



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

September 11, 2023

The Talbot County Board of Commissioners held their regular monthly meeting on Monday, September 11, 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, and Assistant County Manager, Ronnie Hendricks. County Clerk, Jona Gibson was attending Clerk's Conference in Athens.

Chairman Sparks called the meeting to order and led everyone in a moment of silence and the recitation of the "Pledge of Allegiance". Chairman Sparks asked for another moment of silence, in honor of those that lost their lives on September 11th, 2001.

Commissioner Holmes made a motion to approve the agenda with one additon; the appointment for the Planning and Zoning Board. Commissioner Wilson seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Vice Chair Chapman made a motion to approve the August 7, 2023 Regular Meeting minutes and the August 24th Board Retreat and Training Session minutes. Commissioner Wilson seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0 .

Commissioner Holmes made a motion to approve the August 21, 2023, Called Meeting minutes. Commissioner Wilson seconded. The vote passed 4-1-0. Vice Chair Chapman had recused himself from the August 21, 2023 meeting and abstained from the vote on approval for minutes.

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

- Ronnie Hendricks – 5 Years
- Joretha Ryles – 22 Years
- Janet Stiner– 5 Years
- Sharita Trice – 5 Years

Ms. Ryles and Ms. Stiner were unable to attend.

Justin Elliott, representing Mauldin & Jenkins CPAs and Advisors gave an overview of the September 30th, 2022 audit. Mr. Elliott said the county was in a good financial position.

Carolyn Parker, representing the Talbot County Senior Citizens, appeared before the Board with concerns of the parking area at the Senior Center. After discussion, the Commissioners instructed Assistant Coutny Manager, Ronnie Hendricks, to get an estimate to expand the parking area and have ready at the next board meeting.

Dan Coffee was not present.

The 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 Ashmore Road and Williams Lane. Three bids were received for Ashmore Road and Williams Lane. Wolford Contracting Company submitted a bid for \$110,103.84, Houston Asphalt's bid was \$142,285.00 and Robinson Paving Company's bid was \$115,758.90. Commissioner Holmes made a motion to award the bid to the lowest bidder, Wolford Contracting Company. Vice Chair Chapman seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Two sealed bids were received for the paving of Shipp Road. Wolford Contracting Company submitted a bid for \$451,621.20 and Robinson Paving Company's bid was \$343,845.59. Commissioner Couch made a motion to approve the lowest bid from Robinson Paving Company. Chair Sparks seconded the motion. The project will be funded with supplemental funds from the FY 2023 LMIG and TSPLOST revenue. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Four bids were received for the right of way mowing contract, as listed below:

- McNair Mowing Services (1 cutting) \$37,000.00
- C&C Total Impression, LLC (2 Cuttings) \$184,270.00
- Spring Creek Land Management, LLC (2 cuttings) \$449,000.00
- Yellowstone Landscape (2 cuttings) \$205,000.00

Vice Chair Chapman made a motion to award the contract to the lowest bidder, McNair Mowing Services. Commissioner Holmes seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Commissioner Couch made a motion to appoint Elijah Epps to serve on the Planning and Zoning Board. This appointment will fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Penny Mahone. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Superior Court Clerk, Penny Mahone, requested the balance of funds from her FYE 2023 Capital Outlay line item be transferred to her FYE 2024 budget.

Following the discussion, Commissioner Holmes made a motion to add the balance of \$20,000 to the FYE 2024 Capital Outlay line item. Unreserved revenue will offset the expense. Vice Chair Chapman seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Ms. Mahone asked the Board to consider replacing the benches in the court room with chairs similar to the ones in the Commissioners Office meeting room.

Sheriff Johnson had several items of concern to discuss with the board.

- Ordinance to address animals at large
- Junk or abandoned vehicles on private property
- Noise ordinance to address loud music
- Sign ordinance
- Fence around the parking area at the jail
- Request paying travel expense to jail staff, prior to attending training
- Pay raise for employees
- Flock Safety System

The county attorney is going to research the ordinances to see what can be put in place.

Commissioner Wilson asked Sheriff Johnson if he was aware of any grants that could help with the purchase of the Flock Safety System. Sheriff Johnson said he has looked and is not aware of any.

Vice Chair Chapman stepped out of the meeting for a brief moment.

Commissioner Holmes made a motion to grant the Election Supervisor, Sharita Trice request to close the Election Office for training December 10th through Dember 13th, 2023. Chair Sparks seconded. The vote passed 4-0-0.

Road Superintendent, Peter Nolan, presented bids to the Board for paving Common Drive, Fox Run Road, Maxwell Road and Westview Drive.

After lengthy discussion Vice Chair Chapman made a motion to approve the current bid of \$18,530.00 from Wolford Contracting Company to pave Common Drive. Commissioner Holmes seconded the motion. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Vice Chair Chapman instructed Mr. Nolan to proceed with advertising for bids for Westview Drive.

Chair Sparks made a motion to proceed with patching a section of Fox Run Road for \$6,500.00. Commissioner Holmes seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Assistant County Manager, Ronnie Hendricks, informed the Commissioners that the courthouse renovations were near completion and the offices were getting ready to move back in.

Mr. Hendricks also informed the Board that the renovations at the Tax Commissioner's Office are complete and ready for them to move in. The Tax Commissioner was notified at least six weeks ago.

County Attorney Davis had some items to discuss in executive session.

County Manager Ison informed the Board of the 3% price increase from Green For Life (GFL) for the solid waste collection fee.

Following the discussion, Vice Chair Chapman made a motion to increase the annual garbage fee to \$200 for one (1) cart and \$137 for the second cart. Chair Sparks seconded the motion. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Commissioner Holmes asked Assistant County Manager, Ronnie Hendricks to make plans to move the playground equipment from the old Flint Hill park to the new Flint Hill Community Center location.

Commissioner Wilson was pleased with the progress that the Road Superintendent was making at the Talbotton Park but wanted to know when the work would be completed.

Commissioner Couch asked what the status was on the motor grader that recently caught fire.

Vice Chair Chapman made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:51 p.m. Vice Chair Chapman seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Chair Sparks called the meeting back to order at 8:08 p.m.

Possible litigation was discussed. No decisions were made.

Commissioner Holmes made a motion to accept the settlement from CSX Transportation and submit payment for \$12,000. This is for the crossing maintenance on Pleasant Valley Road. Commissioner Wilson seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

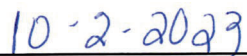
Commissioner Holmes made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Wilson seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.



Larry Sparks, Chairperson



Carol Ison, County Manager



Date