

**REGULAR SESSION MEETING  
BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2019  
6:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chairman, Pixie Harrod called the regular session meeting of the Berrien County Board of Commissioners to order on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. Members of the Board of Commissioners present were, Commissioners Robert Griner, Jimmy Parker, John Nugent and Ronnie Gaskins

**Invocation:** Commissioner Jimmy Parker

**Pledge:** Commissioner Pixie Harrod

Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to amend the agenda and move Item A on the agenda to discuss at this time, seconded by Commissioner John Nugent. The motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Commissioner John Nugent made the motion to approve the December 4, 2018 Regular Session Minutes, the December 4, 2018 Executive Session Minutes, the December 19, 2018 Special Called Meeting Minutes and the December 27, 2018 Special Called Meeting Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

**INVITED GUESTS:**

**Blair Joiner** – Forestry Update – Mr. Joiner gave an update of the services they provided to Berrien County during 2018. The Board thanked Mr. Joiner and his forestry team for the work they do for Berrien County.

**Eugene Warren/Bobby Jones – Mudd Creek Rd. & Skeet Range Rd.** – Mr. Jones and Mr. Warren addressed the board about flooding in areas Mudd Creek Rd and Skeet Range Rd. They feel that larger pipe and more pipe will help resolve this problem. The Board is looking into the issues and will try to get some additional pipes placed on the roads.

**Vernon Hughes – Earlie Gaskins Rd.** – Mr. Hughes addressed the board about paving Earlie Gaskins Rd. He pastors Temple Church and stated that Earlie Gaskins Rd. and Guthrie Church Rd, are the only two roads in the county with churches on them that have not been paved. He stated they cancelled church several times due to the road being closed. He also suggested to the board that the Road Department do routine maintenance on the roads when it is dry and bring some of the low areas up; as he feels this will help during the wet times.

**Melanie Ray/Elections Board – Office** – Melanie Ray, Supervisor of Elections and Elliott Garner, Chairman of Elections addressed the Board about moving the election office back to where the election office use to be, Room 146. This request is a result of some suggestions from Homeland Security. There will be minimal cost to do this. Commissioner John Nugent made a motion to move the Election Office back to the original office space, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

**Marc Mathis – Fire Departments** – Mr. Mathis addressed the Board about concerns on turn out gear. They have a 10-year limit and the county needs 34 sets. The Board advised him to get three bids and turn them in to be put on the agenda. He also addressed the Board about Enigma Fire Department needing a pumper truck. Pump tests were completed on all the firetrucks that were purchased from Lancaster County and they failed. The valves need to be repaired. The Board advised him to get bids. He informed the Board that there are a few issues with a couple of the new stations which is not showing some of the residents within the 5 mile radius. These are citizens who live basically right next to the station. He is currently working with ISO to try to get this resolved.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Nomination of 2019 Chairman/Vice Chairman For Board of Commissioners**

- Commissioner John Nugent made a motion to appoint Commissioner Pixie Harrod as Chairman, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Robert Griner made a motion to appoint Commissioner John Nugent as Vice Chairman, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

**B. Office Space/Internet – Recreation** - Administration is requesting discussion on office space and internet service for the Recreation Department. Jennifer Cole, Recreation Director, is requesting the Board’s approval to set up office space at the fields for Assistant Director, Joe Barkman and Field Supervisor, Logan Sumner. There is not office space at the YES Center to accommodate and both positions need an office and access to internet. GRPA is requiring any county who holds tournaments to have internet capable of live streaming. Quotes are provided through Windstream and Mediacom. Commissioner Robert Griner suggested checking with the school to see if we can run a booster from their fiber that would provide the service. No Action was taken.

**C. Trees – Administration Building** - Administration is requesting discussion on the trees located at the Administration Office. The trees that are located in the islands at the Administration Building hang way down and hit cars and obstruct the view if cars are passing. We have cut those trees back many times. There is concern of the root system growing and busting the asphalt. Trees block the views exiting the parking lot. Some of the trees need to be trimmed way back so they do not get into the utility lines. Brad Warren provided a quote of \$1,300 to remove 8 trees and grind the stumps and trim 9 remaining trees back. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to approve the bid provided by Brad Warren, seconded by Commissioner John Nugent. The motion carried unanimously.

**D. Board of Assessors Reappointment** – Administration received a request from Greg Nimmo, Chief Assessor, to reappoint Carlos Vickers to the Board of Assessor for a 3-year term which will expire December 31, 2021. There is a Resolution that goes along with this appointment that will need to be executed. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to reappoint Carlos Vickers to the Board of Assessor for a 3-year term ending December 31, 2021 and execute the Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Cherokee Culvert (Road)	\$4,503.40
Cherokee Culvert (Road)	\$3,336.40
GA Forestry Commission (Nashville FD)	\$3,238.00
Airport GL Insurance Renewal – Starr Companies (Houston & Company)	\$1,292.00

Commissioner John Nugent made a motion to ratify the purchases as listed, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS:**

Ben Warren – It is wet. We are doing all we can do. There are 53 spots on roads that we are trying to take care of. We have put out 600 tons of rock.

Jennifer Cole, Recreation Director – Mrs. Cole addressed the board about T-Ball Fields. The Rotary Club is paying for two entire fields. The County will have to supply a safety fence. She just wanted to make sure with the Board that they have the approval to move forward with this project and that the County will put up the safety fence. The Board gave approval.

Commissioner Robert Griner stated it is nice of the Rotary Club to do that and in the past King Bridges was a member of it and the County paid for the dues. He stated he would like to see this happen again. Ms. Cole stated that they have asked her to join and she also asked the Board to consider paying the dues. She also stated that the Rotary is a big sponsor of the Recreation Department and they put on the Turkey Bowl every year. Chairman Harrod said this was discussed one time before and we were not going to pay the dues. Commissioner Robert Griner made motion to pay for the dues for Jennifer Cole to join the Rotary Club, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

**COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS:**

All Commissioners welcomed newly elected Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins to the board. Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins thanked the Board and County Administrator for welcoming him.

Pixie Harrod – Said he received a call from a citizen thanking the Road Department for being by their house on Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. grading the roads. They really appreciate what they did.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Barbara Joiner – Stated that Commissioner Griner is the Commissioner in her District. She has complained about her road and the surrounding roads in her area and nothing is being done. She wants to know why they cannot get their roads up to standard. There were also complaints about equipment being used in areas that it should not be. Ms. Joiner asked for an Executive Session for a personnel item. County Attorney advised her that she cannot request an Executive Session. The Chairman advised her that she can turn over her complaint to County Administrator, Brenda Ferrell, and they will look into it.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:**

Brenda Ferrell –

- Chamber Annual Banquet is Tuesday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at Camp Tygart.
- Jail Inspection – The Sheriff invited the board to come walk through the Jail and do an inspection. The board decided on January 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Regional Commission Board Appointment – The Chairman serves in this capacity. If he

wishes he can appoint another elected official. Chairman Harrod appointed Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins to the Southern GA Regional Commission Board.

- There is a Capitol Connection Conference in Atlanta on February 27 and 28<sup>th</sup>. Please let me know if you are interested in attending.
- The Sheriff Department was able to secure a surplus government vehicle with 56,000 miles. County Administrator suggested placing this vehicle at the Road Department.

**ADJOURN**

With no other business to come before the Board, Commissioner Jimmy Parker made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner John Nugent. Meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

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Chairman, Pixie Harrod

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Commissioner, John Nugent

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Commissioner, Jimmy Parker

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Commissioner, Robert Griner

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Commissioner, Ronnie Gaskins

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