



Talbot County Board of Commissioners

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

June 3, 2024

The Talbot County Board of Commissioners held their regular monthly meeting on Monday, June 3, 2024, 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 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."

Vice Chair Chapman made a motion to approve the agenda with one add-on requested by Commissioner Wilson regarding the paving of the road leading to Talbotton Park. Commissioner Couch seconded the motion. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Commissioner Holmes made a motion to approve minutes from the May 6, 2024, Regular Meeting and the May 20, 2024 Work Session. Commissioner Couch seconded the motion. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Randy Everett, representing Oakbridge Insurance Agency, appeared before the Board with an update on the FYE2025 Health Insurance Renewal. Mr. Everett informed the Commissioners that Talbot County's current medical plan with United Healthcare is set to renew with an effective date of July 1, 2024. The current medical plan was given an 18% rate increase. Mr. Everett negotiated the rate down to a 13% increase in cost for the 2024-2025 year. Talbot County's Dental and Vision plan had a rate hold, so there was no increase in cost for this benefit at renewal. The Life Insurance plan had a slight increase of \$1.00 per month per employee.

Mr. Everett went on to inform Commissioners that insurance carriers offering Employer Group Health plans were contacted. Carriers had either exited the group health market, declined to quote, or were not competitive. Talbot County's current United Healthcare plan's annual deductible, doctor's office co-pays, and co-insurance will remain the same for 2024-2025. Maximum out-of-pocket adjusted from \$9100.00 to \$9200.00 per the ACA guidelines. All other parts of the coverage will remain the same with NO changes to these benefits. Mr. Everett's recommendation to the Board was to renew all coverage with United Healthcare in order to keep the valuable benefits package, utilizing the National UHC Choice Plus Network. Commissioner Wilson made a motion to renew the current health plan. Commissioner Couch second the motion. The vote passed 5-0-0

Ifunanya Onyaka, Health Educator representing the Talbot County Health Department was not in attendance.

Bobby Gates, Jr., appeared before the Board requesting a follow-up relating to erosion on his property located on Spring Trail in Box Springs, GA. Mr. Gates was informed that an engineer went and examined the road and determined that the road needed to be side-sloped in order for runoff to occur on the opposite side of the road. Road Superintendent Nolan will make the correction to the road and monitor the situation after the grading is completed.

Alyce Harrison, owner of property located at 340 Spring Trail, Box Springs, GA, appeared before the Board requesting closure of Lake Talbot Extension which is a county road. This road deadends in the middle of Ms. Harrison's property. She stated that she has had multiple issues with hunters and trespassers on her property and would like to know if the road can be closed. County Attorney Davis informed Ms. Harrison of the steps necessary for abandonment of the road by Talbot County. Further information will be obtained in order to begin process of closure.

Chemia Henderson, Mayor of Junction City, came before the Board requesting the county's assistance with roads and streets within the city limits of Junction City and, also, the Junction City Recreation Park. Ms. Henderson was informed that an intergovernmental agreement with Junction City must first be in place and then assistance would be reviewed by request. County Attorney Davis will draw up an agreement.

The commissioners voted unanimously to reject all bids received for the Community Center Building Project. After much discussion, it was decided that the county would act as the contractor for this project. Anticipated cost for the project will be \$2.7 million with two million allocated from SPLOST funds, \$500,00.00 from reserve funds, and borrowing approximately \$200,000.00, if necessary. This cost reflects an unfinished status of multipurpose rooms located inside the structure. Completion of rooms will be done as funds are available.

The ACCG-IRMA Property & Liability Renewal with effective dates 07/01/24-07/01/2025 was presented to the Board for approval. Renewal premium will be \$182,948.00, a decrease of \$1,827.00 from the previous year. Commissioner Holmes made a motion to approve the renewal. Commissioner Wilson seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Commissioner Couch made a motion to nominate Commissioner Walter Wilson Jr., to serve on the Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities Region 6 Advisory Council. The position was previously held by former commissioner Sher'Londa Walker. Commissioner Wilson accepted the nomination and the Board voted unanimously on his appointment.

Commissioner Wilson made a motion to change the name of the Talbot County Youth Center to Heritage Park. Commissioner Chapman seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

A Special Events Permit policy and ordinance was discussed. It was decided that this would need to be addressed in the next work session. The County Attorney will review other counties and obtain information.

County Attorney Davis and County Manager had no reports or announcements.

Commissioner Holmes had a concern about the former Department of Family and Childrens Services (DFACS) building located in Talbotton. The building is in need of upkeep. Talbot County does not own the building. The City of Talbotton would be responsible for contacting its current owner.

Commissioner Wilson's Add-on to the agenda was discussed. His request is that the main road into Heritage Park (formerly Talbot County Youth Center) be resurfaced with millings and the road around the walking trail also be resurfaced. The cost for the main road would be \$61,000.00 and the interior road would be \$20,000.00. Funds from District 1 TIA would fund this project. Commissioner Wilson made a motion to resurface the roads. Commissioner Holmes seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Commissioner Chapman had concerns about the bridge now closed on Buffington Road and when it would be open again. The bridge must be inspected by an engineer and deemed safe before reopening.

Commissioner Couch reminded everyone about the meeting on Friday, June 7, 2024, at the Talbot County Chamber of Commerce for a Forestry Landowner Workshop.

Commissioner Sparks made a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:21 p.m. Commissioner Couch seconded. The vote passed 5-0-0.

Chair Sparks called the meeting back to order at 7:43 p.m. No decisions were made.

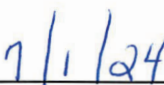
There being no further business, Commissioner Holmes made a motion to adjourn, Chair Chapman seconded. The meeting adjourned.



Larry Sparks, Chairman



Carol Ison, County Manager



Date