

**REGULAR SESSION MEETING  
BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2019  
6:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman, Pixie Harrod called the regular session meeting of the Berrien County Board of Commissioners to order on Tuesday, February 5, 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 Robert Griner

**Pledge:** Commissioner Jimmy Parker

Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to amend the agenda and move Items F & G on the agenda to discuss with unfinished business, seconded by Commissioner John Nugent. The motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Commissioner John Nugent made the motion to approve the January 8, 2019 Regular Session Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

**INVITED GUESTS:**

**John W. Strickland, Jr.** – Superior Court Judge’s Supplements – Mr. Strickland addressed the about giving the superior court judges compensation supplements. He stated the Alapaha Judicial System is the only system that does not compensate the judges with some type of supplement. He distributed to the board a Judicial, District Attorney and Circuit Public Defender Compensation Commission Report.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**A. Office Space/Internet – Recreation** – Administration is requesting discussion on office space and internet service for the Recreation Department. The Board stated we have this worked out. There was no discussion.

**F. Equipment Acquisition – Recreation** – Administration received a request from Jennifer Cole, Recreation Director, to purchase baseball/softball equipment. Three quotes were provided and she is requesting the purchase from R&S Sports in the amount of \$5,764.35. Quotes attached. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to approve the purchase from R&S Sports in the amount of \$5,764.35, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.

**G. Uniform Purchase – Recreation** – Administration received a request from Jennifer Cole, Recreation Director, to purchase baseball/softball uniforms. Three quotes were provided. She is requesting baseball, nine year olds and up, and all hats purchased from R&S Sports, T-Ball and Coach Pitch Baseball and all Softball from Dixie Sales & Graphics. Quotes attached. Commissioner John Nugent made a motion to purchase as requested, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. **Variance – Michael Warren** – Administration received a request from the Planning Commission requesting a variance for Michael Warren. Mr. Michael Warren is in need of a variance from the lot width of his gifted two acres. Mr. Warren’s gift is unique as it was comprised of one acre from each adjoining family member. The measurements were the best that could be done in order to leave the two remaining (mother) parcels compliant. Mr. Warren needs a variance of 33 feet. The property is located on Shady Tree Circle. The Planning Commission is recommending approval. Commissioner John Nugent made a motion to approve the variance request for Mr. Michael Warren, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.

B. **Special Care Giver Application – Margaret Crews** – Administration received a request from the Planning Commission requesting a Special Care Giver Exception for Ms. Margaret Crews. Property is located at 1594 Avery Mill Rd. The Planning Commission is recommending approval. Commissioner John Nugent made a motion to approve the Special Care Giver Application for Ms. Margaret Crews, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

C. **Drug Court Offices – Drug Court Staff** – Administration received a request from Judge Howard McClain, Judge Clay Tomlinson and Heather Conyers, ACDC Coordinator, to move their small shared office from upstairs by the courtroom to the offices where Elections recently moved from. Heather Conyers was present to answer any questions the board had. Chairman Pixie Harrod stated he does not have a problem with it as long as they know if we need those offices back for county offices then they would have to move out of them. Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to approve the office move, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.

D. **Drug Testing Supplies – Drug Court** – Administration received a request to purchase drug testing supplies. They order these online with this being the only quote. Commissioner John Nugent made a motion to purchase the supplies from Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics Web Shop in the amount of \$2,810.00, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.

E. **Light Acquisition – Jail** - Administration received a request from Sheriff Ray Paulk to purchase the lights needed at the jail. The lights recommended are estimated to cost \$16,000.00 to \$17,000.00 and that does not include the bulbs. We are looking at about \$20,000.00 with the bulbs. This can be funded through the Jail Fund. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner John Nugent. The motion carried unanimously.

F & G Listed above

H. **Equipment Acquisition – Sheriff** – Administration received a request from Sheriff Ray Paulk to purchase bullet proof vests. He was awarded a 50/50 grant. The cost of the vests total \$4,709.25. We will receive grant funds approximately in the amount of \$2,354.62. This is a budgeted expenditure.

I. **Umbrella Policy – Administration** - Administration received a quote for umbrella insurance as an additional coverage for our general liability insurance. Houston & Company provides this insurance for us and also provided a quote with three different limit amounts. Quotes were:

**Houston & Company**

\$20,927 for \$1,000,000/\$1,000,000 limits

\$35,168 for \$3,000,000/\$3,000,000 limits

\$41,505 for \$5,000,000/\$5,000,000 limits

Hayden Hancock, Houston & Company, explained what the umbrella insurance would do for the county and the benefits of having it. Commissioner Robert Griner made a motion to table this item, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Cherokee Culvert (Road)	\$6,292.00
Cherokee Culvert (Road)	\$2,144.00
Southeastern Commercial Tire	\$1,100.00

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

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS:**

Ben Warren – We have had rain at least one day a week for the last 12 weeks. We are still very wet. We have the grubbing complete on the CDBG Project.

**COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS:**

Robert Griner – asked Ben Warren what we are currently paying for the beaver removal. He said \$60.00 a beaver. Commissioner Griner asked if we were not paying \$20.00 when we first started this. He said we were using a different company.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- **Gene and Faye Warren** – Spoke about work done on their road but more still needs to be done. She said please don't forget them.
- **Amanda Predes** – She spoke about Shiloh Rd. A lot of work has been done but it continues to get worse. The board will try a few more rocks to see if that will help. Commissioner Griner stated years ago the previous boards would accept roads in low places. Shiloh Rd is in a low area.
- **Maria** – She stated she has a handicapped child and cannot get care because they cannot get down the road.
- **Sherry Deckie** – She expressed concerned about her father's road. She said right on the corner as you turn on Shiloh Rd is a bad area. Her father has discussed this with Ben

Warren in the past. She said the road needs to be packed. She also asked about fabric being placed down before rocks were placed on it. A pipe needs to be placed to divert the water. It's a matter of health and safety.

- **Mary Daniels** – Husband Jasper Daniels could not go to church. They cannot get to medical appointments.

Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins asked if there are any types of emergency grant monies that we can apply for. We need to ask Angie Rutland to check on this.

### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:**

#### **Brenda Ferrell** –

- Capitol Connection Conference in Atlanta on February 27th & 28th.
- Set date to ride the roads – The Board would like to do this early in March.
- Set date for retreat in April
- Striping Funds – received notification that we will receive a small amount of striping money for two roads very soon. Berrien County will receive approximately 65 miles of striping in 2020 which will be 100% DOT funded.
- ACCG Conference is April 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>. I need to know who will be attending so reservations can be made.
- Comprehensive Plan Update Meeting is scheduled for March 7<sup>th</sup>. A public hearing will be held on March 5<sup>th</sup> at our regular board meeting. We have an agreement from Southern GA Regional Commissioner for their services. The cost will be \$8,000.00 and should be shared between the county and the municipalities. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to give the Chairman authority to sign this agreement when all the details are worked out, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.
- Postage Meter – the postage meter broke. It is obsolete and cannot get parts. Two quotes were provided. Ashley's cost was \$300.25 monthly and Pitney Bowes was \$316.08 monthly. Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to approve the postage machine through Ashley's, seconded by Commissioner John Nugent. The motion carried unanimously.
- Administration received a request from Greenway to amend their Solid Waste License. Chaparral is having problems and would like Greenway to haul their cardboard. He is asking for the amendment because he would like to haul the cardboard to Atkinson County since it is closer and the fees for that are the same at both landfills. He is willing to pay the extra tonnage. We have checked with the City to make sure that there would be no conflicts with their agreement with Advanced Disposal. The City of Nashville stated that it would be ok and would not violate their contract. Commissioner Robert Griner made a motion to amend the Solid Waste License for Greenway, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to move into executive session for personnel at 6:46 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. Commissioner Robert Griner made a motion to move out of executive session and into regular session at 7:52 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.