



TALBOT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
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SHER'LONDA WALKER, CHAIRMAN
KEN CHAPMAN, COMMISSIONER
ROBERT LANIER, COMMISSIONER

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

December 7, 2020

The Talbot County Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing and their regular scheduled monthly Board Meeting on Monday, December 7, 2020 at 10:00 a.m., 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 and Freeman Montgomery were present. The County Attorney, Edward Davis, County Manager, Carol Ison and Deputy County Clerk, Jona Gibson were also in attendance.

Chair Walker called the Public Hearing to order and informed everyone in attendance; the hearing was being held to discuss the Conditional Use Request to construct a communication tower at 8855 Ga Hwy 36/Thomaston Hwy in Woodland.

Mr. Jonathan Yates presented the application on behalf of Diamond Communications. Mr. Yates said that initially the tower is for AT&T, but will have space for other carriers including 911 and first responders.

There were no speakers in favor of the application.

There were no speakers in opposition of the application.

Chair Walker closed the public hearing.

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

There was one item added to the agenda: ACCG-IRMA 2021 Cancer Benefit Program Renewal.

Commissioner Montgomery made a motion to approve the agenda with one add on. Commissioner Chapman seconded the motion. The vote passed 4-0-0.

Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for the following dates:

November 2, 2020

November 25, 2020 Called Meeting

November 30, 2020 Called Meeting

November 2, 2020 Executive Session

Commissioner Montgomery seconded the motion. The vote passed 4-0-0.

Neil Brown representing Brown Brothers Sand Company was present to get the status of closing Old Mauk Road.

Mr. Brown said they have completed their obligation to relocate the two residents that live on Old Mauk Road.

The County Attorney informed Mr. Brown, he would proceed with scheduling and advertising the public hearing to meet the road closure requirements.

Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion to approve the conditional use request submitted by Jonathan I. Yates on behalf of Diamond Communications, to construct a 255 ft. telecommunication tower at 855 Thomaston Hwy, Woodland, Georgia. Commissioner Chapman seconded the motion. The vote passed 4-0-0.

Chris Quigley gave a brief synopsis of the proposed water improvements to include, well development, water main extensions to connect to Oglethorpe Power, and a tank mixer. The proposed project funding sources and amounts are as follows:

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 1. GEFA SRF Loan (20 years at 2.0% interest, 1% closing) | \$600,000 |
| 2. GEFA SRF Subsidy (40% principal forgiveness) | <u>\$400,000</u> |
| Project Total: | \$1,000,000 |

Following the discussion, Commissioner Montgomery made a motion for the Board to allow Mr. Quigley to submit an application to GEFA to obtain funding for the proposed project. Commissioner Chapman seconded the motion. The vote passed 4-0-0.

No action was taken on the request from CSX Transportation Inc., to remove the bridge structure located on old Alabama Road over CSX DOT# 638441N, RRMP ANB 778.8.

The accurate location of the bridge is Higginbotham Dairy Road.

The County Attorney is going to contact Todd Alton, CSX Transportation Inc., Project Manager to discuss their request.

LTC Ben J. Ferguson representing Fort Benning introduced himself to the board and said he was looking for to working with the representatives of Talbot County.

Slade Johnson, David Jordan, and Tom Zwaga were present on behalf of the Industrial Development Authority Board to discuss the Valley Partnership.

Mr. Johnson asked the board to withdraw Talbot County's membership from Valley Partnership.

Following the discussion, Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion, Commissioner Chapman seconded, to withdraw the membership from the Valley Partnership and pay the dues for January through June of 2020. This will be the final dues paid toward the membership. The vote passed 4-0-0.

Two bids were received for the Light Commercial and Residential Solid Waste Collection. The bids were as follows:

- Amwaste of Georgia LLC:
 - Residential Service - \$15.54
 - Light Commercial - \$16.95

- GFL Environmental
 - Residential Service - \$12.00
 - Light Commercial - \$12.00

Following the bid opening and discussion, Commissioner Montgomery made a motion to award the bid to the lowest bidder, GFL Environmental. Commissioner Chapman seconded the motion. The vote passed 4-0-0.

Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion, Chair Walker seconded, to appoint Brian Kempson to serve a three-year term on the Planning and Zoning Board. The term begins January 1, 2021 and ends December 31, 2023. The vote passed 4-0-0.

The appointment for the Industrial Development Authority Board was deferred.

The appointment for the vacancy on the Planning and Zoning Board was deferred until the January meeting.

Commissioner Montgomery made a motion to approve the ACCG-2021 Group Self-Insurance Worker's Compensation Fund Renewal for \$155,952.00. Vice Chairman Holmes seconded the motion. The vote passed 4-0-0.

Commissioner Montgomery made a motion to approve two pay applications to Allstate Construction Group Inc., totaling \$134,974.77. Vice Chairman Holmes seconded the motion. The vote passed 4-0-0.

Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion to approve the ACCG-IRMA 2021 Cancer Benefit Program Renewal with an annual premium of \$8,021.00. Commissioner Montgomery seconded the motion. The vote passed 4-0-0.

Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion, Commissioner Chapman seconded, to submit an application to GDOT to add Gilbert Road as the 2021 LMIG Project. Vaughn & Melton Consulting Engineers will assist with preparing a project estimate and all bid documents. The vote passed 4-0-0.

Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion to schedule all 2021 Board Meetings for the first Monday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Chair Walker seconded the motion. The vote passed 4-0-0.

Following a discussion with Road Superintendent, Peter Nolan. Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion to approve purchasing a Road Sweeper Attachment for \$7,000.00. Revenue from District 4 TSPLOST will be used to fund the purchase. Commissioner Chapman seconded the motion. The vote passed 4-0-0.

Commissioner Montgomery made a motion to approve the request from Road Superintendent, Peter Nolan to purchase a Road Widener for \$52,750.00. Vice Chairman Holmes seconded the motion. Revenue from District 5 TSPLOST will be used to fund the purchase. The vote passed 4-0-0.

Commissioner Montgomery made a motion to approve purchasing a new Chevrolet 1500 pickup for the Road Department, for \$22,984.42. Vice Chairman Holmes seconded the motion. Revenue from District 5 SPLOST will be used to fund the purchase. The vote passed 4-0-0.

The County Attorney completed the title search for the property in Flint Hill and will start preparing the closing documents.

A conversation was held regarding the designation of Bunkley Road Extension. The County Attorney informed the Board, if the road in question was on the official Road Map, it is considered a county road.

The County Manager was directed to see if she could locate an old road map.

The County Manger presented a copy of the water rate increase from Columbus Water Works. She suggested having a called meeting following the holidays to discuss the current financial status of the Water Department. She stated, "we may need to consider a slight increase in water rates each year".

Chair Walker presented Commissioner Montgomery with a plaque in recognition of 49 years of service in Talbot County.

Each commissioner expressed their gratitude for Commissioner Montgomery's service and said they were going to miss him.

Commissioner Montgomery will be retiring December 31, 2020.

Commissioner Montgomery made a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:25 a.m. Commissioner Chapman seconded the motion. The vote passed 4-0-0.

Chair Walker called the meeting back to order at 11:52 a.m.

Personnel and real estate were discussed. No decisions were made.

Commissioner Montgomery made a motion to give the Coroner, Probate/Magistrate Judge, Sheriff, and Superior Court Clerk a COVID-19 Supplement of \$700.00. The supplement is specifically for calendar year 2020 and is given to offset the impact that COVID-19 has had over this past year. The Commissioners are not granting this supplement for the upcoming term of each respective office which would begin in 2021. The vote passed 4-0-0.

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



Sher'Londa Walker, Chairman



Carol Ison, County Manager



Date