

**REGULAR SESSION MEETING
BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 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, June 6, 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: Commissioner Jimmy Parker

Pledge: Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to approve the May 2, 2023 Regular Session Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING: FY 2023-2024 Budget – Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to move into public hearing for the FY 2023-2024 Budget at 6:02 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously. County Administrator, Brenda Ferrell, stated that the Commissioners have a balanced budget. She went through the Budget Resolution and gave the amounts of each fund. Chairman Griner stated that they met with all constitutional officers and Department Managers and went line by line on each budget. We were able to balance the budget with no tax increases. He asked if anyone had questions or comments. There were none. Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to move out of public hearing and back into regular session as 6:05 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

INVITED GUESTS:

- **Angi Hughes** – Angi is the Branch Manager for the Carrie Dorsey Perry Memorial Library. She thanked the Board for their support of the library and the funding that the county provides. They are doing to summer programs on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10:00. She encouraged those that have children/grandchildren to bring them to the library.
- **Chase Joiner** – NLFD – Did not show up.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE RENEWAL - Administration received the final quote Houston & Associates for the General Liability Insurance for the 2023-2024 renewal. The renewal rate, staying with Travelers, is \$395,956 which is a 19% increase. The recommended quote is from AmGUARD for \$321,194.00 which is a 2.9% decrease in premium. Kayla Warren from Houston & Associates presented the new policy to the board which is a 2.9% decrease and more coverage. She also presented an annual extended coverage through the current carrier to cover any claims that come in after June 25, 2023 but occurred during the coverage period. Those final quotes will go to the county administrator and the Chairman will

review those. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve the quote from AmGUARD in the amount of \$321,194.00, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

B. DBE PLAN – AIRPORT - Administration received a request from Mary Alice McGee, Airport Manager, to approve the DBE Plan for the Berrien County Airport for FY 2024-2026. GDOT has already approved this. The county will be responsible for 100% of the cost upfront but will be reimbursed for 90% of the contract amount during the next fiscal year in which you receive at least \$250,000.00 in federal funding. That should be FY 2024, when the construction of the lighting and signage replacement project is scheduled to take place. The total fee is \$14,350.00. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

C. TIA PROJECTS – Administration asked the Board to approve the TIA Projects as presented. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

D. EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION – ALAPAHA FIRE DEPARTMENT - Administration received a request from Marc Mathis to purchase extrication equipment for Alapaha Fire Department. He provided three quotes and is requesting the approval from AEST Fire & Safety in the amount of \$40,299.00. Three quotes were provided as follows:

Municipal Emergency Services	\$42,250.00
AEST Fire & Safety	\$40,299.00
FireLine, Inc.	\$36,178.00

Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve the purchase from AEST Fire & Safety in the amount of \$40,299.00, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

E. FY 23 LMIG AWARD - Administration received a recommendation from Watkins & Associates on the FY 23 LMIG Project. They are recommending the project award go to The Scruggs Company who had the low bid of \$599,543.33. Requesting approval for Brenda Ferrell, County Administrator to execute the Notice of Award and Contract Agreement. Two bids were received as follows:

The Scruggs Company	\$599,543.33
Reames & Son Construction Company	\$599,879.28

Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to award the contract to The Scruggs Company in the amount of \$599,543.33, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

F. QPUBLIC – Administration received the annual invoice for QPublic from Schneider Geospatial. Administration is requesting approval on payment as this is a budgeted item. Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

G. INMATE WORK DETAIL AGREEMENT – GEORGIA DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS - (Robert L. Patten Probation Detention Center) -

Administration received the state inmate work detail agreement with the Georgia Department of Corrections (Robert L. Patten Probation Detention Center). The term of this agreement is July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 11:59 p.m. The annual cost is \$49,318.00. The work detail will be provided four days a week, ten hours per day. This Agreement may be terminated by either party upon seven calendar day’s written notice. The funds are budgeted in the solid waste fund. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

H. APPOINTMENT TO THE CIRCUIT PUBLIC DEFENDER SUPERVISORY PANEL –

Administration received a request from Judge Tomlinson to reappoint Attorney William A. “Bill” King to the Circuit Public Defender Supervisory Panel. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made the motion to reappoint Attorney William A. “Bill” King to the Circuit Public Defender Supervisory Panel, seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. The motion carried unanimously.

I. RESOLUTION – FIRE DEPARTMENTS - Administration received a request from Marc Mathis, Fire Coordinator, to approve a Resolution that makes all county fire department to become one fire department with a County Fire Chief. This will help the overall ISO Rating for the county. Commissioner John Nugent made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

J. MEDICAL INSURANCE RENEWAL - Administration is requesting approval on the renewal of the medical insurance. The insurance was shopped and several quotes received. Guy Whidby presented Administration with the renewal from Cigna, our current provider, and then two plans from Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield. Administration is requesting approval to switch to Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield Option 2 which is a 6% increase. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield Option 2 which is a 6% increase, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

K. EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION – WBFD – Administration received a request from Terry Danforth, Chief, to purchase eight pagers. He provided two quotes as follows:

McLaggan Communications & Radar Service, Inc.	\$3,120.00
MCA	\$3,000.00

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

L. SURPLUS VEHICLE - Administration is requesting the board approve the only bid received on surplus truck 2005 Chevrolet VIN # 1GBHC24U55E261724. The vehicle was previously declared surplus. An advertisement was placed in Berrien Press requesting bids and we received one bid from Arel Valdez for \$800.00. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve the bid of \$800.00 to Arel Valdez, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

M. PIPE ORDER - Administration received a request from the Road Department for pipe. They requested three quotes with two replying. They are requesting approval from WinSupply in the amount of \$8,785.00. Quotes were as follows:

WinSupply	\$8,785.00
Deep South Drainage	\$9,125.00
Macon Supply	No Reply

Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve the purchase from WinSupply in the amount of \$8,785.00, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

N. AMBULANCE SERVICE FEES - Administration received a request from Gerald Sumner, EMS Director, to increase the ambulance service fees. Gerald Sumner, EMS Director, stated the Medicare rates increased 8% in 2022. This will bring our rates more in line where they should be. Rates will be shown as an attachment with the minutes. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve the rate increases as presented, seconded by Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins. The motion carried unanimously.

O. RATIFICATION ITEMS – Administration is requesting ratification on the following items:

Yancey Brothers - Road	\$1,695.48
Layne’s Truck Parts - Road	\$1,204.49
Southern Tire Mart – Road	\$1,896.00
Reynolds-Warren – Road	\$1,079.78 + Freight
EAS Eagle Advantage Solutions, Inc. – Sheriff (Reimbursed by the Law Library)	\$13,817.00
Yancey Brothers – Road	\$6,029.58
Ricky Wade/GA Beaver Reapers – Road	\$1,400.00
Cook County BOC – Judge	\$1,589.00
David Taylor Construction, Inc – Road TSPLOST	\$41,273.70
The Tire Store – Forestry	\$1,250.00
The Part House – EMS	\$1,521.10
Abundant Life Church (Recreation)	\$5,000.00

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: None

COMMISSIONERS’ ITEMS: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

Brenda Ferrell –

- The District Attorney presented the Board of Commissioners Office with the 2022 Child Abuse Protocol Annual Report and the 2022 Child Fatality Review Annual Report. This is in the Administration Office if you would like to review.
- July 4th holiday falls on the first Tuesday of the month. County Administrator is requesting to change the meeting to July 11, 2023. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion to approve the July meeting for July 11, 2023, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.
- We have another surplus vehicle Vin # 2C3CDXAT1CH305160. Administration is requesting approval to surplus and advertise in Berrien Press and to take bids. Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins made a motion to surplus the vehicle, advise and accept bids, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.
- Budget Adoption is June 15th at 9:00 a.m.
- The State Lease for the FSA Offices will expire the end of the month. Brenda Ferrell requested the board approve having legal review the contract and Chairman approve. Commissioner Pixie Harrod made a motion once the contract is received to have County Attorney review and give Chairman authorization to approve, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Personnel

Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to go into executive session for personnel at 6:33 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Pixie Harrod. Commissioner John Nugent made a motion to move out of executive session and into regular session at 7:15 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. 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 Ronnie Gaskins. Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m..

Chairman, Robert Griner

Commissioner, Ronnie Gaskins

Commissioner, Pixie Harrod

Commissioner, Jimmy Parker

Commissioner, John Nugent

ATTEST: _____
County Clerk

