

**TALBOT COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

FREEMAN MONTGOMERY, CHAIRMAN
FRANKLIN HOLMES, VICE CHAIRMAN
KEN CHAPMAN, COMMISSIONER
ROBERT LANIER, COMMISSIONER
SHER'LONDA WALKER, COMMISSIONER



SANDRA HIGGINBOTHAM
COUNTY MANAGER

JOSHUA BUCKNER
ROAD DEPT SUPERINTERINDENT

August 5, 2013

The Talbot County Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing and their regular scheduled Board Meeting Monday, August 5, 2013 at 6 PM. The meeting was held at the Commissioner's Office located at 74 W. Monroe Street. Chairman Freeman Montgomery, Vice Chairman Franklin Holmes, Commissioners Ken Chapman, Robert Lanier, and Sher'Londa Walker were in attendance. Also attending was County Attorney Andy Dodgen and County Manager Sandra Higginbotham.

Chairman Montgomery called the Public Hearing to order, and informed everyone that Jerome Paschal was requesting permission to rezone property located at 441 Gun Club Road from Residential (R1) to Commercial (C1) for an "event" center.

The Building/Zoning Director informed the Board that the Planning Commission approved the request with conditions. He explained that Mr. Paschal owned the building, but the building did not meet the standards outlined in the Talbot County Zoning Ordinance, so the entire building would need to be brought up to standard.

He also explained to the Board that the Talbot County Planning Commission recommended the following conditions be placed on the property: No alcoholic beverages can be served on premises (no beer/wine license), no food preparation, no other building(s) can be erected on property, and the building has to meet all health and safety standards.

Mr. Paschal informed the Board of his plans for the center and agreed to bring the building up to code and to abide by all conditions.

When asked by the Chairman, no one wished to speak in favor of, or in opposition to, the request.

Marjorie Howard voiced her concerns for future activity at this location if/when the request is approved by the Board .

There being no further business, Chairman Montgomery closed the Public Hearing.

Upon opening the regular monthly Board Meeting, the Chairman called for a moment of silence, and then led everyone in the recitation of the "Pledge of Allegiance".

Commissioner Walker made a motion for the Board to defer action on the request made by Jerome Paschal, to rezone property located at 441 Gun Club Road from Residential (R1) to Commercial (C1), to open an "Event Center" until each of the proposed conditions are met. Commissioner Lanier seconded the motion. The vote passed 5-0-0.

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Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion for the Board to approve the Minutes for the July 1, 2013 Board Meeting and Executive Session, and

- For the Board to approve amending the February 19, 2013 Minutes to include the Commissioner (Vice Chairman Holmes) that seconded the approval for the motion in Paragraph 6, and
- To amend the August 3, 2009 Minutes to state actual acres requested to be rezoned (23.839 to 139.009).

Commissioner Walker seconded the motion. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion and Commissioner Walker seconded for the Board to approve the Agenda as presented. The vote passed 5-0-0.

A sealed bid was received from Robinson Paving for the, 2012 Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG), O'Neal Road Project. No other bids were received.

Following the bid opening and discussion, Commissioner Walker made a motion for the Board to approve awarding the 2012 LMIG Contract, for resurfacing O'Neal Road, to Robinson Paving for the amount of \$189,172. Commissioner Lanier seconded the motion. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion and Commissioner Lanier seconded for the Board to approve the request from Hailey Poole to open an Event Hall (First Call Event Hall), at 1701 Flint Hill Highway, in the building that was previously owned by Charles Butler. The vote passed 5-0-0.

The Board agreed to postpone making a decision on awarding a contract for roadside vegetation control.

There was discussion regarding private donations by the Board of Commissioners for the Rockdale County Walk of Heroes Veterans War Memorial Pavers. No county funds will be used for this project.

Commissioner Chapman made a motion for the Board to approve increasing the current mileage rate from 55.5 to the new IRS Rate of 56.5. Chairman Montgomery seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Holmes, Commissioners Lanier and Walker opposed. The vote failed 2-3-0.

The bid advertisement for the 2013 LMIG Project , Waverly Hall Road, was approved by the County Attorney. This will be advertised in the Talbotton New Era and the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer.

Commissioner Walker made a motion, and Vice Chairman Holmes seconded, for the Board to approve the Budget Spending Resolution for August 2013. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Chairman Montgomery made a motion, and Commissioner Chapman seconded, for the Board to appoint Commissioner Holmes to serve on the Lower Chattahoochee Workforce Investment Board for a two (2) year term. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Commissioner Lanier made a motion, and Chairman Montgomery seconded, for the Board to approve the following requests:

- County Clerk/Assistant County Manager to attend Clerk's Training in Athens, September 8-10, 2013.
- Cheyenne Pinkston, Pam Bulloch, and Tomeka Fowler to attend the Voter Registrars Association of Georgia (VRAG) Conference in Athens, August 11-14, 2013.

The vote passed 5-0-0.

Tax Assessor Tommy Bussey approached the Board and gave them an up-date on the status of the personal property audit that is being performed by Traylor Business on businesses located in Talbot County.

Road Department Superintendent Josh Buckner recommended the Board approve Dennis Creek Road, for the 2014 LMIG Project. The length of the road is 2.5 to 2.7 miles. He also informed the Board that a culvert that is on the road will need to be replaced prior to resurfacing the road. The approximate cost to replace the culvert is \$17,000.

A Called Meeting/Workshop to discuss the FYE 2014 Budget was scheduled for 6 PM on Tuesday, August 6.

Changing the office hours for the County Commission Office, Water Department, Transit Department, and Election Office was postponed for further review.

Commissioner Chapman made a motion, and Commissioner Walker seconded, for the Board to approve the request from the O'Neal Volunteer Fire Department to proceed with the Plum Creek Foundation Grant Application for eight (8) refurbished self-contained breathing apparatus' at a total cost of \$8,240. The grant funds will cover \$7,240, with a county match of \$1000. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Joyce Daniel was not on the approved agenda, but was allowed to speak in reference to her concerns about the current animal control ordinance. She was specifically concerned about cats that have been abandoned or neglected.

Commissioner Lanier made a motion, and Commissioner Chapman seconded, for the Board to approve the Contract between the City of Talbotton, the Talbot County Board of Commissioners, and the Talbot County Board of Elections and Registration to conduct Municipal Elections at a cost of \$10,000 (3 installments) for the calendar year 2013. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Commissioner Lanier made a motion for the Board to approve paying one-half of the cost for the County Attorney to attend the Institute for City and County Attorneys in Athens, September 12-13, 2013. Commissioner Chapman seconded the motion. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Commissioner Chapman informed the Road Department Superintendent that he had numerous roads that were washed out in his district.

Vice Chairman Holmes asked the Road Department Superintendent to have the sides of Old Shiloh Road cut back.

Vice Chairman Holmes made a motion, and Commissioner Chapman seconded, for the Board to move into Executive Session at 7:40 PM to discuss personnel matters and litigation. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Upon returning to Open Session at 8:15 PM, the Chairman called the regular Board meeting back to order.

No decisions were made in Executive Session.

There being no further business, Commissioner Walker made a motion, and Commissioner Lanier seconded, for the Board meeting to be adjourned. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Freeman Montgomery, Chairman

Sandra N. Higginbotham, County Manager

Date