 2014 at 6 PM. The meeting was held at the Talbot County Commission Office located at 74 W. Monroe Street, Talbotton, Georgia.

Chairman Freeman Montgomery, Vice Chairman Franklin Holmes, and Commissioners Ken Chapman, Robert Lanier, and Sher'Londa Walker were in attendance. County Manager Sandra Higginbotham was also in attendance.

Chairman Montgomery called the meeting to order.

The Board discussed the Dennis Creek Road Resurfacing Project with Road Department Superintendent Josh Buckner. Mr. Buckner informed the Board that he was working with Patrick Pugh at Robinson Paving Company, but the pricing had not been completed.

Commissioner Holmes made a motion to move into Executive Session, at 6:10 PM, to discuss Possible Litigation. Commissioner Chapman seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0-0.

Upon returning to Open Session at 6:45 PM, Chairman Montgomery called the Called Meeting back to order.

Chairman Montgomery informed everyone that the final item on the Agenda to be discussed was the Fiscal Year End (FYE) 2015 Budget.

The County Manager informed the Board that the proposed FYE 2015 Budget was balanced using mostly the proposed calculations. The budgets that were requested by the Department Heads were included on the worksheets, but due to the short-fall in revenue all requests were not approved. Following a comparison of the June 30, 2014 Departmental Report and the proposed FYE 2015 Expense Worksheets all necessary changes were completed to reflect a more workable budget.

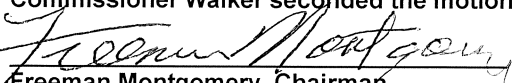
During the discussion that followed, the Board was in agreement to accept the proposed FYE 2015 Budget totals as presented.

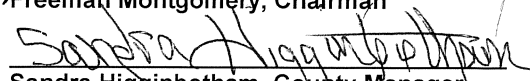
Commissioner Lanier made a motion to adopt the proposed FYE 2015 Budget. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion.

Due to the State Requirements that a Public Hearing be held prior to the adoption of budgets, Commissioner Lanier withdrew his motion.

A Called Meeting will be scheduled to hold the required Public Hearing, and immediately following the Board will vote to adopt the FYE 2015 Budget.

There being no further business, Commissioner Holmes made a motion for the meeting to adjourn. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0-0.


Freeman Montgomery, Chairman


Sandra Higginbotham, County Manager

9-8-2014
Date

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JOSHUA BUCKNER, ROAD
SUPERINTENDENT

August 26, 2014

The Talbot County Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing and a Called Meeting in reference to the Fiscal Year End 2015 Proposed Budget. The meetings began at 6 PM, August 26, 2014 and was held at the County Commission Office, located at 74 West Monroe Street, Talbotton, Georgia.

Chairman Freeman Montgomery, Commissioners Ken Chapman, and Sher'Londa Walker were in attendance. Also attending was the County Manager Sandra Higginbotham and the County Clerk/Assistant County Manager Carol Ison.

Chairman Montgomery called the Public Hearing to order and informed everyone that the Hearing was being held to discuss the proposed Fiscal Year End 2015 Budget. The proposed budget amount is \$6,476,311.

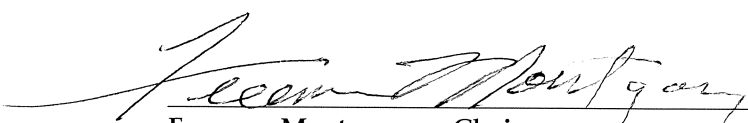
The only persons attending the hearing were the Commissioners and their staff. Therefore, there was no one to speak in favor of, or in opposition to the Proposed Fiscal Year End 2015 Budget.

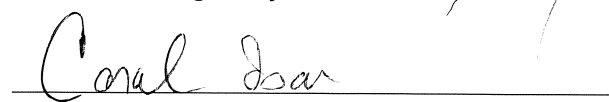
Chairman Montgomery closed the Public Hearing and called the Called Meeting to order.

A discussion was held on the proposed Budget that was previously given to each Commissioner for their review.

Following the discussions, Commissioner Chapman made a motion to adopt the Resolution approving the proposed Fiscal Year End 2015 Budget at \$6,476,311, as presented. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion. Vote passed 3-0-0.

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Chapman made a motion for the meeting to adjourn. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion. Vote passed 3-0-0.


Freeman Montgomery, Chairman


Carol Ison, County Clerk/Asst. County Manager

9/8/14
Date

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SANDRA HIGGINBOTHAM
COUNTY MANAGER

JOSHUA BUCKNER
ROAD DEPT SUPERINTERINDENT

September 8, 2014

The Talbot County Board of Commissioners held their regular monthly Board Meeting Monday, September 8, 2014. The meeting was held at the Commission Office located at 74 W. Monroe Street, Talbotton. Chairman Freeman Montgomery, Vice Chairman Franklin Holmes, and Commissioners Ken Chapman, Robert Lanier and Sher'Londa Walker were in attendance. County Attorney Andy Dodgen and County Manager Sandra Higginbotham were also in attendance.

Chairman Montgomery called the meeting to order and led everyone in the recitation of the *Pledge of Allegiance*, and *a moment of silence*.

Underground storage tanks and the EMS Agreement with Trinity EMS Academy LLC, for Students to Ride the Ambulance, were added to the Agenda.

Commissioner Chapman made a motion, and Vice Chairman Holmes seconded, for the Board to approve the Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Lanier made a motion for the Board to approve the Minutes from the regular Board Meeting, August 4, 2014, two Called Meetings held on August, 11 and 26, 2014, and Executive Session for August 4 and 11, 2014. Commissioner Chapman seconded the motion. The vote passed 4-0-0.

Commissioner Walker came in at this time.

Tamara (Tammy) Harris introduced herself to the Board and attending citizens. She is the new Extension Associate/Resource Manager in Talbot County. Ms. Harris is holding 4-H meetings and getting to know everyone in the community.

Jeff Harris, the West Central Traffic Coordinator, representing the Governor's Office of Highway Safety, approached the Board and informed them that the Sheriff's Department had been awarded a Grant in the amount of \$100,000. The budget break-down is \$75,000 for the Sheriff's Office, and \$25,000 for support network. There is no cost to the county, but when orders are placed the county will pay the invoice(s), and then request a reimbursement from the State for the amount of the invoice. There will be a 15-25 day turn-around period from the state. Deputy Benjamin Strange worked with Mr. Harris to obtain the grant.

Following the discussion, Commissioner Lanier made a motion to accept the Grant, and Commissioner Chapman seconded the motion. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Commissioner Walker made a motion, and Commissioner Lanier seconded, for the Board to approve the Beer and Wine License that was requested by Gerald Carter to **sell and serve** beer and wine at the J & G Barbecue that is located at 7265 Columbus Highway, Box Springs, Georgia. Vote passed 5-0-0.

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Earnestie Carter, a citizen on Terry Circle in the Shiloh area of Talbot County, approached the Board with complaints about water run-off and the one-way road. She also informed the Board they could **buy her out** for \$32,000. Ms. Carter stated she was getting signatures, on a petition, from a majority of the people on Terry Circle to change the road back to a two-way road. When questions were asked about her water bill, Vice Chairman Holmes directed her to Alicia Neal at the Water Department. No decision was made.

The millage rate will be set at a Called Meeting this month.

Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion, and Commissioner Walker seconded, for the Board to approve Anytime Heating and Air Conditioning Service to replace three (3) leaking coils on air conditioning units at the Pine Mountain Regional Library. The cost will be \$2,958.73. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Commissioner Lanier made a motion to appoint Leigh Ann Erenheim to serve a two (2) year term, beginning July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2016, on the West Central Georgia Region 7 Emergency Medical Services Council. This appointment is a replacement for Chuck Kelley. Vice Chairman Holmes seconded the motion. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Commissioner Chapman brought up, and discussed with the Board, the complaints in reference to the condition of the gymnasium that is located in Talbotton. The County Manager was directed to contact Hinson's Pest Control and ask them to do an inspection and spray for bugs and rodents, for the County Manager to inspect the building, and for her to send a memo to the Recreation Department Director, Andrew Hall advising him of the complaints.

Road Department Superintendent Josh Buckner approached the Board and discussed equipment that he wished to purchase. Yancey Brothers submitted a quote for a Caterpillar, Inc. Model: 308E2 Hydraulic Excavator. The sell price is \$121,116, the equipment will be paid with TIA Funds that have been set aside for Commissioner Lanier's District..

Mr. Buckner informed the Board that a demonstration would be held at a later date.

He also informed the Board of the quote he received from Patrick Pugh, a representative of Robinson Paving for the Dennis Creek Road Resurfacing Project (2014 LMIG). They will patch, level and pave the road from the dirt portion to Horton Road.

Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion for the Board to approve the request from the Flint Hill Fire Department Chief, Russ Erenheim, to up-grade and purchase through the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) Fund ten (10) radios at \$245 each for a total of \$2,450. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion. The vote passed 5-0-0.

The request from Leigh Ann Erenheim for the Board to approve the Talbot County Fire Department Standard Operating Procedures was postponed until the next Board Meeting.

At this time Raines Jordan introduced himself as a candidate for County Commissioner in District 1.

Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion to approve the request from Leigh Ann Erenheim to attend the Georgia Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Conference that is being held in Savannah, October 17 through 21, 2014. Commissioner Chapman seconded the motion. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion, and Commissioner Chapman seconded, for the Board to approve the Agreement between Talbot County and Trinity EMS allowing a student to ride the ambulance. The approval is based on the Attorney's Agreement.

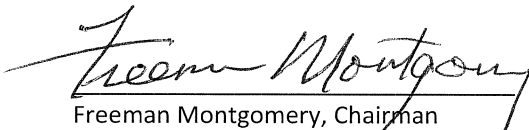
Commissioner Walker made a motion for the Board to approve awarding the contract for the 2014 Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG) Project to Robinson Paving.. The cost is \$266,355.97. Commissioner Lanier seconded the motion. The vote passed 5-0-0.

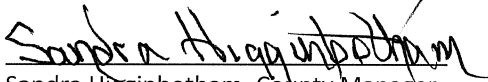
Commissioner Lanier made a motion, at 8:08 PM, for the Board to move into Executive Session to discuss possible litigation and personnel matters. Vice Chairman Holmes seconded the motion. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Upon returning to Open Session at 9:45 PM, Chairman Montgomery called the regular monthly Board Meeting back to order.

Commissioner Lanier made a motion for the Board to approve the Contract, in reference to underground storage tanks that have been removed, with Georgia Oilmen's Services to install a temporary monitoring well at the Road Department Shop, with soil samples being taken and tested. The cost is \$4,430. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion. The vote passed 5-0-0.

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


Freeman Montgomery, Chairman


Sandra Higginbotham, County Manager

10-6-2014
Date

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COUNTY MANAGER
CAROL ISON, CLERK/ASST. MANAGER
JOSHUA BUCKNER, ROAD
SUPERINTENDENT

September 26, 2014

The Talbot County Board of Commissioners held a Called Meeting Friday, September 26, 2014 at 11:00 AM, to set the 2014 Millage Rate. The meeting was held at the Talbot County Commission Office located at 74 West Monroe Street, Talbotton, Georgia. Chairman Freeman Montgomery, Commissioners Ken Chapman, Robert Lanier and Sher'Londa Walker were in attendance. The County Manager Sandra Higginbotham and County Clerk/Assistant County Manager, Carol Ison also attended the meeting.

Chairman Montgomery called the meeting to order.

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 \$3,449,513.00. 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 0.100. The total mill rate for 2014 is 30.213.

Following the discussion, Commissioner Walker made a motion for the Board to set the millage rate at 30.213, with the county's portion remaining the same as it was in 2013 (16.004). Commissioner Chapman seconded the motion. The vote passed 4-0-0.

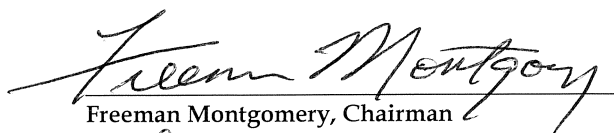
Commissioner Walker made a motion, Commissioner Chapman seconded, for the Board to approve leasing a John Deere 160G Excavator, for \$148,500, from Flint Equipment Company with a guaranteed buyback of \$70,000. Commissioner Lanier's portion of Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (TSPLOST) will fund the purchase. Vote passed 4-0-0.

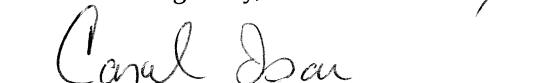
Commissioner Lanier made a motion, Commissioner Chapman seconded, for the Board to approve extending the current Roadside Mowing Contract, with Robert McNair Lawn and Field Services, through December 31, 2019, which would be for another four (4) years. Vote passed 4-0-0.

Commissioner Lanier made a motion, Commissioner Chapman seconded, for the Board to approve giving all of the Full-Time Employees an extra week of vacation for fiscal year end June 30, 2015, in lieu of a pay increase. Vote passed 4-0-0.

Several citizens that were present addressed the Board with several questions regarding the operation of the local government.

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Lanier made a motion for the meeting to adjourn. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion. Vote passed 4-0-0.


Freeman Montgomery, Chairman


Carol Ison, County Clerk/Asst. County Manager

10-6-14
Date