

**REGULAR SESSION MEETING
BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2021
6:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman, Ronnie Gaskins called the regular session meeting of the Berrien County Board of Commissioners to order on Tuesday, January 5, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. Members of the Board of Commissioners present were Pixie Harrod, Jimmy Parker, Robert Griner and John Nugent.

Invocation: Commissioner Jimmy Parker

Pledge: Commissioner John Nugent

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve the November 3, 2020 Regular Session Minutes and the November 3, 2020 Executive Session Minutes, seconded by Commissioner John Nugent. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. NOMINATION OF 2021 CHAIRMAN/VICE CHAIRMAN FOR BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS - Nominations for the 2021 Chairman and Vice Chairman for Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to appoint Jimmy Parker as Chairman, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to appoint Robert Griner as Vice Chairman, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Regional Transit System - Administration received a request from South GA Regional Commission requesting us to withdraw our individual transit application and opt to go with the regional transit system. We have a letter to submit as well as a resolution that needs to be adopted. At this time, they would operate it as we do now with no local match. Corey Hull from the Southern Georgia Regional Commission was at the meeting to explain the program and answer any questions. Commissioner Harrod asked if our service would stay the same. Mr. Hull said that he hoped it would and even increase in sufficiency of the service. They also stated that there should not be a need for a local contribution. They intend to run it the same as it operates now. There were questions about or existing grant. Commissioner Harrod stated that we are operating fine the way it is and is not in favor of changing. Commissioner John Nugent made a motion to deny the Opt In with the Southern Georgia Regional Commissioner, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously. Jennifer Herzog, County Attorney, stated she wants to clarify for the minutes that we are going to opt out of the Regional Transit System. The Board stated that is correct, we are opting out.

C. Equipment Acquisition – Fire Departments - Administration received a request from Marc Mathis is purchase 8 pagers. Two quotes were provided.

<u>QUOTES:</u>	Mobile Communications	\$3,000.00
	RCE	\$3,372.00

Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to approve the purchase through Mobile Communications for \$3,000.00, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Vehicle Acquisition – Fire Coordinator - Administration received a request from Marc Mathis to have the trucks is acquire a F250 Pick-up through GA Forestry. There would be no cost to the county to receive the vehicle. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve the vehicle through Forestry, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Pump Tests – Fire Departments – Administration received a request from Marc Mathis to have 11 receive the complete annual fire apparatus pump service test. Only one quote was provided from First in Services, LLC in the amount of 2,750.00. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made the motion to approve the test through First in Services, LLC in the amount of \$2,750.00, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins.

F. Board of Assessors Reappointment & Resolution – Administration received a request from Greg Nimmo, Chief Assessor, to reappoint Barry McMillan to the Board of Assessors for a 3-year term which will expire December 31, 2023. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion reappoint Barry McMillan for a 3-year term and to approve the Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.

G. Agreement for Geographic Information System Services with SGRC - Administration received from Greg Nimmo to renew our Agreement with SGRD on the Geographic Information System Services. This is an annual agreement and the cost is in the budget. Commissioner Robert Griner made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

H. Board Appointment – Development Authority - Administration received a request from Lisa Smart requesting Berrien County Board of Commissioners to appoint Hayden Hancock to fill the unexpired term of Charles Blewett. Commissioner Robert Griner made a motion to appoint Hayden Hancock to the Development Authority Board, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

I. Memorandum of Understanding – GA Dept of Public Health - Administration received a request from GA Department of Public Health requesting a site to utilize in an emergency event, including natural disasters, man-made disasters or bioterrorism, that may lead to a request of assets from the SNS, Berrien County Board of Health which has the responsibility to operate a point of distribution operation in Berrien County that would receive, store and distribute medical countermeasures to the public. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with GA Department of Public Health, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

J. Walk-in Cooler Refrigeration System Repair – Jail - Administration received quotes to repair a walk-in cooler refrigeration system at the jail.

QUOTES:	Cain’s Refrigeration Company	\$8,650.00
	Ray & Son	\$6,257.00
	West Heating & Air	\$5,700.00

Sheriff Paulk stated the cooler has been patched several times before and has been there for 16 years and it needs to be repaired and not patched. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve the repair using West Heating & Air in the amount of \$5,700.00, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.

K. Professional Engineering Services Agreement – Watkins & Associates - Administration received a request from Watkins & Associates to enter into a Professional Engineering Services Agreement. This is for the 2020 TIA Road Resurfacing & Widening Project which is Lenox-Alapaha Hwy and Coy Hancock Rd. County Administrator, Brenda Ferrell, stated that this is the paid from the 100% TIA Funds. Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to approve the Engineering Agreement with Watkins & Associates, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.

L. Beer, Wine, Liquor & Catering License Applications – 2021 – County Administrator, Brenda Ferrell, sent out applications for the 2021 Beer, Wine, Liquor & Catering License Renewals. We received five applications. Advertisement was in the paper for two weeks and a letter was received from the Sheriff with no complaints on applicants’ businesses. Chairman Gaskins approved the license due to the fact we did not have a meeting in December due to Covid.

Applicants:	Horse Creek Winery
	The Whiskey Barrel
	Walker Drive Inn / Walker Packaging
	New River Package Store
	New River Lounge

Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to ratify the license as stated, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously

M. Solid Waste License – 2021 - Administration sent out applications for the 2021 Solid Waste License Renewals. We received four requests for renewals. Chairman Gaskins approved the license due to the fact we did not have a meeting in December due to Covid.

Applicants:	Greenway Services, Inc.
	Golden Environmental
	Advanced Disposal
	Rest EZ Country Waste Disposal

Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to ratify the license as stated, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

N. Equipment Upgrade - Airport - Administration is requesting the board consider upgrading the fuel system at the airport. We only received one quote. The fuel system has been down for approximately six weeks. We need to get it up and running as soon as possible.

QUOTE: L&T, Inc. \$13,630.90

Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

O. Workers' Comp Insurance Renewal - Administration received a request from Hayden Hancock to bid on the Worker's Comp Insurance. It automatically renews with ACCG. I have quotes from both for review.

<u>QUOTE:</u>	Travelers	\$150,000.00
	ACCG	\$169,453.00
	Dividend	- \$ 34,483.00
	TOTAL	\$134,970.00

Commissioner Robert Griner made a motion to approve the renewal with ACCG, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

P. Radio System Design Services Agreement – Williams Communications, Inc. - Administration received a Radio Systems Design Services Agreement from Williams Communications, Inc. County Attorney, Jennifer Herzog, requested a few changes to better protect Berrien County. They were not willing to go along with all of those. County Attorney, Jennifer Herzog, made sure the Board knew that only some of the changes were made. They are protecting themselves; they limited our remedies if an issue arises. Commissioner Harrod asked if this binds us to anything. County Attorney, Jennifer Herzog, stated yes it does. It binds us to have them, Williams Communications, to perform a preliminary engineering report at no cost to the county. James Watson stated this would upgrade to a digital system to megahertz. We are on an analog VHS and this would be digital. Commissioner Robert Griner made a motion to approve the Radio System Design Services Agreement with Williams Communications, Inc., seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

Q. Right-of-Way Mowing – Road – Discussion - Administration Received a request for discussion on the mowing of rights-of-way. Commissioner Gaskins requested a few quotes from private contractors. This pass year we only mowed two times. He said he thought it would be good to just look at the figures to see where we are. Commissioner Gaskins asked to there would be a possibility of giving up two positions to use that money to pay for the contracted mowing. There was discussion on the use of the tractors when it is not mowing season as well as other job duties the mowers do. No action was taken.

R. Ratification Items - Administration is requesting ratification on the following items:

R&S Sports – Recreation	\$1,554.00
R&S Sports – Recreation	\$2,291.91
Harrod Brothers Irrigation – Road	\$1,701.80
Rush Truck Center – Road	\$2,300.00

Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to ratify the items listed, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS: James Watson, East Berrien Fire Department, asked the board for direction on their 1987 front mount pumper truck. Something in the gear box is broken. We are looking at approximately \$1,000.00 to tear it apart to see what is wrong. Repairs could be anywhere from \$2,000.00 to \$10,000.00. It has a 2500 gallon tank on it and could be used on another truck if the board wanted to purchase a truck instead of fixing it. Commissioner Pixie Harrod asked them to get a price on a new gear box and bring that back to us. No action was taken.

COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS:

Ronnie Gaskins –

- Commissioner Gaskins asked the board about getting the beaver trapper to come back. He also said he did more locations that he was supposed to. Commissioner Griner said that Ben Warren, Road Superintendent, said it was working out. The Board asked that we find out how many beavers were trapped.

Pixie Harrod –

- We are still having issues with the salvage yard on Ray City Highway. Code Enforcement will be contacted.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No comments.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

Brenda Ferrell –

- FCCRA Deadline expired December 31, 2020. This is the policy that stated we are required to pay our employees who are quarantined or out of work due to COVID. County Administrator, Brenda Ferrell, asked the board how they want to move forward. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to continue a policy just like the FCCRA through March 31, 2021, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.
- Marc Mathis requested the board approve purchasing fire hose from Cook County. They have 2300 feet of hosing for \$2,300.00 and fittings for \$1200.00 for a total of \$3,500.00. Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to approve the purchase, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.

- A request to purchase drug court supplies was received today before the meeting. The request was to purchase supplies from Siemens Healthcare in the amount of \$1,285.50. Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.
- Third Party Questionnaires were distributed. This is a form the auditors request as part of our annual audit.

ADJOURN

With no other business to come before the Board, Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. Meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Chairman, Ronnie Gaskins

Commissioner, Jimmy Parker

Commissioner, Pixie Harrod

Commissioner, Robert Griner

Commissioner, John Nugent

ATTEST: _____
County Clerk