



## **Talbot County Board of Commissioners**

**35 West Madison Street, P.O. Box 155  
Talbotton, Georgia 31827**

April 3, 2023

The Talbot County Board of Commissioners held their regular monthly meeting on Monday, April 3, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., at the Talbot County Commission Office, located at 35 West Madison Street, Talbotton, GA 31827. Chairman, Larry Sparks, Vice Chairman, Ken Chapman, and Commissioners Anthony Couch, and Walter Wilson, Jr. were present. Commissioner Franklin Holmes arrived a little late. Also in attendance were County Attorney, Edward Davis, County Manager, Carol Ison, Assistant County Manager, Ronnie Hendricks, and County Clerk, Jona Gibson.

Chairman Sparks 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 to approve the agenda as presented. Vice Chair Sparks seconded. The vote passed 4-0-0.

Commissioner Wilson made a motion to approve the March 6, 2023, Regular Meeting and Executive Session minutes and the March 23, 2023, Work Session minutes. Commissioner Chapman seconded. The vote passed 4-0-0.

The following employees were recognized for their term of service to Talbot County:

- Alicia Neal – 20 Years
- James Flynn – 10 Years
- Jeffrey Black – 5 Years
- Schequlia Willis – 5 Years

Belva Dorsey, representing Enrichment Services Program, Inc. appeared before the Board with an update on services provided by ESP in Talbot County. For more information, residents may contact the Talbot County Service Center located at 159 Park Road, Talbotton, GA 31827. The phone number is (706) 665-8580.

Sheriqua R. Bunkley appeared before the Board to express issues she has with the Talbot County Sheriff's Department. County Attorney, Edward Davis, advised Ms. Bunkley that the Sheriff's Department is under the supervision of Sheriff Justin Johnson and the Commissioners have no say in how the Sheriff handles matters within his department. Sheriff Johnson then advised Ms. Bunkley to put in writing her complaint and it would be handled by proper channels.

Teresa McCool, representing Oak Mountain Estates, appeared before the Board requesting a schedule of updates to be made to the water system affecting the Oak Mountain area. Commissioners asked Assistant County Manager Hendricks to contact engineers and put together updates to be completed with approximate timelines. Ms. McCool was informed that the county could not be held to approximate timelines but was assured that work would move continuously forward on issues with the water system.

Two sealed bids were received for the 2023 TIA Phase 1 Road Repair and Resurfacing Projects. Bids were from Robinson Paving Company for \$441,528.75 and Wolford Construction for \$668,900.00. Commissioner Holmes made a motion to award the contract to the lowest bidder, Robinson Paving for \$441,528.75. Commissioner Chapman seconded the motion. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Commissioner Chapman made a motion to reappoint Edna Marshall to serve on the Talbot County Board of Health as the Advocate for Underprivileged and Elderly. Vice Chair Sparks seconded. The vote passed 4-1-0 with Commissioner Wilson abstaining.

Vice Chair Sparks made a motion to appoint Franklin Holmes to serve the unexpired term of Sher'Londa Walker on the Talbot County Board of Health. The term will expire 12/31/28. Commissioner Chapman seconded. The vote passed 4-1-0 with Commissioner Wilson abstaining.

A request was made to reschedule the Board Meeting May 1, 2023, to the following Monday, May 8, 2023. This will allow Commissioners to attend the ACCG Annual Conference. Commissioner Holmes made a motion to accept the date change. Commissioner Chapman seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Commissioner Chapman made a motion to approve the contract between the River Valley Regional Commission, the Department of Human Services, and the Talbot County Board of Commissioners for transportation services for Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities. Commissioner Holmes seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Commissioner Couch made a motion to approve a budget amendment for the Box Springs Volunteer Department in the amount of \$5,833.61. Commissioner Holmes seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Sheriff Justin Johnson appeared before the Board to request April 29, 2023, be designated as a countywide cleanup day. He would like to have a dumpster placed in each of the five districts for residents to dispose of unwanted items that are allowable according to the service provider. Commissioner Holmes instructed County Manager Ison to get prices on dumpsters and cost for disposal.

Sheriff Johnson informed Commissioners that the fishing rodeo for kids is still planned. He, along with Road Superintendent, Peter Nolan, are working on a date for the rodeo.

Sheriff Johnson requested approval from the Commissioners to purchase a 2019 Ford F-150 pickup with low miles and remaining warranty. This vehicle would replace a 2018 Dodge Durango that was totaled from a deer claim. The Sheriff would like approximately \$7,000.00 to cover the difference in claim settlement and purchase price and installation of equipment on the truck. County Manager, Carol Ison, informed commissioners that the sheriff has no funds left in his budget to cover the cost and the amount would have to come out of Reserved Funds. Commissioner Holmes made a motion to amend the budget for funds to cover the purchase of the 2019 Ford F150 truck. Commissioner Chapman seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Road Superintendent, Peter Nolan, presented two options for repair of Shipp Road. The first option was a total of \$154,723.00 for overlay. The second option was for repair and overlay in the amount of \$283,171.50. Commissioners instructed Superintendent Nolan to find out if there might be any state funding for this project due to the fact that a detour from a state highway was causing increased traffic on the road.

Assistant County Manager, Ronnie Hendricks, addressed several issues regarding the courthouse. A new roof and gutters are needed, professional removal of bees, and miscellaneous repairs as a result of the water damage that has occurred inside of the courthouse. Commissioner Holmes made a motion to amend the Capital Improvement budget in the amount of \$750,000.00 to make all necessary repairs and upgrades to the courthouse to ensure its longevity. Commissioner Chapman seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

A new HVAC system for the first floor of the courthouse is needed to update the outdated system. This will allow for better air quality and circulation within the offices. Commissioner Chapman made a motion to proceed with installation of the HVAC system. Commissioner Wilson seconded. ARPA Funds are allocated to support the cost of the project. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Blue prints for the new community building were discussed but no decision was made.

County Attorney, Edward Davis, had no updates for the Board.

County Manager Ison informed the Board that Brenton Terry has been sworn in to serve as County Coroner for the remainder of term left by the retirement of John Cosby.

There were no Commissioner updates.

Commissioner Holmes made a motion to go into Executive Session, Commissioner Couch seconded the motion. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Chair Sparks called the meeting back to order at 12:39 p.m.

Personnel matters and possible litigation were discussed in Executive Session.

No decisions were made.

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

  
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Larry Sparks, Chairperson

  
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Carol Ison, County Manager

5-8-23  
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Date