

**REGULAR SESSION MEETING
BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JULY 11, 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, July 11, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. Members of the Board of Commissioners present were Commissioners Pixie Harrod, Ronnie Gaskin, John Nugent and Jimmy Parker.

Invocation: Commissioner Jimmy Parker

Pledge: Commissioner Pixie Harrod

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to approve the June 6, 2023 Regular Session Minutes, the June 6, 2023 Executive Session Minutes and the June 15, 2023 Special Call Meeting Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING: Singhway LLC Rezoning AU to RC – Grocery/Convenience Store – Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to move into public hearing at 6:01 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. Chairman Griner asked if anyone would like to speak for or against the rezoning request. Mr. Patel addressed the board about rezoning the property located at 15994 GA 125 Tifton, GA 31794 from AU to RC so he can put in a grocery/convenience store. No one else spoke for or against the request. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to go out of public hearing and move into regular session at 6:02 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

INVITED GUESTS:

- **Richard Walker – Bertha Robertson Rd.** – Mr. Walker addressed the board about the condition of his road. He stated that pipes need to be replaced and there are issues with the crop row and the drainage from the fields damaging the roads. Commissioner Harrod stated he went back 30 years and farmers have been farming the field he is referring to. Ben Warren, Public Works Director stated they have changed some pipes and there are three more that will be changed. He said there is one area that he can change the direction of the flow and will start on that Monday. Mr. Walker told Mr. Warren that he was not going to do it that way and how it needed to be done. Mr. Warren said that it will not be done that way. County Attorney, Jennifer Herzog, stated that the time limit to address the board has run out and that will need to move on with the meeting.
- **Chase Joiner** – asked the board for permission to start looking for a rescue truck. The board told him to get with Marc Mathis and Marc would start looking.
- **Cheryl Boyd** – Did not show up.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **REZONING APPLICATION – SINGHWAY LLC REZONING AU TO RC – GROCERY/CONVENIENCE STORE** - Administration received a request from the Planning Commission with an application for rezoning from Signhway LLC Rezoning

AU to RC. The property is located at 15994 GA 125 Tifton, GA 31794. The Planning Commission is recommending approval but with no gaming / gambling machines. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve the rezoning from AU to RC, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously

- B. AMENDED TERMS & CONDITIONS – AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE -** Administration is requesting the board approve Amended Terms & Conditions to the American Rescue Plan Act State Fiscal Recovery Fund Broadband Infrastructure Grant. Commissioner John Nugent made the motion to approve the Amended Terms & Conditions and authorize County Administrator, Brenda Ferrell, to electronically execute, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.
- C. 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 Health Diagnostics Web Shop in the amount of \$10,890.60.
- D. TENNATIVE ALLOCATION LETTER – AIRPORT -** Administration received notice from GDOT for tentative allocation for projects at the airport which total \$540,000.00. After the federal and state funding this will leave the county with a funding of \$30,000.00. We have to submit a letter stating the county intends to continue funding in this amount before we can move forward with these projects. Commissioner Parker made a motion to approve the Tennative Allocation Letter, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.
- E. PLOTTER ACQUISITION – TAX ASSESSOR -** Administration received a request from Greg Nimmo, Chief Appraiser, to purchase a new plotter. He provided two quotes. One is a purchase and one is a lease/purchase. He is requesting the purchase which is the cheaper quote.

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| <u>QUOTES:</u> | Virtual Guru - Purchase | \$2,695.00 |
| | Ashleys – Lease / Purchase | \$3,485.00 |

Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner John Nugent. The motion carried unanimously.

- F. SURPLUS VEHICLE -** Administration is requesting the board approve the only bid received on surplus vehicle 2012 Dodge Charger VIN # 2C3DXAT1CH305160. The vehicle was previously declared surplus. An advertisement was placed in Berrien Press requesting bids and we received one bid from Colton Register for \$300.00. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve the sale of the vehicle to Colton Register for \$300.00, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.
- G. EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION – LOCK – JAIL –** Administration received a request from Captain Addison to purchase a lock. He has one quote in the amount of \$2,420.00 from NDC. Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

H. ANIMAL CONTROL SHELTER - Administration received a request from Animal Control Officer, Jessica Stone, to get approval for have Don Weaver, who is doing community service work, provide materials and labor to add on to the existing shelter a 10X 50 open dog shelter and repair post bottoms on existing shelter. This is all community service and no charge to the county. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

I. UPDATED PERSONNEL POLICIES – Administration is requesting the board approve the updated personnel policies. This is something we have been working on revisions for about two years. Chairman Griner commended County Attorney Jennifer Herzog and County Administrator, Brenda Ferrell, for all their hard work in getting this project completed. Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

J. EQUIPMENT ACQUISTION – FIRE – Administration received a request from Fire Coordinator, Marc Mathis, to purchase miscellaneous equipment for the fire departments. All the equipment being purchased is needed to bring the departments in compliance for ISO. He provided two quotes.

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| Ten-8 | \$62,322.20 |
| Municipal Equipment Company, LLC | \$63,970.00 |

Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve the purchase from Ten-8 in the amount of \$62,322.20, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

K. EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION – FIRE – Administration received a request from Fire Coordinator, Marc Mathis, to purchase a radio and lights for Marc’s vehicle. He provided two quotes.

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| McLaggan Communications & Radar | \$5,676.00 |
| Two-Way Communication, LLC | \$5,809.00 |

Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve the purchase from McLaggan Communications & Radar in the amount of \$5,676.00, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

L. PIPE ORDER – ROAD – Administration received a request from the Road Department for pipe. They requested three quotes with only one replying. They are requesting approval from Tifton WinSupply in the amount of \$4,288.08. Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made the motion to approve the purchase, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

M. SIGN ORDER – ROAD – Administration received a request from the Road Department to purchase 50 stop signs. They provided one quote from GA Correctional Industries in the amount of \$2,321.50. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

N. **EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION – ROAD** – Administration received a request from the Shop to purchase an air compressor. Three quotes were provided.

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| NAPA Auto Parts | \$3,755.00 |
| Advanced Auto Parts | \$4,099.95 |
| O’Reilly | \$4,799.99 |

Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve the purchase from NAPA Auto Parts in the amount of \$3,755.00, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

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

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| Virtual Guru – Fire (Marc Mathis) | \$2,128.00 |
| Jernigan’s Farm Service & Supply – Animal Control | \$1,979.61 |
| TPH The Parts House – EMS | \$1,521.10 |
| Ten-8 – Fire | \$128,864.00 |

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

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS:

Ben Warren - Public Works -

- Requested two ties from The Tire Store in the amount of \$1,956.00. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made the motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.
- Presented a quote from Kingline to repair a tractor in the amount of \$13,152.39. Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to table this item, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod.
- Requested a 10 X 10 door. Quote was for labor, materials and installation from R&T Construction in the amount of \$1,915.00. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.
- Requested a 16 X 16 door. Quote was for labor, materials and installation from R&T Construction in the amount of \$4,700.00. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.
- Requested the board approve a wash pad. Two quotes were presented both showing a 4” pad and a 6” pad. The board was in agreement that it needs to be at least 6”. One quote was from Gary Weaver in the amount of \$4,250.00 and one from Concrete by Clark in the amount of \$4,500.00.
- Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to approve the quote from Gary Weaver for the 6” pad in the amount of \$4,250.00, seconded by Commissioner John Nugent. Commissioner Pixie Harrod and Commissioner Jimmy Parker were against it. Chairman Griner broke the tie with the award going to Gary Weaver in the amount of \$4,250.00.

- Requested a shelter be placed on the west side of the building. He provided one quote from R&T Construction with two sizes. One quote was for labor and materials to erect a 23 X 127 X 22’ HS and concrete in the amount of \$54,752.88 The other was for labor and materials to erect a 23 X 77 X 22’ HS and concrete in the amount of \$37,402.16. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve the 23 X 127 X 22’ in the amount of \$54,752.88 from R&T Construction, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS’ ITEMS:

Ronnie Gaskins – Said he seen a semi crossing over on the Alapaha-Lenox Hwy. He asked the Sheriff if they are writing tickets.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

Brenda Ferrell –

- GDOT is accepting the 2024 LMIG Applications. We need to be thinking of what projects we want to submit.
- Hunting Lease on Old Valdosta Hwy will be up September 1, 2023. Brenda Ferrell asked the board about advertising. They want to go ahead and advertise.
- Chamber Member Appreciation Lunch is Wednesday July 10th at 11:30 to 1:00 at the Nashville Community Center. All Commissioners are invited. Please let me know if you will be attending.

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 7:04 p.m..

Chairman, Robert Griner

Commissioner, Ronnie Gaskins

Commissioner, Pixie Harrod

Commissioner, Jimmy Parker

Commissioner, John Nugent

ATTEST: _____
County Clerk

