

**REGULAR SESSION MEETING
BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 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, February 7, 2023, at 6:03 p.m. Members of the Board of Commissioners present were Commissioners Pixie Harrod, Ronnie Gaskin and Jimmy Parker. Commissioner John Nugent was absent.

Invocation: Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins

Pledge: Commissioner Pixie Harrod

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to approve the January 3, 2023 Regular Session Minutes seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to move the invited guest to the end of the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

INVITED GUEST: Jason Womack – Holy Land Farms – Mr. Womack informed the board of Holy Land Farms located on Firetower Rd. in Enigma. This will be a biblical retreat center. Some of the items that will be on the property are The Lord’s Cross; Chapel, Retreat Center, Amphitheater, Honey Fields, Yurts, RV Spaces, Boat Ramp, Pop’s Skeet Range and Fire Pit. Mr. Womack just wanted to let the board know what he was doing as the project moves forward.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION – ELECTIONS - Administration received a request from Melanie Ray, Supervisor of Elections, to purchase Poll Pad Printers. The poll pad allows the voter to quickly check-in, sign the voter oath and receive a voter card to enter the voting booth on election day. This process has become familiar, fast and efficient for poll workers and voters since the state rolled out the new statewide voting system in 2020. They are requesting to purchase three of the poll pad printers at the cost of \$1,935.00. Melanie Ray stated there is a possibility that the State will come out with a grant for these and we may be able to get a reimbursement at a later date. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

B. EQUIPMENT REPAIR – ADMINISTRATION BUILDING - Administration is requesting approval to repair UPS’s in the server room, purchase two racks and one wall mount. Currently the Admin Building is running off of one UPS which is an overload. This causes the servers to go out and have to reboot. We have one quote through our IT Company which is Virtual Guru in the amount of \$5,563.00. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

C. HEALTH DEPARTMENT MAINTENANCE – BUILDING

MAINTENANCE - Administration received a request from Buddy Stone to paint the trim around the outside of the Health Department and repair rotten wood around the building. He received one quote from Valdez Services in the amount of \$3,800.00. Only one quote was received as it is very hard to get anyone to give quotes on small jobs. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

D. TREE REMOVAL/STUMP GRINDING – AIRPORT

- Administration received a request from the Airport Authority to remove trees and grind stumps that FAA states are safety issues. Some of the trees are not on Berrien County property. This is not a budgeted item. Two quotes were received as follows:

<u>QUOTES:</u>	Cedar Hill Land Clearing, LLC	\$13,500.00
	Mad Beaver	\$15,500.00

Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to approve the quote from Cedar Hill for \$13,500.00, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

E. SPCC PLAN UPDATE AND WORKER TRAINING - AIRPORT

- Administration received a request from the Airport Authority Board to update the SPCC Plan and Worker Training. This is a requirement that has to be completed every five years. We have one quote from The Lynch Group, Inc. which is prepared the plan in the past for \$3,500.00. This is not a budgeted item. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

F. SOLID WASTE RFP AWARD

- Administration received two responses on the advertised RFP for operation of the Solid Waste Collection Site. Both candidates are in agreement with the RFP. The companies turning in a proposal was Rest EZ Country Waste Disposal and Golden Environmental. Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to award the Solid Waste Collection Site Contract to Golden Environmental, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

G. SPLOST RESOLUTIONS, NOTICE OF ELECTION,

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT - Administration is requesting the board approve two SPLOST Resolutions, a Notice of Election and an Intergovernmental Agreement between the county and the municipalities. All of the municipalities voted and approved the Intergovernmental Agreement. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve Resolution No: 23-003, A Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Berrien County, Georgia Imposing a County One Percent Sales and Use Tax as Authorized by Part 1 of Article 3 of Chapter 8 of Title 48 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, Specifying the Projects for which the Proceeds of Such Tax Are to be Used; Specifying the Period of Time for Which Such Tax Shall Be Imposed; Specifying the Estimated Cost of the Facilities to be Funded from the Proceeds of Such Tax; Requesting the Board of Elections to Call an Election of the Voters of Berrien County to Approve the Imposition of such Sales and Use Tax; Approving the Form of Ballot to be used in such an Election; and for other purposes, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve Resolution No: 23-004, A Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of Berrien County, Georgia Approving and Authorizing Execution, by the Chairman of the Berrien County

Board of Commissioners, of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the County and Municipalities of Berrien County Concerning a County One Percent Special Purpose Local Option Sales and Use Tax Enacted Pursuant to O.C.G.A. 48-8-110 ET SEQ.; Repealing Prior Resolutions in Conflict; and for Other Purposes, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for the Use and Distribution of Proceeds from the 2024 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax Capital Outlay Projects, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

H. FORESTRY KNOCKER – ALAPAHA - Administration received a request from Marc Mathis to swap the 86 model forestry knocker truck to a 2000 model. There is a \$1000.00 fee. Marc Mathis stated we approved three years ago for Forestry to be looking for a truck that meets our needs and it took this long for one to come available. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

I. 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 \$4,692.00. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

J. BEER, WINE, LIQUOR & CATERING APPLICATION – SAMUEL JAY ZAMARRIPA FAMILIA VINEYARDS, LLC D/B/A HORSE CREEK WINERY - Administration received an application for Beer, Wine, Liquor & Catering from Samuel Jay Zamarripa for Familia Vineyards, LLC d/b/a Horse Creek Winery. This needs to be advertised for two weeks. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

K. ROOF REPAIR – JAIL - Administration received a request from Buddy Stone, Maintenance, to repair a skylight at the Jail. One of the skylights needs to be repaired and then five will be resealed. He is requiring a \$1,000.00 deposit with the total cost being \$2,000.00. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

L. PIPE ORDER – ROAD DEPARTMENT - Administration received a request from Ben Warren, Public Works Director, to order pipe. They submitted one quote from WinSupply in the amount of \$5,015.00 and a second order from WinSupply in the amount of \$6,010.00. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

M. EQUIPMENT REPAIR (ICE MACHINE) – ROAD - Administration received a request to repair the ice machine at the Road Department. One quote was provided from DC Refrigeration in the amount of \$3,800.00, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

N. **RATIFICATION ITEMS** - Administration is requesting ratification on the following items:

GA Correctional (Road)	\$1,158.46
Harrod Brothers Irrigation (Road)	\$1,277.49
Four Start (Road)	\$1,439.46
Yancey Brothers (Road)	\$1,765.00
Yancey Brothers (Road)	\$2,075.90
Cowart Electric & Industrial Contractors (Jail)	\$1,951.61
Render Ad Service (Date Fund – Champs)	\$2,985.25
Reynolds Warren Equipment (Road)	\$1,079.78
Reynolds Warren Equipment (Road)	\$1,165.78

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

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS:

Sheriff Ray Paulk –

- With receiving some new vehicles this year, we have passed some of the old trucks to the Road Department and have a truck that we would like to transfer to the Magistrate for the Constable. The Board agreed to do that transfer.
- The Sheriff also presented pictures showing water damage to the jail lobby from a vending machine that had been leaking and going down under the tile. He provided a quote from Lakeland Floor Covering in the amount of \$3,137.50 to replace the flooring. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

Ben Warren –

- Asked if one of the Commissioners would meet him and look at Sand Ridge Ln. There is an issue there and would like for a commissioner to look at it. Chairman Griner will meet with him.

COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS:

Jimmy Parker – Thanked everyone for the prayers during his surgery and recovery.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Arel Valdez – Stated he bought 35 acres between Old Valdosta Hwy and Cecil and believes there is a beaver issue. The flooding is going to impact Meadow Brook. Ben Warren will go look at the area to see what can be done.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

Brenda Ferrell –

- Chamber Annual Banquet – February 21^s at Flat Creek Church
- Trauma Grant – EMS – This is a 100% reimbursable grant usually around \$3,000.00. Advised to proceed with the grant.

- There are aged EMS Accounts some are 20 years old. The auditors would like to know if we are going to continue to try to recover the amount owed or write it off. Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to write off \$455,311.52 of aged EMS accounts, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.
- The old maintenance truck needs to be declared as surplus. It has a blown motor as well as other issues and high mileage. It's a 2005 Chevrolet 2500 HD with the VIN # CBHC24U55E261724. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to declare the truck surplus and advertise to sale in paper for one week, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.
- Recreation Uniforms & Equipment – Quotes were provided. The Recreation Board approved equipment from R&S in the amount of \$4,779.80. They approved two local bids which were the same from each company of \$14.00 a shirt and \$9.00 per hat. Dixie will have baseball and Downtown will have softball and the hats. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.
- Cancellation of Debt – United States – This was an old RLF Loan that was paid off. They are requesting a Cancellation of Debt. Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to approve the Cancellation of Debt, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.
- Avigation Easements – County Attorney Jennifer Herzog stated she is working on these and will have them ready for next months' meeting.

ADJOURN

With no other business to come before the Board, Commissioner Pixie Harrod made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. Meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Chairman, Robert Griner

Commissioner, Ronnie Gaskins

Commissioner, Pixie Harrod

Commissioner, Jimmy Parker

ABSENT

Commissioner, John Nugent

ATTEST: _____
County Clerk

