

**REGULAR SESSION MEETING  
BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021  
6:00 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman, Jimmy Parker called the regular session meeting of the Berrien County Board of Commissioners to order on Tuesday, March 2, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. Members of the Board of Commissioners present were Pixie Harrod, Ronnie Gaskins, Robert Griner and John Nugent.

**Invocation:** Commissioner Robert Griner

**Pledge:** Commissioner Pixie Harrod

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve the February 2, 2021 Regular Session Minutes, the February 2, 2021 Executive Session Minutes and the February 8, 2021 Special Called Meeting Minutes, seconded by Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.

**INVITED GUEST:** Tammy Owens – Ms. Owens did not show up to the meeting.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to move into public hearing at 6:01 p.m., seconded by Commissioner John Nugent. Chairman Parker stated that the public hearing was for Special Exception Rural Home Occupation – Gunsmith in AU requested by Darron Lanier and Special Exception Rural Home Occupation – Gunsmith in R1 requested by Charlie Barnes. No one present spoke for or against Mr. Lanier’s request. Amanda Thacker, Planning Commission, stated that she had one call about Mr. Barnes request and stated she had no problems with the business but concerns with shooting and testing. Mr. Barnes was present to address any concerns.

Commissioner Robert Griner made a motion to move out of public hearing at 6:03 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod.

Commissioner Robert Griner made a motion to approve both Special Exceptions, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. **Special Exception Rural Home Occupation Gunsmith in AU – Darron Lanier**  
– This item was addressed and noted with Public Hearing.
  
- B. **Special Exception Rural Home Occupation Gunsmith in R1 – Charlie Barnes**  
- This item was addressed and noted with Public Hearing.
  
- C. **Auditor Discussion** – Administration received notification that Meeks CPA, LLP will no longer be doing governmental auditing. Tony Eckler is starting anew firm, Eckler CPA, LLC and would like to continue serving Berrien County.

Annual audits will cost approximately \$45,000 to \$50,000 per year which is in line with what we current pay. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion for Eckler CPA, LLC to perform our annual audits, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

- D. **Conflict of Interest Ordinance** – Administration received notification that Meeks CPA, LLP that we need to have a Conflict of Interest Policy. County Attorney, Jennifer Herzog, provided an Ordinance that will meet this requirement. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to adopt the ordinance as presented, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.
- E. **Firefighter Property Program (FFP) Cooperative Equipment Agreement and Procedures – GA Forestry Commission** – Administration received a request from Marc Mathis to enter into the Firefighter Property Program (FFP) Cooperative Equipment Agreement and Procedures Georgia Forestry Commission Fire/Emergency Services Entity State of Georgia. This agreement allows Forestry to search for surplus property for the county. James Sirmans, Forestry, was present and stated that the only change was there now will be a \$100.00 fee for non-titled items and a \$200.00 fee for titled items. Commissioner John Nugent made a motion to approve the agreement, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.
- F. **Equipment Acquisition** – Nashville Fire Department – Administration received quotes for purchasing miscellaneous equipment through the Forestry Grant. That grant was previously approved by the Board. It is a 50/50 reimbursable grant. They provided four quotes. They are asking approval from NAFECO. Clay Davis, Chief, was present to go over the bids and answer any questions.

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|----------|-------------|
| Vitco    | \$9,174.50  |
| NAFECO   | \$9,718.00  |
| Fireline | \$10,402.00 |
| Ten-8    | \$11,573.88 |

Commissioner Robert Griner made a motion to approve the purchase from NAFECO in the amount of \$9,718.00, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

- G. **Equipment Acquisition** – Alapaha Fire Department – Administration received quotes for purchasing miscellaneous equipment through the Forestry Grant. That grant was previously approved by the Board. It is a 50/50 reimbursable grant. They provided three quotes. They are asking approval from Ten-8. Marc Mathis, Chief, was present to go over the bids and answer any questions. He sated the two lower quotes did not have all items.

|                     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Ten-8               | \$9,050.51 (Two Quotes) |
| NAFECO              | \$8,934.00              |
| Municipal Equipment | \$4,735.00              |

Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve the purchase from Ten-8 in the amount of \$9,050.51, seconded by Commissioner John Nugent. The motion carried unanimously.

**H.** Fire Chief Appointment – NLFD – Administration is requesting appointment of a Fire Chief for New Lois Fire Department. There were three candidates. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to appoint Chase Joiner as New Lois Fire Department Chief, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

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

|                                 |                                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Red Bud - Road                  | \$1,100.00                      |
| Yancey Brothers – Road          | \$6,844.56                      |
| Yancey Brothers – Road          | \$1,940.80                      |
| Dixie Sales – SB Uniforms – Rec | \$13.50 ea                      |
| Arrow Screen Printing – BB      | \$13.65 Shirts & \$8.40 hats ea |
| GA Forestry – Truck – Alapaha   | \$12,983.00                     |
| Trane – Admin Building          | \$1,669.63                      |
| Best Drive Tire – Road          | \$3,009.16                      |
| A&S Equipment Rental – TSPLOST  | \$1,647.20                      |
| A&S Equipment Rental – TSPLOST  | \$1,640.20                      |
| A&S Equipment Rental – TSPLOST  | \$1,640.20                      |

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

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS:** Ben Warren – Public Works Director – stated he has ordered and put out 30 to 40 loads of rock due to all the rain. He said they are working hard and still will need to order more rock.

**COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS:**

Jimmy Parker – Cow show is next week. Asking for a \$50.00 donation from each Commissioner. This is a personal donation and not county funds.

Robert Griner –

- Received a call from Ms. Jackson Moore who stated they would like to pay for rock/fabric or asphalt millings to be placed on Moore Rd to their driveway. She stated they would pay for it if the county will put it down. It was suggested to contact Adam Houston to see if they would like to pay for the remainder of the road to have millings put down which will take it to their property. Commissioner Robert Griner made a motion to approve the materials being placed down provided owners pay the cost, the county will cover the labor, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.
- There are several locations that need to be addressed with old cars, junk, etc. Chairman Parker stated that he spoke with Dennis Adams, Code Enforcement, today and Dennis said that due to Magistrate not holding court due to COVID he has not been able to do

anything other than go talk to the individuals. He spoke with the Magistrate Judge and they have worked something out and will now be able to move forward with citations.

Pixie Harrod –

- Commissioner Harrod asked if there is anything, they can do to stop the trailer company on Ray City Highway from loading trailers on the road. There are concerns of an accident. The Sheriff stated that he and Major Valdez visited the owners of the company and addressed concerns of the employees crossing the road. The Sheriff was not aware of them loading trailers in the road but certainly can address it and asked that if someone sees them doing it to contact him and they will send a deputy to the location.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Luana Beggs – Hall Rd. She said her road has been closed for three weeks. There is a problem at the pond. Ditches need to be dug. She has \$553.00 worth of damage to her car and she is tired of pulling people out who get stuck. Ben Warren stated that the road is open now. They put rock on the road today. He agrees that there is a problem with the road but as wet as it is there is nothing more we can do at this time. The did pull a ditch on the other side of the road and still need to pull one in front of the Beggs property. Ms. Beggs also inquired about the road having a 30 foot right-of-way. There was discussion on a prescriptive road which is what that road is.

Janet Studstill inquired about a ribbon cutting ceremony at the ball fields. This would be for the new T-ball fields. Lisa Smart is the person to contact for information.

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:**

Brenda Ferrell –

- Our Contract with the Airport Consultants/Engineers expires this month. We are in the process of advertising an RFQ.
- Asked the board about holding a retreat and what day works for them. We are looking at April 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Ray City Fire Department provided three quotes for their equipment for the 50/50 Forestry Grant. He said one more quote is coming. The lowest quote so far is NAFECO for \$9,914.53. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve the purchase through NAFECO for \$9,914.53, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.
- Received a pipe request from Tifton Winsupply. There were a total of three quotes. Tifton Winsupply was the lowest quote at \$3,429.72. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve the purchase from Tifton Winsupply, \$3,429.72, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.
- Was contacted by ACCG request we allow them to quote our Property and Liability Insurance. The Board agreed to let them quote it.
- We have some equipment at the road department that needs to be declared surplus. He is working on getting the vin numbers and will try to declare the surplus next month.

**ADJOURN**

With no other business to come before the Board, Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. Meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

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Chairman, Jimmy Parker

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Commissioner, Ronnie Gaskins

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Commissioner, Pixie Harrod

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Commissioner, Robert Griner

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Commissioner, John Nugent

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