

**REGULAR SESSION MEETING  
BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2024  
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, January 2, 2024, 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 John Nugent

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to approve the December 5, 2023 Regular Session Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. NOMINATION OF 2024 CHAIRMAN/VICE CHAIRMAN FOR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS** – Chairman Griner asked for nominations for the 2024 Chairman and Vice Chairman for the County Commission Board. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made the motion to nominate Ronnie Gaskins as the Chairman, seconded by John Nugent. The motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to nominate Commissioner Pixie Harrod as Vice Chairman, seconded by Commissioner John Nugent. The motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins commended Commissioner Robert Griner on the outstanding job he has done for Berrien County over the last two years as Chairman and especially working on the TIA Projects.

**B. RESOLUTION TO SET QUALIFYING FEES** - 2024 is an election year for Board of Education and County Offices. 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 was presented with the following qualifying fees:

Board of Education (Districts 1, 3 & 6)	\$ 67.50
Board of Education (District 7)	\$ 72.00
County Commissioner	\$ 180.00
Clerk of Court	\$1,660.34
Sheriff	\$1,927.66
Tax Commissioner	\$1,660.34

Probate Court	\$1,660.34
Coroner	\$ 255.61

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

**C. DAMAGE ASSESSMENT TOOL – EMA** - Administration received a request from Sandy Mizell to purchase a Damage Assessment Tool. This tool would be a huge asset in times of a disaster. It can also be used as work orders for the Public Works Department to track maintenance on roads which is now going to be required in disaster situations. Two quotes are provided and EMA is requesting the approval on the Orion quote. Quotes were as follows:

Orion	\$4,850.00
Crisis Track	\$2,384.00 (3% increase annually after the 1 <sup>st</sup> year)

County Administrator stated that there is work to be done on either contract before actually approving. She requested the board table this item until details can be worked out. Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to table this item, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously

**D. EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION – TAX COMMISSIONER** - Administration received a request from Jason Nugent to purchase a shredder for his office. The lowest quote found was through Quill for \$2,177.99. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve the shredder purchase from Quill, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.

**E. UNIFORM ACQUISITION – RECREATION** - Administration received a request from Joe Barkman to purchase basketball uniforms using two local vendors. The cost will be \$14.50 per shirt. He is requesting the girls’ shirts be purchased from Dixie Sales and the boys’ shirts from Downtown Dogwood. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

**F. AIRFIELD LIGHTING & SIGNAGE PROJECT** - Administration received notification from Passero that the project local match for this project could increase. Originally the county commitment to a local match of \$25,000.00. Due to the increase in materials they feel that this project, once advertised for bid, will come in at a high rate with a local matching running about \$60,000.00. I would like to get board to decide if they want to move forward with the project. There is no commitment to this cost at this time. They will advertise the bid and then the project would come back before the board for approval. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made the motion to move forward with bidding the project, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

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

L&T, Inc. – Airport	\$3,335.01
Nashville Ford – EMS	\$2,324.68
West Plumbing & Electrical – Airport	\$2,695.00

Jeff Royals – Airport	\$5,500.00
Robinson and Son Construction – Airport	\$3,000.00
A&P Drywall – Airport	\$2,000.00
Milltown Paving Company, LLC – Road	\$14,775.00
Robinson and Son Construction – Airport	\$2,483.43
Will Insulation Company - Airport	\$3,889.00
Robinson and Son Construction – Airport	\$3,000.00

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

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS:**

Marc Mathis –

- Was notified that the Town of Enigma may lose their volunteer firefighters. He has a short-term plan in place if that happens.

Arel Valdez –

- The Tag Reader Cameras that were approved last month for \$23,000.00 was ordered. There was a misunderstanding and the cost is actually \$29,000.00. We are coming before the board to get approve on the increased cost. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.

**COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS:**

Ronnie Gaskins –

- Thanked Commissioner Robert Griner for all his work as Chairman. He stated all our board members work good together and wants to see that continue.
- Chairman Gaskins asked the board their thoughts on using an engineering group out of Douglas on a paving project and compare them with Watkins & Associates. Commissioner Pixie Harrod stated he is satisfied with Watkins & Associates work but if we try them then we need to also try . Commissioner Jimmy Parker stated he is satisfied with their work.

Jimmy Parker –

- Thanked Commissioner Robert Griner for all he has done as Chairman and for Berrien County.

Pixie Harrod –

- Thanked Commissioner Robert Griner for all he has done. He helped bring in a lot of money to Berrien County with the TIA.
- Wanted to state that the City of Nashville and Berrien County are working very well together and wanted to let everyone know that they did not charge the county to hook the new recreation building to city sewer and water.

Robert Griner –

- The FBO at the airport is almost complete. They are waiting on a countertop and putting flooring down.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

James Luke – Spoke about the road, Turtle Dove Ln, only being 30 ft. Wants to know when the surveyor will be out there to remove stakes and make sure that road is no more than 30 ft. The board stated that would get with the survey. He also stated that the railroad did some maintenance and left cross-ties in the creek. Commissioner Robert Griner will contact the railroad company.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:**

Brenda Ferrell –

- Presented a purchase order from Nashville Ford for a filter for the ambulance. This is part of the repairs that were approved last month, \$4,627.20. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.
- EMS is in need of a washing machine. They provided two quotes as follows:  
     Badcock \$1,249.95  
     Farmers \$1,499.99

Commissioner Robert Griner made a motion to approve the purchase from Badcock for \$1,249.95, 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 Pixie Harrod. Meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m..

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Chairman, Ronnie Gaskins

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Commissioner, Robert Griner

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Commissioner, Pixie Harrod

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Commissioner, Jimmy Parker

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Commissioner, John Nugent

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

