

**REGULAR SESSION MEETING
BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2023
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, March 7, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. Members of the Board of Commissioners present were Commissioners Pixie Harrod, Ronnie Gaskin, John Nugent and Jimmy Parker.

Invocation: Chairman Robert Griner

Pledge: Chairman Robert Griner

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to approve the February 7, 2023 Regular Session Minutes seconded by Commissioner John Nugent. The motion carried unanimously.

INVITED GUEST:

Shawna Hughes, Clerk of Court & Brad Crane from Kofile – The presented the board with proposals for historical indexing and imaging of Real Estate Deeds. After presentation, it was suggested that ARPA Funds possible can be used for this project. We will check into that and the board said we could discuss more at budget time.

Danny Studstill – Beaver Ridge Subdivision – Mr. Studstill presented a resolution to the board in reference to 11 properties located partially in Berrien County and partially in Lanier County. After discussion, it was a recommendation by our legal counsel not to sign the resolution as there are too many questions at this time and she was not involved in any of the discussions and was not presented with the resolution prior to the meeting. Commissioner John Nugent made a motion to table this, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins asked where he was on the deeds to take over Mallard Circle and Wooden Duck Lane for Mr. Tommy Baber. Mr. Studstill stated there are no official plats. Asked the board if we want to accept the roads as is or have it surveyed and platted. Mr. Wes Hand said it would cost about \$5,000.00. County Attorney advised that the county needs a survey with deeds.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. VEHICLE ACQUISITION – DA - Administration received a request from Chase Studstill, District Attorney, to purchase a 2003 Crown Vic from the City of Nashville for \$1.00. It will be a 2003 or 2004 Crown Vic. Once this vehicle is added to the fleet, he will turn in one of his older vehicles for surplus. Commissioner John Nugent made a motion to purchase a vehicle from the City of Nashville for \$1.00, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

B. AVIGATION EASEMENT – AIRPORT – MATTHEW B. MORRIS –

Administration is requested the Board approve the Avigation Easement to be executed by Matthew B. Morris for property describe ed in Exhibit A. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

C. SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SITE AGREEMENT – GOLDEN ENVIRONMENTAL –

Administration requested the board approve the Solid Waste Collection Site Agreement with Golden Environmental. Commissioner Pixie Harrod said there are some things he would like to address and would like County Administrator to contact Mr. Golden and see if he will come to the next meeting. Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins stated Mr. Golden had shoulder surgery and was not able to attend last month. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve the Solid Waste Collection Site Agreement with Golden Environmental, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

D. VAWA GRANT – DA –

Administration received a request from Cheryl McGlone with the A’s Office requesting approval on the VAWA Grant activation documents. It is a \$50,000.00 grant with matching funds of \$16,667.00 for a total grant of \$66,667.00. This is for the grant period January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023. The match is not county general fund dollars. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

E. EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION – FIRE DEPTS./EMS –

Administration received a request to purchase 10 AEDS. Nine will go to the fire departments and one for EMS. They provided two quotes as follows:

QuadMed, Inc.	\$1,689.00 ea	Total	\$18,239.50
Stryker	\$2,792.90 ea	Total	\$27,929.00
Bound Tree Medical – Does not have them available. No quote			

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

F. RATIFICATION ITEMS –

Administration is requesting ratification on the following items:

Yancey (Road)	\$2,988.14
Yancey (Road)	\$2,437.99
Cherokee Culvert (Road – Taylor Ln)	\$17,432.00
The Tire Store (Road)	\$2,300.00
GA Beaver Reapers (Road)	\$3,500.00
Southern Tire (Road)	\$1,896.00
Iron Peddlers (Road)	\$2,940.00

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

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS:

Sheriff Ray Paulk – Grant Update – Stated they Mary Alice McGee applied for two grants for them and both were approved. One is for computers in the patrol vehicles and one for body cams.

James Sirmans – He has a 6-wheel military truck for Berrien County. The stipulation is it has to be in service within six months. He said it may need a battery and alternator but other than that it is a good truck. The Board said gave instruction to Marc Mathis is move forward with getting it in place.

COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS:

Robert Griner –

- Wanted it on record that Jessica Stone, Animal Control Officer, was named as Officer of the Year for the State of GA. This is the second time she received this award. We are very fortunate to have Jessica.
- Saddle Club – There are some issues with the maintenance and upkeep at the saddle club. The board gave direction to contact the Saddle Club and enter into an agreement. County Attorney and County Administrator will work on this item.

Ronnie Gaskins – Asked the Sheriff if he is familiar with setting up a 501C3 for Law Enforcement. This is something new to where individuals owing the State of GA taxes they can opt to have those taxes go to law enforcement. The Sheriff stated he is aware of this and is working on getting that in place.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Eugene Warren – Mr. Warren stated he lives on Mudd Creek Rd. His yard is full of water and has no place to go. He said the pipe is caved in. Chairman Griner stated he has been out there two times with the Road Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent. There is a beaver issue on private property which the county does not go on. Mr. Warren stated he will get permission. Chairman Griner said if he provides written permission, we will do something about it.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

Brenda Ferrell –

- Asked the Board if they would like to have the annual retreat and April. She will schedule it and get back with the board.
- Chairman was approached about Utopia being added to the Berrien County maps. County Administrator will have the Chamber add it to the map whenever they do updates.
- There are several fences that need to be addressed with the CDBG Project. The cost is going to fall on the county. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made the motion to move the fences, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. Dennis Higgins was suggested to call and see if he will take the job.
- County Administrator submitted the Pre-Contract Requirements for the Nutrition Program.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to move into executive session for litigation at 7:15 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. Commissioner John Nugent made a motion to move out of executive session and into regular session at 7:28, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins.

Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve the resolution on opioids presented by Litigation Counsel, 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 7:30 p.m.

Chairman, Robert Griner

Commissioner, Ronnie Gaskins

Commissioner, Pixie Harrod

Commissioner, Jimmy Parker

ABSENT

Commissioner, John Nugent

ATTEST: _____
County Clerk

