

**REGULAR SESSION MEETING
BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2018
6:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman, John Nugent called the regular session meeting of the Berrien County Board of Commissioners to order on Tuesday, January 2, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. Members of the Board of Commissioners present were, Commissioners Robert Griner, Jimmy Parker, Doc Sumner and Pixie Harrod.

Invocation: Commissioner Jimmy Parker

Pledge: Commissioner Robert Griner

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Commissioner Doc Sumner made the motion to approve the, December 5, 2018 Regular Session Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

INVITED GUESTS:

- Nick Lacey and Andi Dickerson – Mr. Nick Lacey introduced the new Executive Director of Economic Development and Chamber to the Board. Her name is Andi Dickerson. He also gave a brief description of her background and qualifications. Miss Andi Dickerson thanked the board for giving her this opportunity and she is eager to work in Berrien.
- Pat Ashley – Auditor – Mr. Ashley gave a brief overview of the 2017 audit. The County's General Fund balance ending June 30, 2017 was \$1,184,862.00. A good portion of this is due to LMIG Funds received and not expensed in the budget year. There were a few other items Mr. Ashley addressed as findings due to federal grants and new requirements which the county will have to development policies for the future. Mr. Ashley said the County has done a great job improving their overall financial status.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Nomination of 2018 Chairman and Vice Chairman for the Board of Commissioners – Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to nominate Commissioner Doc Sumner as the Chairman. Commissioner Roger Griner said we need to have discussion on this. Commissioner Griner explained that several years back the board put a policy in place that stated anyone serving as Chairman had to be certified through ACCG. He said to the best of his knowledge Commissioner Sumner has not completed that. Commissioner Pixie Harrod stated that the policy can be changed. Chairman Nugent said is there a question with his ability to be Chairman. Commissioner Griner said that that he is not saying that. He is just saying that the policy was put in place and in order to serve it would have to be changed. Commissioner Doc Sumner stated he wants what is best for county. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to rescind the policy on requiring the Chairman to be certified, seconded by Commissioner Doc Sumner. Chairman Nugent, Commissioners Doc Sumner and Pixie Harrod voted in favor, Commissioners Jimmy Parker and Robert Griner voted against. The motion carried. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to appoint Commissioner Doc Sumner as Chairman, seconded by Commissioner John Nugent. The motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Doc Sumner made a motion to appoint Commissioner Pixie Harrod as Vice Chairman, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Board Appointment – Library – Administration received a request from Angi Hughes, Library Manager, requesting an appointment to fill an unexpired term of a member who does not attend meetings. The term will end June 2018. The library board does not have a recommendation. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to table this item, seconded by Commissioner John Nugent. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Board Appointment – GA Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities – Administration received a request from Michael Link with the GA Department of Behavioral Health & Disabilities requesting an appointment to the Board. We have been searching for quite some time for an individual. The Board asked if anyone has a recommendation to please let us know. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to table this item, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Set Qualifying Fees - 2018 is an election year for Board of Education and County Commission. The Board of Commissioners is required by O.C.G.A. Section 21-2-131(2)1 to fix and publish qualification fees for each county office to be filled in the upcoming general primary or general election by February 1st of election year. The qualifications fees for each office shall be 3% of the total gross salary of the office paid in the preceding calendar year including all supplements authorized by law if a salaried office, unless otherwise provided for in OCGA 21-2-131(1B). If not a salaried office, a reasonable fee shall be set by the Board of County Commissioners not to exceed 3% of the income derived from such office by the person holding the office for the preceding year. The Resolution Setting Fees are:

Board of Education	\$ 20.00
County Commissioner	\$ 180.00

Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to approve the Resolution, seconded by Commissioner John Nugent. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Responsible Dog Ownership Ordinance – Administration provided a copy of the Responsible Dog Ownership Ordinance. This more specifically explains danger/viscous dogs. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to table this item, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.

F. Flag Resolution – Administration received a request to make the 1956 Georgia Flag as the Official Flag of Berrien County. Commissioner John Nugent said the 1956 flag is the old Georgia Flag. We had this flag until 2003 and he would be proud to have it as the Berrien County Flag. Commissioner Robert Griner stated that he feels like we need to have any some discussion on this. He said he is not opposed to the idea but he thinks the timing is bad. He feels this is something that could be very controversial for Berrien County. Commissioners Jimmy Parker and Pixie Harrod agreed. Commissioner John Nugent also stated that there are nine counties with the mascot being the rebels. Commissioner John Nugent made a motion to make the 1956 Georgia Flag as the Berrien County Flag, seconded by Chairman Doc Sumner. Commissioners Nugent and Chairman Sumner were for it and Commissioners Jimmy Parker, Robert Griner and Pixie Harrod voted against. The motion did not pass.

G. A.D. Probation Services Addendum – Administration received a request from Lisa Hancock to address the board with an Addendum to the current contract. This addendum does not change the contract but adds additional clarification within the contract to meeting state law requirements. Mrs. Hancock stated they provide misdemeanor probation for superior court. She stated the oversight unit who audits probations Rules & Regulations was revamped and they were not compliant with some contracts. This addendum incorporates the new rules and regulations and covers the state laws. Commissioner Robert Griner asked about approving this without our county attorney reviewing it. County Administrator, Brenda Ferrell, stated the motion could be made to approve upon county attorneys approval. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve the Addendum for A.D. Probation Services upon County Attorney review and approval, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

H. Ratification Items – Administration is requesting ratification on the following items:

Fausett Oil	\$1,992.00
Cherokee Culvert (change for what was previously approved)	\$2,678.00
Ten-8 (Fire Departments)	\$2,456.00

Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to ratify the purchases listed, seconded by Commissioner John Nugent. The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS: None

COMMISSIONER’S ITEMS:

Jimmy Parker –

- Phil Jones from Utopia was at our last meeting and we told him that he could place the signs where Ben Warren felt was acceptable. Commissioner Parker has had three different people who live in Utopia call and complain about the signs. Mr. Jones put up additional signs and they are not in locations that Ben Warren approved. Commissioner Parker said the signs do not meet the county ordinance. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to take the signs down, seconded by Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Charley Parks – Mr. Parks said he is a member of the Sons Confederate Veterans. He said he was sorry to hear the flag adoption was voted down. He said that flag was designed by an appellate judge. We are doing what we can to make sure the veterans are honored. He explained the stars and bars of the GA Flag. Chairman Doc Sumner thanked him for being at the meeting tonight. Commissioner John Nugent told him that he appreciated him coming. He said it is hard to sit up here and advocate when the world is against it.

Brad Stephenson – Mr. Stevenson said that Charley Parks summed it up. He would like to see the flag resolution revisited.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

Brenda Ferrell –

- We have only received one bid for the painting at the Health Department. It is from Brogdon’s Painting and was \$22,500.00. Maintenance, Rodney Stone, has requested additional bids but no one has submitted anything. Commissioner Pixie Harrod suggested contacting Donald Barnes.
- CDBG – The board agreed to move the cul-de-sac on this project as long as DCA approved. I

have two drawings from Shon Hampton, Watkins & Associates, changing the cul-de-sac but Shon has questions about drain field locations. We still have one owner who does not want to give or sale the right-of-way needed to do the project. Commissioner Robert Griner asked who it was. It is Jay Sutton. Shon did providing a piping estimate which is \$18,000.00. This would be the county responsibility as it is not the grant budget. The board does not want to just take property. The Board directed Brenda Ferrell to contact Kimberly Hobbs, SGRC, to see how this affects the project.

- TSPLOST – Brenda Ferrell gave an update on the TSPLOST and the possible projects to submit if the TSPLOST Executive Board will allow us to present additional projects. The Board gave Ben Warren the authority to prioritize the projects. Ben Warren and Chairman Doc Sumner will present these projects. Brad Stevenson said he feels we will lose money to other counties. He feels an individual TSPLOST would be better.
- FSA Office – Over the Labor Day weekend there was an A/C leak that came inside the building. We had to make an emergency call to have the water extracted. We were not able to save the carpet. It has been submitted as an insurance claim. The question is, do we want to replace the carpet in the area that was not ruined at this time. If so, it will be an additional cost of approximately \$9,370.32. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to replace the carpet in the area not damaged so it will match, seconded by Commissioner John Nugent. The motion carried unanimously.
- Inclement Weather Policy – According to EMA Berrien County is expected to receive 1” of snow and ¼ inch of ice. We are having employees ask if offices will be closed. The board feels that we should work and if anyone feels it is not safe to travel they can use personal time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION;

Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to move into executive session for personnel at 7:00 p.m., seconded by Commissioner John Nugent. Commissioner Robert Griner made a motion to move out of Executive Session and into regular session at 7:29 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve a \$1.00 per hour increase now and \$1.00 per hour increase July 1, 2018 as discussed in executive session, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

With no other business to come before the Board, Commissioner Jimmy Parker made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner John Nugent. Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Chairman, Doc Sumner

Commissioner, Robert Griner

Commissioner, Jimmy Parker

Commissioner, Pixie Harrod

Commissioner, John Nugent

ATTEST _____
County Clerk