



**Talbot County Board of Commissioners**  
**35 West Madison Street, P.O. Box 155**  
**Talbotton, Georgia 31827**

August 7, 2023

The Talbot County Board of Commissioners held their regular monthly meeting on Monday, August 7, 2023, at 6:00 p.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 Franklin Holmes, Anthony Couch, and Walter Wilson, Jr., were present. 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 Wilson made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Chairman Sparks seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Chairman Sparks made a motion to approve the July 10, 2023, Regular Meeting minutes and the July 31, 2023 Called Meeting minutes. Commissioner Holmes seconded. The vote passed 3-0-0 with Commissioner Couch abstaining due to his absence from the Regular Meeting. Vice Chair Chapman had recused himself from the July 10, 2023 and abstained from the vote on approval for minutes.

Mary Stevens, Executive Director for the Talbot County Chamber of Commerce, appeared before the Board to follow-up on the Flint River Trail resolution. Attorney Davis suggested that some wording in the resolution be changed. He informed the Commissioners on the changes to be made. Commissioner Holmes made a motion to accept the resolution with noted changes. Chairman Sparks seconded. Commissioners Couch and Wilson opposed the resolution. The vote passed 3-2-0.

Mr. Standard, resident of Oak Mountain Estates, appeared before the Board with concerns of road conditions on Common Drive and the ability of the garbage truck being able to access their location. After discussion, the Commissioners instructed Road Superintendent, Peter Nolan, to look into what might be a solution to help resolve the issues on this road.

Ms. Kathy Neal, resident of Maxwell Road, appeared before the Board with concerns regarding the condition of Maxwell Road. The Commissioners instructed Road Superintendent Nolan to look into the issues regarding this road.

Amy Cornell, representing Flock Safety, appeared before the Board at the request of Sheriff Justin Johnson. Ms. Cornell gave an overview of services provided by her company. Flock Safety is a public safety operating system that helps various agencies work together to stop, crime, protect privacy, and mitigate bias. The Commissioners thanked her for the presentation.

Mr. Joe Lowe, representing Box Springs Church of Christ, came before the Board requesting a storage building to be used for a food ministry supported by the church. The Commissioners referred Mr. Lowe to the Board of Education as a potential resource.

Park rental fees were on the agenda again to be discussed. Commissioners Couch and Wilson wanted to amend the fees set forth at the June Regular Meeting. Commissioner Couch proposed that the fee of \$250 (\$150.00 rental fee plus 100.00 security deposit be amended to \$150 (\$100.00 rental fee plus \$50.00 security deposit). Commissioner Couch made a motion to change the rental fee as noted. Commissioner Wilson seconded. The vote passed 4-0-1 with Commissioner Holmes abstaining.

County Attorney informed the Commissioners that the CSX invoice for Railroad Crossing Maintenance on Pleasant Valley Road would need to be discussed in Executive Session.

The Commissioners requested Stan Poole (Road Engineer working with Talbot County) to open sealed bids for the paving of North Taylor Road and Willis Drive. Two bids were received for North Taylor Road. Robinson Paving submitted a bid of \$91,425.00 and Wolford Construction's bid was \$115,449.50. Willis Drive also received two bids. The first from Wolford Construction in the amount of \$85,147.00 and Houston Asphalt submitted a bid of \$75,213.00. Commissioner Wilson made a motion to accept the lowest bids. Vice Chair Chapman seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Commissioner Holmes made a motion to appoint Sparkle Standford to serve on the Pine Mountain Regional Library Board to represent his district. This appointment will fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Julive G'Vitale. Chairman Sparks seconded the motion. The vote passed 5-0-0.

An appointment to fill the vacancy on the Talbot County Planning and Zoning Board created by the resignation of Penny Mahone (District 1) was tabled.

A motion was made by Commissioner Holmes to approve an inmate medical invoice in the amount of \$8,661.85 Commissioner Wilson seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

A Driveway Ordinance and proposed permit fee of \$50.00 was presented to the Commissioners for approval. After discussion, Commissioner Holmes made a motion to approve the ordinance and fee as presented. Vice Chair Chapman seconded the motion. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Commissioner Holmes made a motion to approve a resolution authorizing the filing of the FY2025 Grant Application for Section 5311 Program for Rural Transit. Commissioner Chapman seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Talbot County's Roadside Mowing Contract expires September 30, 2023. A new Scope of Work for bids was presented to the Commissioners for approval. After discussion, Chair Larry Sparks made a motion to proceed with advertising for bids based on the Scope of Work as presented. Commissioner Holmes seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

A recreation purchase approval for \$5,242.70 was tabled until further discussion in executive session.

Road Superintendent, Peter Nolan, appeared before the Board requesting permission to proceed with bids for paving Shipp Road, Ashmore Lane, and Williams Circle. After lengthy discussion Chair Larry Sparks made a motion to approve Shipp Road for bids. Commissioner Couch seconded the motion. The vote passed 5-0-0. Commissioner Holmes then made a motion to proceed with advertising for bids on Ashmore Lane and Williams Circle. Commissioner Couch seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Road Superintendent, Peter Nolan informed the board, the final balloon payments were due on the 930M Wheel Loader and the 963K Track Loader.

Following the discussion, Chairman Sparks made a motion to pay the final balloon payments in the amount of \$215,110.00. The payment will be split between all five districts out of the TIA account. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Road Superintendent Nolan presented a purchase request for a Mower Max mower to the Commissioners along with brochures of the machine. Commissioner Holmes requested the company provide a demonstration of the machine before consideration of purchase. Superintendent Nolan was instructed to setup the demonstration for the Commissioners.

Assistant County Manager, Ronnie Hendricks, informed the Commissioners that the roofing and air conditioning projects to the courthouse were complete and renovations were progressing.

Assistant Manger Hendricks was asked by Sheriff Justin Johnson to present the possibility of another clean-up day for Talbot County. The request would be to pay for the cost of five roll-off dumpsters (1 per district). Commissioner Holmes made a motion to approve the request. Vice Chair Chapman seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

County Attorney Davis had no reports.

County Manager Ison informed the Commissioners of the deadline of February 1, 2024, for the submission of the 2024 LMIG Project Application.

Commissioners had no announcements.

Vice Chair Chapman made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:35 p.m. Commissioner Couch seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Chair Sparks called the meeting back to order at 9:18 p.m.

Personnel and possible litigation were discussed. No decisions were made.

Commissioner Couch made a motion to add 3,000 feet to the proposed community building plans and order a full set of MEP Blueprints. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Chair Sparks made a motion to approve the purchase request from the Recreation Department in the amount of \$5,242.70. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Commissioner Holmes made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Wilson seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

  
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Larry Sparks, Chairperson

  
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Carol Ison, County Manager

9-11-2023  
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Date