

**REGULAR SESSION MEETING  
BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 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, April 6, 2021, at 6:04 p.m. Members of the Board of Commissioners present were Pixie Harrod, Ronnie Gaskins and Robert Griner. Commissioner John Nugent was absent due to a death in his family.

**Invocation:** Commissioner Robert Griner

**Pledge:** Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve the March 2, 2021 Regular Session Minutes, seconded by Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.

**INVITED GUEST:**

Tommy Barber – Did not come

Tim Alligood – withdrew as an invited guest

John S. Quarterman – Spoke about the Withlacoochee and Little River Water Trail and the Alapaha River Water Trail. He has the board to consider approving resolutions in support of the trails. The Board asked a few questions and told him they will look into the resolutions and consider all things before making a decision.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to move into public hearing at 6:20 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. Mr. Wade requested the board approve a variance rear yard setback 25 feet for which he wishes to place a mobile home on his mother's property located at 415 Lovie Swails Road. There are four acres to the tract and no issue with the lot requirement. Mr. Wade wishes to place the mobile home on the southern end of the property which is more narrow and requires a variance for the setback of 40 feet. Mr. Wade needs a 25 foot variance to place his mobile home on the desired location. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the variance. No one spoke against the variance. Commissioner Robert Griner made a motion to move out of Public Hearing at 6:21 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. SPECIAL EXCEPTION – MR. CARL WADE** – Administration received a request from Amanda Thacker, Planning Commission, requesting approval of Mr. Wade to place a mobile home on his mother's property located at 415 Lovie Swails Road. There are four acres to the tract and no issue with the lot requirement. Mr. Wade wishes to place the mobile home on the southern end of the property which is narrower and requires a variance for the setback of 40 feet. Mr. Wade needs a 25 foot variance to place his mobile home in the desired location. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve the special exception variance, seconded

by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.

- A. **BOARD APPOINTMENT – LEGACY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES** - Administration received a letter requesting to re-appoint Mr. John Black to fill the county government appointment position to the Community Service Board for Legacy Behavioral Health Services. This is a 3-year term. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to reappoint Mr. John Black to the Legacy Behavioral Health Services Board, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.
  
- B. **BOARD APPOINTMENT – BERRIEN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES BOARD** - Administration received a letter requesting to an appointment to the Berrien County Department of Family and Children Services Board. They are recommending Dr. Richard Wheeler, who has agreed to serve. The term will expire June 30, 2026. Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to appoint Dr. Richard Wheeler to the DFACS Board, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.
  
- C. **RLF LOAN – DROPTINE UNLIMITED** - Administration received a request for approval of an RLF Loan to Droptine Unlimited in the amount of \$240,000.00 at a 3% interest rate for 15 years. This company will provide 12 jobs. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.
  
- D. **EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION – TRAUMA GRANT - EMS** - Administration received aa request from EMS Director, Gerald Sumner, to purchase 4 Kenwood Handheld Radios, four ASUS Laptops and five CAT Tourniquets through the Trauma Grant. This is a 100% reimbursable grant. Total cost for purchases will be \$3,151.96. Commissioner Robert Griner made a motion to approve the purchases, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.
  
- E. **EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION – ALAPAHA FIRE DEPT.** - 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 last month and the Board approved Ten-8. The quotes received had the wrong size hose. They have resubmitted quotes and now would like to purchase from NAFECO.

<u>QUOTES:</u>	Ten-8	\$9,731.76 (Two Quotes)
	NAFECO	\$9,250.00

Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve the purchase from NAFECO, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.

- F. **EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION – EBFD** - 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 NAFECO.

<b><u>QUOTES:</u></b>	Ten-8	\$6,140.34 (not a complete quote)
	NAFECO	\$9,999.00
	Municipal Equipment	\$9,997.00

Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to purchase the items from NAFECO in the amount of \$9,999.00, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.

**G. ROUNDAABOUT – RC – LIGHTING & MAINTENANCE** - Administration received a call in February from Paul Kaspereen, GDOT Area Engineer asking that Berrien County agree to pay for the power bill and maintenance for the lighting for the roundabout in Ray City. The cost was estimated at \$15.00 per month. Since then, I received an email from Paul Kaspereen, in which the costs will be much more. The Board discussed the project and did not support the project from the beginning. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to not fund the project request of lighting and maintenance, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.

**H. FY 2021 LMIG SAFETY ACTION PLAN (SAP)** - Administration received notification that we are eligible to apply for the FY 2021 LMIG Safety Action Plan (SAP). We can apply for up to \$350,000.00 with a 10% match. There are only eight roads we can choose from. Costs estimates were presented from Watkins & Associates. Cecil Highway was not on the cost estimate due to verification of the road with GDOT. Once we receive more information from GDOT we can add that road. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to apply for the \$350,000.00 SAP as it was presented and adding Cecil Highway, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.

**I. AIRPORT CONTRACT – GDOT** - Administration is requesting the board approve the Contract for Construction at the Airport between the County and Georgia Department of Transportation. This is for Design Crack Seal and Remark; Remove Obstructions at the Berrien County Airport. Commissioner Robert Griner made a motion to approve the contract, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

**J. RATIFICATION ITEMS** - Administration is requesting ratification on the following items:

American Truck Part (Road)	\$1,714.62
Southland Contractors (Road)	\$5,642.94
Reames & Son (Road)	\$7,227.36
Dennis Fencing (Recreation)	\$1,200.00
Tire Store (Road)	\$1,331.00
Advance Auto (Sheriff)	\$2,299.99
Fausett Oil (Road – Bulk Oil)	\$2,695.00
Red Bud Signs (Road)	\$2,923.50

QTpod (Airport)	\$1,425.00
4 Star Freightliner (Road)	\$1,537.64
TCA Electrical Contractors, Inc.	\$1,426.00

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

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS:** None

**COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:**

Brenda Ferrell –

- The Retreat that was scheduled for June 8<sup>th</sup> is cancelled due to the death of Commissioner Nugent’s sister. We will try to reschedule it for next week.
- Road Naming Request – Mayor Carl Camon. Commissioner Robert Griner was approached about naming a road after former Mayor of Ray City Carl Camon. No action was taken.
- There is an unveiling Ceremony of the Spirit of the American Doughboy Historical Marker on Saturday, May 1, 2021 @ 11:00 a.m. Please let me know if you plan on attending as we have to RSVP.
- There will be a roundtable meeting on Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. This will be to discuss funding of future projects.
- Enigma Fire Department brought quotes to me for the purchase of equipment through the 50/50 Forestry Grant. They provided three quotes with the request of purchasing through NAFECO in the amount of \$9,948.00. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** (Personnel) Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to move into executive session for personnel at 6:45 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. Commissioner Robert Griner made a motion to move out of executive session and into regular session at 7:01 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN**

With no other business to come before the Board, Commissioner Pixie Harrod made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 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