

**REGULAR SESSION MEETING  
BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2023  
6:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman, Robert Griner, called the regular session meeting of the Berrien County Board of Commissioners to order on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at 6:02 p.m. Members of the Board of Commissioners present were Commissioners Pixie Harrod, Ronnie Gaskin, John Nugent and Jimmy Parker.

**Invocation:** Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins

**Pledge:** Commissioner John Nugent

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to approve the March 7, 2023 Regular Session Minutes and the March 7, 2023 Executive Session Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

**INVITED GUEST:** Mr. Wikle – Sherry Lane – Mr. Wikle along with Kinney and Mark Hughes addressed the board about the condition of Sherry Lane which is a private road. There are eight families that live in the subdivision. Mr. Wikle and Ken Block are willing absorb the cost of paying for dirt to be put there and maintaining it. Commissioner Harrod suggested asking all homeowners to assist with the cost of maintaining it. Commissioner Parker stated that in order for the county to maintain it would have to be deeded to the county which means it would have to meet DOT specifications. Public Works Director Ben Warren did some maintenance on the road until a more permanent solution can be worked out. They also asked about getting some sand added to all the clay on Barker Rd. The board will discuss that with the Public Works Director.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. ENGINEERING DESIGN AND/OR PLANNING ASSISTANCE BETWEEN GDOT AND BERRIEN COUNTY & THE ENGINEERING DESIGN PHASE SERVICES TO REHABILITATE/REPLACE AIRFIELD LIGHTING & SIGNAGE CONTRACT WITH PASSERO – AIRPORT** - Administration received a request from the Berrien County Airport Authority to approve an Airport Engineering Design and/or Planning Assistance Contract between Berrien County and Georgia Department of Transportation and also approve the Engineering Design Phase Services Rehabilitate/Replace Airfield Lighting & Signage Contract with Passero. The project total is \$79,525.00 with the County match of (5%) \$3,976.25. We are asking the board approve the project and two contracts and give the Chairman authority to electronically sign the contracts and execute documents as needed. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made the motion to approve the contracts and authorize the Chairman to execute the contracts electronically, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

**B. NOTICE OF AWARD & CONTRACT AGREEMENT – BIRD DOG LANE**  
- Administration received a recommendation from Watkins & Associates to award the Street & Drainage Improvement Contract on Bird Dog Lane to The Scruggs Company in the amount of

\$493,693.68. Two bids were received. One from The Scruggs Company for \$4,93,693.68 and one from Reames & Son Construction in the amount of \$775,928.60. County Administrator stated the Notice of Award has her signing it and to please include that in the motion. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to award the contract on Bird Dog Lane to The Scruggs Company in the amount of \$493,693.68 and authorize County Administrator, Brenda Ferrell, to execute the document, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

C. **NOTICE OF AWARD & CONTRACT AGREEMENT – Pineland Estate Road** – Administration received a recommendation from Watkins & Associates to award the Street & Drainage Improvement Contract on Pineland Estate Rd. to The Scruggs Company in the amount of \$588,923.66. Two bids were received. One from The Scruggs Company for \$588,923.66 and one from Reames & Son Construction in the amount of \$775,272.00. County Administrator stated the Notice of Award has her signing it and to please include that in the motion. Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to award the contract on Pineland Estate Rd. to The Scruggs Company in the amount of \$588,923.66 and authorize County Administrator, Brenda Ferrell, to execute the document, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

D. **NUTRITION CONTRACT - SENIOR CENTER** - Administration is requesting the board approve Contract #AAA-2024-18 to Provide Operation of a Senior Center with Congregate and Home Delivered Meals. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

E. **BERRIEN COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE – EMA** - Administration received a request from Angie Rutland, EMA Director, with two proposals for the update to the Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan must be updated by June 8, 2024. We have been awarded \$26,000.00 for this update. Both proposals are for \$19,500.00. SGRC will invoice in two equal installments. The first invoice will come when it is 50% completed and the second will be invoiced upon project completion and FEMA approval. \$6,500.00 was awarded for labor and \$19,500.00 was awarded for the contractor for a total of \$26,000.00. Our labor match should be met by participation in the meetings if enough cities and county employees attend these meetings. Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to award the contract to Southern Georgia Regional Commission, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

F. **BERRIEN COUNTY SADDLE CLUB RENTAL AGREEMENT** – Administration is requesting the board approve the agreement with the Berrien County Saddle Club. There is a one time fee of \$200.00. They are required to maintain and repair the saddle club as well as pay for utilities. Prissy Massengil addressed the board about the \$200.00 and asked if they could consider changing it. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve the lease with the change of a \$1.00 one time fee, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

G. **BOARD APPOINTMENT – DFACS** - Administration received a request to reappoint Ms. Gina Porter to the DFACS Board. Her current term expires June 30, 2023. The new term will be July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2028. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to reappoint Gina Porter to the DFACS Board with a term ending June 30, 2028, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

H. **DRUG COURT SUPPLIES** – Administration received a request from the Drug Court Administrator to purchase Drug Court testing supplies. The items are purchased on-line with only one quote provided from Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics Web Shop in the amount of \$4,331.90. Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

I. **PIPE ORDER – ROAD** - Administration received a request from the Road Department for pipe. They requested three quotes with only two replying. They are requesting approval from WinSupply in the amount of \$5,482.70. Two quotes were provided one from Winsupply in the amount of \$5,482.70 and the other from Deep South Drainage in the amount of \$6,061.90. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

J. **MOTOR GRADER BIDS** - The Public Works Department put out a bid for a motor grader. Sealed bids were received and opened during the board meeting. Dobbs Equipment submitted a lease option of \$345,000 with a buy back of \$117,042.00. This would be five annual payments of \$71,000.00. Yancey Caterpillar submitted a bid to purchase of \$377,745.00 with a \$95,224.00 buyback option. Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to give the Chairman to review the bids and authority to approve after review, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

K. **RLF LOAN APPROVAL – CLIPPER SERVICES & SOLUTIONS, LLC** - Administration received a request from Clipper Services & Solutions, LLC to approve a Loan Application in the amount of \$50,000.00. This was approved by the RLF Executive Committee. Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to approve the RLF Loan, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

L. **RATIFICATION ITEMS** – Administration is requesting ratification on the following items:

Ray & Sons – Jail	\$6,322.00
Winsupply – Road	\$18,333.90
Tire Store – Road	\$2,102.00
Rick V. Wade – GA Beaver Reapers – Road	\$1,400.00

Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to ratify the items as presented, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

M. **RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE THE COMMUNITY OF UTOPIA** – Administration received a request for a Resolution to Recognize the Community of Utopia. County Attorney provided a resolution. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS:**

Marc Mathis –

- The truck that was approved to get through Forestry will need a tank and it will need to

be painted. Forestry can pick the tank up for us and bring it to us. The was in agreement.

- We have found a 2007 Peterbilt with a 4000 gallon tank that is up for auction. Right now the bid is \$22,000.00. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to allow Marc Mathis to bid up to \$30,000.00 on the vehicle, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.
- Ronnie Gaskins stated there is another truck at the shop that needs a tank put on it. James Sirmans, Forestry, stated we can get two tanks from Forestry and he will pick them up for us. The Board thank James for what he does for Berrien County.

Ben Reeves, County Agent –

- stated he will be assisting Irwin County for approximately three months as they are searching for a new agent. The understanding that Berrien County will come first and Ben will be drive is personal vehicle for work needed in Irwin County. The Board thanked Ben for what he does for Berrien County.

### **COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS:**

Ronnie Gaskins –

- Stated he did some checking around with other counties and there are similar situations with issues we are facing with the subdivision in Ray City/Lanier County. Commissioner Gaskins made a motion to approve Jennifer Herzog, County Attorney, to work out a Memorandum of Understanding pertaining to all issues with the subdivision with Lanier County and Danny Studstill, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Sally Franks/Lodonna Morales – Firetower Rd – Stated a Road Paving Petition was turned in years ago and the road is in really bad shape. They wanted to know when the road would be paved. After discussion, the board will direct the Public Works Department to put rock down in the back areas until we can have a more permanent solution. Commissioner Gaskins stated that is a road we may need to look at for the TIA Project.

Richard Walker – Mr. Walker addressed the board about Bertha Robertson Rd. He stated there is a pipe that needs to be replaced. Water is running across is property. He wants something done about it.

### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:**

Brenda Ferrell –

- The Retreat is scheduled for April 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 at the Lodge
- Received an invoice from Ecker CPA, LLC for the FY 2022 year end audit in the amount of \$51,000.00. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. 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 Pixie Harrod. Meeting was adjourned.

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Chairman, Robert Griner

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Commissioner, Ronnie Gaskins

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Commissioner, Pixie Harrod

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Commissioner, Jimmy Parker

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Commissioner, John Nugent

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk

