



TALBOT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
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SHER'LONDA WALKER, CHAIRMAN
KEN CHAPMAN, COMMISSIONER
RAINES JORDAN, COMMISSIONER

FRANKLIN HOLMES, VICE CHAIRMAN
FREEMAN MONTGOMERY, COMMISSIONER
CAROL ISON, COUNTY MANAGER

January 8, 2018

The Talbot County Board of Commissioners held their regular scheduled monthly Board Meeting on Monday, January 8, 2018 at 6:00 pm, at the County Commission Office, located at 74 West Monroe Street, Talbotton, Georgia 31827. Chair Sher'Londa Walker, Vice Chairman Franklin Holmes, Commissioners Ken Chapman, Raines Jordan, and Freeman Montgomery were present. The County Attorney, Andrew Dodgen, and the County Manager, Carol Ison were also in attendance.

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

The following items were added to the agenda:

- 1) Construction Manager Agreement with Allstate Construction, Inc.
- 2) Mrs. Evans: Announcement regarding Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration

Commissioner Jordan made a motion, Vice Chairman Holmes seconded, for the Board to approve the agenda as amended. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Commissioner Chapman made a motion, Chair Walker seconded, for the Board to approve the minutes for the December 4, 2017 Regular Meeting and Executive Session Minutes. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion for the Board of Commissioner's Officer's to remain the same for 2018. Commissioner Montgomery seconded the motion. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Commissioner Montgomery made a motion, Commissioner Chapman seconded for the Board to reappoint Carol Ison as the County Manager, Mike Smith as Road Superintendent, and Andrew Dodgen as the County Attorney. The vote passed 5-0-0.

John M. Poole, LTC, AR Commanding Fort Benning, was unable to attend the meeting.

Lee Lucas, representing Olive Branch Methodist Church approached the Board with a request to change the 2017 Tax Exempt Status for the church.

Mr. Lucas told the Board that he met with the Board of Assessors (BOA), and was informed the property was taxable, however, following a county wide revaluation the property was changed from exempt status. They will be eligible for tax exempt status in 2018 if the property in question is used for religious purposes.

The assessment notice was sent to their street address, but returned to the Tax Assessors Office because they receive their mail at a post office box, and according to law the BOA posted a public notice of the returned mail. The BOA does not have the authority to issue an Error and Release or allow for an appeal.

Mr. Lucas said they were not notified in a timely manner, had no access to an appeal and it would be a hardship on the church to pay the taxes.

The County Attorney explained that the appeal period had lapsed. The Board of Commissioners has the authority to act on tax appeals if there was an error or omission, and neither of these exist.

Based on the County Attorney's opinion, the Board of Assessors followed the law, and the tax is due. The Board of Commissioners does not have the authority to waive taxes.

Commissioner Montgomery told Mr. Lucas that he would have the Tax Assessors Office draft a letter to the Department of Revenue asking for their legal opinion in the matter.

The County Attorney has not had the opportunity to review the terms of the agreement for the license plate recognition system. It was deferred to the February meeting.

Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion, Chair Walker seconded, for the Board to approve the 2018 ACCG Workers Compensation Fund Renewal, for \$139,627.
The vote passed 5-0-0.

Chair Walker made a motion, Vice Chairman Holmes seconded, for the Board to approve the following invoices from Vaughn & Melton Consulting Engineers & Surveyors;

- 1) Waverly Hall Road Estimate Preparation (Service C) - \$3,150.00
- 2) 2017 Safety LMIG Estimate Preparation (Service C) - \$15,750.00
- 3) 2017 LMIG: Construction Inspection (Service G) - \$20,520.50

The vote passed 5-0-0.

Commissioner Montgomery made a motion, Chair Walker seconded, for the Board to approve the request from Box Springs Volunteer Fire Department to use Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) funds, to purchase a 1996 Seagrave Pumper Truck, for \$11,000.00. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Road Superintendent, Mike Smith fell ill and was unable to attend the meeting.

Commissioner Montgomery made a motion, Vice Chairman Holmes seconded, for the Board to approve Powell Church Road for the 2017 LMIG Off-System Safety Project. The estimated project cost is \$35,288.73. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Commissioner Jordan made a motion, Chair Walker seconded, for the Board to approve the 2018 Qualifying Fees, as presented by Election Supervisor Marjorie Howard. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Commissioner Chapman made a motion, Vice Chairman Holmes seconded for the Board to re-appoint Patricia Allport and Wycene Willis to serve a four year term on the Talbot County Board of Elections. The term begins January 1, 2018 and expires December 31, 2021. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Commissioner Montgomery made a motion, Vice Chairman Holmes seconded, for the Board to approve the request from Geneva Volunteer Fire Chief, Danny Lockhart, to proceed with the Georgia Forestry 50/50 Grant Application process. SPLOST funds will be used to fund the County Match portion of the grant. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Commissioner Montgomery made a motion, Commissioner Jordan seconded, for the Board to approve the request from Flint Hill Volunteer Fire Chief, Russ Erenheim to proceed with the 2017 AFG Grant Application process. The county match requirement is 5%. He intends to purchase new SCBA's for all of the county fire departments. SPLOST funds from each department will be used for the County Match portion. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Commissioner Chapman made a motion, Vice Chairman Holmes seconded, for the Board to approve EMA Director Leigh Ann Erenheim's request for placement of the repeaters on the north end of the county at the Diverse Power Site. The cost will be \$200 per month. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Chair Walker made a motion, Commissioner Montgomery seconded, for the Board to approve Ms. Erenheim proceeding with the grant application process for the purchase of a generator for the Water Department. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Mrs. Evans made an announcement regarding the upcoming Martin Luther King Jr. celebration and parade that is taking place at Central High School.

Commissioner Montgomery made a motion, Commissioner Chapman seconded, for the Board to approve the Construction Manager Agreement with Allstate Construction, Inc., subject to the County Attorney's review. The vote passed 5-0-0.

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



Sher'Londa Walker, Chairperson



Carol Ison, County Manager



Date