

**TALBOT COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

FREEMAN MONTGOMERY, CHAIRMAN
FRANKLIN HOLMES, VICE CHAIRMAN
KEN CHAPMAN, COMMISSIONER
RAINES JORDAN, COMMISSIONER
SHER'LONDA WALKER, COMMISSIONER



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

June 1, 2015

The Talbot County Board of Commissioners held their regular scheduled monthly Board Meeting on Monday, June 1, 2015 at 6:00 pm, at the County Commission Office, located at 74 West Monroe Street, Talbotton, Georgia. Chairman Freeman Montgomery, Commissioners Ken Chapman, Raines Jordan and Sher'Londa Walker attended the meeting. Also in attendance was the County Attorney, Andrew Dodgen, County Manager Sandra Higginbotham and the County Clerk/Assistant County Manager, Carol Ison. Commissioner Walker arrived at the meeting 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".

Commissioner Chapman made a motion, Commissioner Jordan seconded, for the Board to approve the Minutes from the May 11, 2015 Regular Meeting, May 18, 2015 Called Meeting, and May 11 and May 18, 2015 Executive Session. The vote passed 4-0-0.

At this time, Chairman Montgomery asked if there were any items to add to the agenda.

The County Manager added one item:

- Taylor County Inmate Housing Agreement

Commissioner Chapman made a motion, Commissioner Jordan seconded, for the Board to approve the agenda as amended. The vote passed 3-0-0.

Commissioner Walker arrived at the meeting at this time.

Gary Jones Executive Vice President of Military Affairs with the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce gave a brief synopsis on the proposed cutbacks at Fort Benning.

He informed everyone that a new U.S Army assessment is calling for cutting nearly 11,000 military and civilian jobs at Fort Benning by the year 2020, with the total job loss in the region on and off post is estimated at just under 14,000. Mr. Jones asked the Board for their support in trying to stop the proposed cutbacks.

The County Attorney is drafting a Resolution Supporting the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce in their efforts to prevent the proposed cutbacks at Fort Benning.

Jim Livingston representing River Valley Regional Commission (RVRC) gave the Board an update on Talbot County's Short Term Work Program Report of Accomplishments.

He also informed the Board that RVRC was applying for a One Georgia Grant for building improvements to house Columbus Makes It, a non-profit organization that will be a place for creativity and entrepreneurship in the River Valley Region. A place where Art, Technology, and Trade Skills intersect and create opportunities for individual and community growth and economic development.

Mr. Livingston asked the Board to write a letter of support to One Georgia to include in their grant application.

Chairman Montgomery directed the County Manger to write a letter of support to One Georgia.

Tom Wright representing Wright & Mitchell Architects PC, presented the Board with a set of plans to renovate the Sheriff's Annex. The plans are designed to accommodate the day to day operations and detain inmates for booking. The estimated cost for the proposed project is roughly \$400,000.00.

Following the discussion, Commissioner Chapman made a motion, Commissioner Walker seconded, for the Board to contract with Wright & Mitchell Architects PC for engineering services to modify the Sheriff's Annex. Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax Revenue will be used to fund the project. The vote passed 4-0-0.

The Indigent Burial Policy was deferred so the County Attorney could do further research.

Commissioner Walker made a motion for the Board to approve the Georgia Forestry Wildfire Protection Program with an annual payment of \$20,841.00. Commissioner Chapman seconded the motion. The vote passed 4-0-0.

Commissioner Walker made a motion for the Board to approve the Planning and Zoning Technical Assistance Contract with River Valley Regional Commission (RVRC) with an annual payment of \$4,500.00. Commissioner Chapman seconded the motion. The vote passed 4-0-0.

Commissioner Chapman made a motion, Commissioner Walker seconded, for the Board to adopt a Resolution Enabling Judicial in REM Tax Foreclosures. The vote passed 4-0-0.

Commissioner Walker made a motion for the Board to approve proceeding with the 2016 Georgia Department of Transportation, 5311 Transit application. Commissioner Chapman seconded the motion. The vote passed 4-0-0.

Commissioner Walker made a motion for the Board to authorize interim Tax Commissioner Kenneth R. Parker to issue refunds to taxpayers whenever they are deemed necessary. Chairman Montgomery seconded the motion. The vote passed 4-0-0.

A discussion was held with Josh Buckner, Road Department Superintendent in re to a bid that was presented by John Pierce with Pierce Construction to resurface Juniper Trail in Oak Mountain Estates. The total cost of the proposed resurfacing project is \$88,299.50, including labor and materials.

The County Attorney informed the Board that the state statute reads that any road paving project costing more than \$20,000.00 be advertised for bids in the legal organ once a week, for two weeks.

Following the discussion, Commissioner Chapman made a motion for the Board to approve advertising for bids for the Juniper Trail road-resurfacing project. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion. The vote passed 4-0-0.

Mr. Buckner also asked the County Attorney the status on the right of way acquisition for Baker Road.

The County Attorney told Mr. Buckner that he would be in contact with him to discuss the matter.

The County Attorney is drafting a letter to send to Georgia Asphalt regarding the damage to George Smith Road caused by their logging trucks.

Commissioner Jordan made a motion, Commissioner Chapman seconded for the Board to approve the qualifying fees, as presented by Election Supervisor Marjorie Howard. The vote passed 4-0-0.

The qualifying fees are as follows:

- 1) Tax Commissioner - \$1,229.04

Commissioner Walker made a motion to approve the purchase order request from O'Neal Volunteer Fire Chief, Ben Brogdon to Middle Georgia Fleet Service, for \$2,187.02. Commissioner Jordan seconded the motion. The vote passed 4-0-0.

Commissioner Jordan made a motion, Commissioner Chapman seconded, for the Board to approve the purchase order request from the Sheriff's Department to West Chatham, not to exceed \$2,000.00. The vote passed 4-0-0.

Per the County Attorney's request, the Amended Ordinance to Control and Regulate the Sale and Distribution of Alcoholic Beverages was deferred until the July 2015 regular meeting.

The County Attorney informed the Board that the City of Manchester Water Treatment Plant Renovations/Upgrades should be discussed in Executive Session.

The County Manager informed the Board that members of the City of Talbotton Council would like to schedule a called meeting with the Board to discuss the closing of the Talbot County jail and recreation matters.

Chairman Montgomery scheduled a called meeting for 6 pm, Monday, June 8, 2015.

Commissioner Walker made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:03 pm. Commissioner Chapman seconded the motion. The vote passed 4-0-0.

Chairman Montgomery called the Regular Meeting back to order at 8:40 pm.

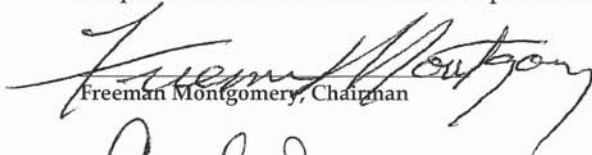
Personnel and Possible Litigation were discussed, no decisions were made.

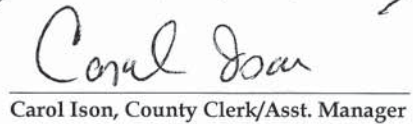
The Guest Inmate Housing Agreement with Taylor County was postponed for further research.

A discussion was held in reference to the Constitutional Officers Retirement. Chairman Montgomery stated that the Board would have an answer for the Constitutional Officers at the Called Meeting scheduled Monday June 8, 2015, at 6 pm.

Vincent Huff approached the Board and informed them that he was not happy with Talbot County. He told them that someone from the county reported his fathers last day of employment to Blue Cross Blue Shield as May 9, 2015. His Father was an active Elected Official until the day he passed away, which was May 14, 2015.

There being no further business, Commissioner Walker made a motion for the Board Meeting to adjourn. Commissioner Chapman seconded the motion. The vote passed 4-0-0.


Freeman Montgomery, Chairman


Carol Ison, County Clerk/Asst. Manager

7-6-15
Date