

**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

September 1, 2015

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

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

The following item was added to the agenda:

- 1) Bid from Mark Webb Construction for \$7,421.00 for repairs to the old Ems Building

Commissioner Walker made a motion for the Board to approve the agenda as amended. Vice Chairman Holmes seconded the motion. The vote passed 4-0-0.

Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion, Commissioner Jordan seconded, for the Board to approve the Minutes from the August 3, 2015 Regular Meeting, August 11, 2015 Called Meeting, August 3 and August 11, 2015 Executive Session. The vote passed 4-0-0.

Lance Renfrow representing River Valley Regional Commission (RVRC) informed the Board that he assessed the seven target areas for the 2016 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Project. The area that has the most potential for approval is Hardnett Drive.

Following the discussion, Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion for the Board to approve proceeding with the 2016 CDBG Application Process, designating Hardnett Road as the target area. Commissioner Jordan seconded the motion. The Vote passed 3-1-0. Commissioner Walker opposed.

Commissioner Walker asked Mr. Renfrow if he was aware of any grants available for low to moderate income families, for housing rehabilitation.

Mr. Renfrow said he was not aware of any other grants, however, he would look into it and be in contact with her.

Betty Jackson representing Enrichment Services Program, Inc., requested the Boards assistance to renovate the Velton Harmon Building and bring it up to code for the Head Start Programs.

The total cost for the renovations is \$13,100.00. Ms. Jackson said the Enrichment Services Program Inc. has \$7,500.00 they can contribute towards the proposed renovations. She asked the Board if they would consider contributing \$6,000.00.

Following the discussion, Commissioner Jordan made a motion for the Board to approve Enrichment Services Program, Inc., to proceed with the renovations to the Velton Harmon Building. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion. The vote passed 4-0-0.

The County Attorney is going to draft a lease agreement between Talbot County and the Enrichment Services Program, Inc., and have it ready at the October Board Meeting.

At the request of the Board of Tax Assessors, a discussion was held in reference to an agreement with MW Consulting and Associates to provide property tax administration matters and appraisal duties for \$3,000.00 per month, beginning August 1, 2015 thru December 31, 2015.

Following the discussion, the Board verbally agreed to pay \$3,000.00 for the services that was rendered in August 2015.

The Chairman directed the Assistant County Manager to contact the Board of Assessors and ask them to attend the called meeting scheduled for 10am September 10, 2015, in order to discuss the agreement.

Commissioner Walker made a motion, Commissioner Jordan seconded the motion, for the Board to approve the contract with Robinson Paving Company for the Hut Road Resurfacing Project (2015 LMIG), for \$234,872.00. The vote passed 4-0-0.

Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion, Commissioner Walker seconded, for the Board to approve the contract with Robinson Paving Company for the Juniper Trail Resurfacing Project, for \$95,919.00. The vote passed 4-0-0.

Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion for the Board to approve the 2016 New Horizons Mental Health Services Agreement, for \$2,748.00. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion. The vote passed 4-0-0.

Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion for the Board to reappoint Leticia A. Cook to serve on the Board of Tax Assessors, term beginning September 1, 2015 and ending August 31, 2020. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion. The vote passed 4-0-0.

Commissioner Walker 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 September 2015. The vote passed 4-0-0.

Commissioner Walker made a motion for the Board to approve the purchase order request from the O'Neal Volunteer Fire Department for \$1,308.00, to Cunningham Maintenance. Chairman Montgomery seconded the motion. The vote passed 4-0-0.

Commissioner Walker made a motion for the Board to approve the purchase order request from the Tax Commissioner's Office for \$3,479.38, to Data Processing. Vice Chairman Holmes seconded the motion. The vote passed 4-0-0.

Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion for the Board to approve the purchase order request from the Sheriff's Department for \$6,188.90, to Kauffman Tire. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion. The vote passed 4-0-0.

The County Attorney is drafting an amended Timber Harvesting Ordinance to reflect the new changes required by State Law, the proposed ordinance will include a \$5,000.00 Bond Requirement. He will have the proposed Ordinance ready to present at the October Board Meeting.

Commissioner Walker made a motion for the Board to approve giving all of the Full-Time Employees an extra week of vacation for fiscal year end June 30, 2016, in lieu of a pay increase.

Vice Chairman Holmes seconded the motion. The vote passed 2-0-2. Commissioner Walker abstained, she stated "she did not have enough information to make a decision". Commissioner Jordan also abstained.

A discussion was held in reference to a request from Doctor Loraine Brown to relocate her practice to the Talbot County Health Department.

Following the discussion, Chairman Montgomery made a motion for the Board to approve the County Attorney proceeding with drawing up the agreements to allow Doctor Brown to occupy two rooms at the Health Department, to provide health care services to the citizens of Talbot County. Vice Chairman Holmes seconded the motion. The vote passed 4-0-0.

The Board tabled the bid from Mark Webb Construction for the repairs to the Old EMS Building, for \$7,421.00.

Commissioner Jordan volunteered to contact Talbotton Mayor, Tony Lamar to set up a meeting to discuss the possibility of moving the Talbotton Voting Precinct to the Volunteer Fire Department.

Vice Chairman Holmes said he would like to see the Gym renovated and brought back up to standards for recreation use.

Vice Chairman Holmes informed the Board that due to a major water main break in the Flint Hill area, one of his constituents was having problems getting her pool clean.

The Water Department Superintendent, Marcus Thomas got a bid from Leisure Lifestyle for \$700.00 to drain and clean the pool. Vice Chairman Holmes asked the Board for their approval for him to proceed with having the pool cleaned.

The County Attorney informed the Board that this was a topic that should be discussed in Executive Session.

Commissioner Walker announced that General Dollar is considering Box Springs as a potential area to build a store.

Commissioner Jordan said the Development Authority was contacted by an interested party regarding the possibility of constructing solar farms in Talbot County. Two sites have been identified near a Georgia Power Substation. The projected plan would consist of solar panels erected on 150 to 500 acres, with an investment of Forty Million to One Hundred Fifty Million Dollars. The interested party wanted to know if Talbot County offered any Tax Incentives or discounts for this type of investment.

Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:25 pm. Commissioner Walker seconded the motion. The vote passed 4-0-0.

Chairman Montgomery called the meeting back to order at 9:05 pm.

No decisions were made in Executive session, Personnel and Possible Litigation were discussed.


Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion, Commissioner Walker seconded, for the Board to approve conducting interviews with the applicants for the County Manger Position, Tuesday, September 8, 2015, at 10 am.


Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion, Chairman Montgomery seconded, for the Board to approve having a Called Meeting/Workshop, Thursday, September 10, 2015, at 10am, to discuss the FYE 2016 Budget. The vote passed 4-0-0.

Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion, Chairman Montgomery seconded, for the Board to approve Road Department Superintendent, Josh Buckner to hire three employees in the Road Department. The vote passed 4-0-0.

Commissioner Walker informed the Board, she is still interested in the idea of borrowing money for road repairs and paying the debt with revenue received from Transportation Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (TSPLOST) Revenue.

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


Freeman Montgomery, Chairman


Carol Ison, County Clerk/Asst. Manager

10-5-15
Date