



TALBOT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
P.O. Box 155, 74 West Monroe Street
Talbotton, Georgia 31827
Tel. 706-665-3220 / Fax. 706-665-8199
talbotcountygga.org

SHER'LONDA WALKER, CHAIRMAN
KEN CHAPMAN, COMMISSIONER
ROBERT LANIER, COMMISSIONER

FRANKLIN HOLMES, VICE CHAIRMAN
LARRY SPARKS, COMMISSIONER
CAROL ISON, COUNTY MANAGER

April 05, 2021

The Talbot County Board of Commissioners held their regular scheduled monthly meeting on Monday, April 05, 2021 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 Robert Lanier, , Ken Chapman, and Larry Sparks were present. County Manager Carol Ison, County Attorney Edward Davis, and County Clerk Jona Gibson 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.

Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Chapman seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 01, 2021 regular meeting and Executive Session. Commissioner Sparks requested one correction be made to the regular meeting minutes regarding surveillance signs. Signs were placed at the Geneva Park instead of the Junction City Park. Commissioner Sparks then seconded the motion to approve minutes with noted correction. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Tony Evans appeared before the Board with concerns of the conditions on Taylor and Packing House roads. Commissioner Sparks stated that he would ride out and look over the road and talk with Road Superintendent Peter Nolan if any necessary improvements needed to be addressed.

Mr. Elvis Walton appeared before the Board questioning why the road leading to his property located at 471 Buena Vista Road is not being maintained by the county. Discussion took place on whether the road was an actual county road. Mr. Walton stated that the road was originally Old Highway 41 and that he thought that there was a court proceeding declaring this road as an easement to his property so that it would not be landlocked. County Attorney Davis shared with Mr. Walton that if there was indeed a court proceeding granting easement, the Superior Court should have this on record. Penny Dillingham-Mahone, Clerk of Superior Court, attended the meeting and stated that she would look through records to see if any proceeding took place. Decision was tabled to the next meeting to determine if the road is public or private.

County Attorney Edward Davis reviewed Special Stipulations that are to be made part of the Solid Waste Collection, Transportation and Disposal Agreement with Green for Life (GFL). Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion to approve the Agreement with GFL pending acceptance of the Special Stipulations. Commissioner Larry Sparks seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Sheriff Justin Johnson attended the meeting to find out if a surcharge could be added to citations to be deposited into a technology fund for his department. Upon discussion with ACCG, County Attorney Davis informed Sheriff Johnson that no surcharge could be added. There is no state statute to impose a surcharge on a citation. Mr. Davis will continue research to determine if there is a way to establish the technology fund. Discussion will continue at the May meeting.

The Board was informed that there is a slight increase in fees on the proposed Animal Control Ordinance. This increase is necessary to reflect an increase in costs of administration of the department over the years and higher costs associated with boarding an animal. The resolution will also allow Sheriff Johnson to serve as both the Animal Control Officer and the Animal Investigator which will improve the administration and carrying out of the terms and conditions of the Ordinance. Commissioner Chapman made a motion to adopt the Resolution as presented. Vice Chairman Holmes seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

A Timber and Pulpwood Harvesting Ordinance was presented to the Board. The Ordinance is to protect the county road system from damage caused by timber harvesting operations to the extent allowed by state law. Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion to adopt the Ordinance as presented. Chair Walker seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Probate Judge Sherrell Terry attended the meeting. She approached the Board as willing to serve on the Talbot County Board of Health to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mr. Thomas Zwaga. Commissioner Lanier made a motion to approve Judge Terry to serve on the Board of Health. Commissioner Sparks seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Robinson Paving Company was awarded the bid for a Short-Term Contract for Construction Services for the 2021 LMIG (Gilbert Road) Project. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Holmes to approve Robinson Paving Company for the project. Commissioner Chapman seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

A resolution was presented to the Board to designate the Central High School Gymnasium, located at 945 N. Washington Avenue, as an alternate or additional facility for the holding of sessions and conducting of business of the Superior Court of Talbot County. This Resolution will allow for safely resuming jury trials in consideration of the "Covid-19 Safe Operating Guidelines". A motion was made by Commissioner Lanier to adopt the Resolution as presented. Vice Chairman Holmes seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

The Georgia Department of Transportation has sent notification that a 2015 Ford Goshen Shuttle Bus GDOT Vehicle ID 3606 will be taken out of service and replaced in FY21. The Department has allowed the county the option to retain the vehicle. The retention of the vehicle would allow the county to have a spare van when needed by the maintenance department. TSPLOST revenue will be used to fund the purchase. Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion to purchase said vehicle from GDOT for \$5,500.00 Commissioner Chapman seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

A Professional Services Agreement from Schneider Geospatial (qPublic) was presented to the Board to be entered into with the Tax Assessor's Office. This agreement will allow access to the public to generate and submit assessment appeal petitions to the Assessor's Office online and assist with meeting Covid-19 Guidelines. Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion to enter into the agreement. Chair Walker seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

The Department of Natural Resources has presented an Agreement to Talbot County to provide fish for the stocking of the pond located at Talbotton City Park and Recreation Center in return for providing a fishing event for children 16 years of age or younger at least once a year. Upon stocking of the pond, there must be no access to anyone for six to eight weeks to allow for growth. The agreement would be automatically renewed annually unless notified in writing by September 1 of the wish to cancel. Commissioner Chapman made a motion to enter into the Agreement with the DNR. Commissioner Sparks seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

County Manager Carol Ison presented the Board with a request to increase purchasing limit approvals. Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion to accept the increase in limits. Commissioner Chapman seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0. The limits were approved as follows:

- Department Heads \$500
- Maintenance Director \$1,500
- County Manager \$3,500
- Chairman \$5,000
- Purchases that exceed \$5,000 require the board's approval

The latest report for Errors and Releases and/or Errors and Additions dated February 22, 2021 from the Tax Commissioner's Office was presented to the Board for approval. Commissioner Lanier made a motion to approve report. Vice Chairman Holmes seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Commissioner Lanier questioned if a decision had been made regarding tax relief to property owners effected by the tornado in 2020. The County Manager was directed to research and report her findings back to the board.

Discussion occurred regarding an appointment to the Middle Flint Regional 911 Authority Board due to the term expiration on December 31, 2020 of Commissioner Robert Lanier. A suggestion was made to appoint Maintenance Director Ronnie Hendricks. Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion to appoint Mr. Hendricks to the Board. The appointment was seconded by Commissioner Lanier. The vote passed 5-0-0. Mr. Hendricks accepted the appointment.

Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion to approve payment of invoice from Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in the amount of \$4,138.62 for Inmate Medical Care. Commissioner Larry Sparks seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Commissioner Lanier made a motion to approve a purchase request from Talbotton Fire Chief Knox Blackmar in the amount of \$3,799.17 for turnout gear. Vice Chairman Holmes seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Invoices for repair to Holt Road in the amount of \$15,900.00 and Stinson Road in the amount of \$20,000.00 were presented to the Board for approval. Commissioner Lanier made a motion to approve the two invoices. Vice Chairman Holmes seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Road Superintendent Peter Nolan was unable to attend the meeting.

Maintenance Director Ronnie Hendricks gave praise to new Animal Control Officer John Roland. He reported that conditions within this department were much improved. Mr. Hendricks made a request to the Commissioners to purchase a steel frame building to house the new officer and kennel supplies. The building would be 12' X 24' with a cost of approximately \$8,900.00. There would be additional expenses related to setting the building up for occupancy. The expense for this building would come from the Public Buildings budget. Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion to approve the purchase with additional necessary expenses. Commissioner Chapman seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Hendricks reported to the Board that the City of Woodland would like to enter into an agreement with the county to allow the old City Hall Building in Woodland to be used free of charge as a second EMS station for the county. The county would be responsible for utilities only. Vice Chairman Holmes made the motion to enter into the agreement with the City of Woodland. Commissioner Chapman seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Hendricks also reported on roof repairs needed on the O'Neal Volunteer Fire Department building. Two companies inspected the roof. MJR Solutions proposal was \$4,311.20. \$500.00 of this amount would be paid from the O'Neal VFD budget with the remaining amount being taken from the Public Buildings budget. Commissioner Chapman made a motion to proceed with the repairs. Commissioner Lanier seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Hendricks reported to the Board that the Department of Natural Resources had inspected the Talbotton Park and gave approval for its opening. The park has been open for about three weeks. County Manager reported that \$50,400 was received from the Land Grant and will go back into District 1 SPLOST monies.

County Attorney Edward Davis discussed the desire of the City of Woodland to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the County to provide a Patrol Officer from 6:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m., five nights a week. He will draw up the agreement to include basic patrol services to be provided by a part-time deputy. The city of Woodland would agree to give to the county their existing police vehicle for patrol use. The City of Woodland would receive 5% of fines after surcharge. This would be for fines in the City of Woodland only. Sheriff Johnson was in attendance and suggested the county enter into a year-to-year agreement.

Commissioner Chapman made a motion to enter into a one-year agreement with the City of Woodland. Vice Chairman Holmes seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

The board verbally agreed to name the Boys and Girls Club in memory of Naïve Lou Epps.

A motion was made by Commissioner Chapman to go into Executive Session at 12:00 p.m. Vice Chairman Holmes seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Chair Walker called the regular meeting back to order at 1:03 p.m.

Personnel matters and real estate was discussed in Executive Session. No decisions were made.

A request was made to remove underground storage tanks at the old EMS building located at 35 West Madison Street. Commissioner Chapman made a motion to proceed with removal. Commissioner Sparks seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Also requested was approval to construct a storage building on the property after the tanks are removed. Commissioner Sparks made the motion to approve constructing the storage building. Commissioner Chapman seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

There being no further business, Commissioner Lanier made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Chapman seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.



Sher'Londa Walker, Chairman



Carol Ison, County Manager



Date