

**REGULAR SESSION MEETING  
BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2015  
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, January 13, 2015, at 6:03 p.m. Members of the Board of Commissioners present were, Commissioner Robert Griner, Commissioner Steve Sumner, Commissioner Doc Sumner and Commissioner John Nugent.

Invocation: Attorney Tom Thomas  
Pledge: Commissioner Doc Sumner

**MINUTES:** Commissioner Steve Sumner made the motion to approve the December 9, 2014 Executive Session Minutes, the December 9, 2014 Regular Session Minutes and the January 6, 2015 Work Session Minutes, seconded by Commissioner John Nugent. The motion carried unanimously

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA:** Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to amend the agenda and add items K-M, seconded by Commissioner Doc Sumner. The motion carried unanimously.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

A. Termite Baiting System – Administration advertised for bids for a termite baiting system at the Administration Building and received one bid. After research on bait stations, the Board did not wish to continue bait stations. Commissioner Steve Sumner made the motion to eliminate all termite baiting, seconded by Commissioner Doc Sumner. The motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Nomination of Chairman and Vice Chairman for the Board of Commissioners – Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to ratify the appointment of Jimmy Parker and Chairman and John Nugent as Vice Chairman, seconded by Commissioner Doc Sumner. The motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to amend his motion and add that all future Chairman's are to be certified through ACCG, seconded by Commissioner Doc Sumner. The motion carried unanimously.

B. RBEG Funding – Development Authority – Crissy Staley asked the Board to consider using the \$29,599.18 left in the USDA RBEG Grant to apply to the loan and get it paid off. She provided a recommendation from the County Auditors as well as a letter from USDA. Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to apply the \$29,599.18 to the industrial park loan, seconded by Commissioner Steve Sumner. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Extended Warranty on Ambulance – EMS – Administration received a request from Daryl Lancaster, EMS Director, about purchasing an extended warranty on the new ambulance. There are two quotes: Premium Care for \$5,985.00 and Diesel Engine Care Plus for \$4,225.00. County Administrator, Brenda Ferrell, stated she spoke with the Shop Foreman, Charles Rasmussen, and sent an email stating that he feels the Diesel Engine Care Plus is our best option. Daryl Lancaster also spoke with Mike Burch Ford and they recommended the Diesel Engine Care Plus Warranty. Commissioner Steve Sumner made the motion to approve the Diesel Engine Care Plus Extended Warranty on the new ambulance for \$4,225.00, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Uniform Purchase – Jail – Administration requested ratification of uniform purchases for the jail in the amount of \$2,760.00 from Adel Outfitters. Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to ratify the purchase of uniforms from Adel Outfitters in the amount of \$2,760.00, seconded by Commissioner Steve Sumner. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Fire Truck Tank – EBFD – Administration is requesting ratification on the painting of the fire truck tank. Southern Body Works completed the painting for \$1,522.00. Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to approve the painting of the fire truck tank in the amount of \$1,522.00 to Southern Body Works, seconded by Commissioner Doc Sumner. The motion carried unanimously.

F. Ambulance Repair (10M2) – EMS – Administration is requesting approval for additional funds for repair of the motor on 10M2. The Board approved the motor repair in December for the amount of \$16,699.00. Mike Burch Ford's invoice total came to \$17,034.52, a difference of \$335.52. Commissioner Steve Sumner made the motion to approve the additional \$335.52 for a total repair of \$17,034.52 to Mike Burch Ford, seconded by Commissioner John Nugent. The motion carried unanimously.

G. Equipment Acquisition – WBFD – Administration received a request from Terry Danforth to purchase four pagers. They received one a quote from RCE in the amount of \$409.00 each for a total of \$1,636.00. Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to approve the purchase of 4 pagers from RCE in the amount of \$1,636.00, seconded by Commissioner Doc Sumner. The motion carried unanimously.

H. Computer Acquisition – Administration – Administration is requesting the purchase of a new computer. We have one computer that cannot efficiently run our CSI Accounting Program. This is in the budget. Commissioner Steve Sumner made the motion to approve the purchase of a computer from Spectra Computing in the amount of \$1,482.00, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.

I. Capital Long Range Plans – Discussion – Administration is requesting discussion on capital long range plans. Commissioner Steve Sumner stated we need to look at long range plan for vehicles and equipment that will be needed over the next three to five years. The Board asked Brenda to send out a memo to the Department Heads for their input. Commissioner Steve Sumner and County Administrator Brenda Ferrell will be working on this project.

J. Limitations of County Appointed Boards and Salary – Discussion – Administration was asked to have discussion on the limitations of these Boards. The meeting will be February 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

K. Fire Districts – Administration received a recommendation to change the existing fire districts. This will assist in reducing the ISO ratings. Commissioner John Nugent made the motion to approve the recommended fire districts that South GA Regional Commission recommends, seconded by Commissioner Doc Sumner. The motion carried unanimously. (Fire District Map attached)

L. Board Appointment – Health Dept. – Administration received a request from Dr. Grow to reappoint Dr. Donnie Nash to the Health Department Board. This is a six year term which will expire December 31, 2020. Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to reappoint Dr. Donnie Nash to the Health Department Board for a six-year term which will expire December 31, 2020, seconded by Commissioner Steve Sumner. The motion carried unanimously.

M. Pipe Order – Administration is requesting the board ratify two pipe orders. Both orders

will come out of SPLOST Funds. The orders are from Redbud Supply in the amount of \$1,558.75 and Advanced Drainage & Supply in the amount of \$4,879.68. Commissioner Steve Sumner made the motion to approve the pipe order from Redbud Supply in the amount of \$1,558.75 and Advanced Drainage & Supply in the amount of \$4,879.68, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS:**

Crissy Staley – Brenda Ferrell brought up the following items for Crissy Staley in her absence:

- The balance in the USDA Grant account is \$29,599.18 and the debt on the park as of last week is \$81,747.04.
- The revolving loan application for Bradford Machine Shop has been approved by the committee. There are no special documents we have to send to DCA on this particular transaction. They have asked Tim Tanner the Development Authority attorney to take care of the simple closing for them. As soon as those documents are executed Crissy will provide a copy and will need a check for the loan amount from the RLF account.
- Annual Chamber Banquet is January 27<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday night, at 6:00 P.M.
- After working with Baker, formerly LPA Group, on the airport grant projects, they are doing a much better job. Crissy Staley is asking the board to consider not terminating their contract at this time. Commissioner Steve Sumner made the motion to maintain the existing contract with Baker, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.
- There is an Economic Roundtable on January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 at the Community Center.
- Kim Hobbs, South Georgia Regional Commission, is running an ad for the RFP's for architects for the Miller Building project. She has set the public hearing for January 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. This is the first step in the process of the grant. Once an architect is selected, the architects report really determines the feasibility of applying for the grant.
- We have been asked by the South Georgia Regional Commission to give a letter of support for a bike trail study. Commissioner Steve Sumner feels that there is better ways to spend the money than on something that Berrien County will not benefit from. The board was not in favor of supporting this project.

#### **COMMISSIONER'S ITEMS:**

John Nugent –

- There is a vacancy on the Recreation Board. Commissioner Nugent spoke with Ken Harper and he is willing to serve on that Board. We will make that known to the Recreation Board. Commissioner Steve Sumner said that Wayne Pearson resigned from the board and that Doc Sumner was supposed to be appointed with the next vacancy. Commissioner Steve Sumner made the motion to appoint Doc Sumner to the Recreation Board to fill the unexpired, at large seat, of Wayne Pearson, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.

Doc Sumner –

- Ben Warren, Public Works Director and Commissioner Sumner met with DNR searching for a suitable place for a boat ramp. They believe they found a place at Berrien Beach that will be suitable. Shaboggy Boat Ramp also needs work. If this works out, DNR will cover the cost.

Robert Griner –

- Commissioner Griner was contacted by the family of Jim Perry. He served in the military and was highly decorated. They would like to name the 2<sup>nd</sup> bridge on Adel Hwy the Jim Perry Bridge. We can get this accomplished by approving this and signing a resolution. Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to name the 2<sup>nd</sup> bridge on the Adel Hwy the Jim Perry Bridge, seconded by Commissioner Doc Sumner. The motion carried unanimously.

Steve Sumner –

- Commissioner Sumner gave a status on the GebCorp Plan. We will have to submit a new

resolution to get the plan in place. Commissioner Steve Sumner made the motion to move forward with putting the GebCorp Plan in place with a discretionary funding contribution of 3% and a 50% match on the next 2% employee contribution, seconded by Commissioner John Nugent. County Attorney Tom Thomas asked if this is just for this year or do we need to do a resolution every year. Commissioner Sumner stated we would only have to do it if there is a change but it would not hurt to do it every year.

- Commissioner gave an update on where we are with Rest EZ. They have not applied for their solid waste license. She does not want to get a license with it stating she has to take the trash to Valdosta. He stated personally we cannot have a vendor tell us what they are going to do. We have the option of putting out a Request for Proposal, we can contract with Advanced Disposal or we can have an annual amount added to the tax bill. Commissioner Jimmy Parker agreed with Commissioner Steve Sumner. Commissioner Doc Sumner asked if we did a Request for Proposal would Rest EZ have the option to bid. Commissioner John Nugent said he would hate to spend more than we would collect if someone else received the contract. Commissioner Steve Sumner said we are required to support the landfill with Berrien County as part owner. We need to bring this to conclusion. Commissioner Robert Griner said he does not want to put Rest EZ out of business. We just have to make a decision. She has not paid the tonnage for 2013 either. Commissioner Doc Sumner volunteered to go talk with Brenda Herring and try to get her to agree to getting her license and see what we can work out.
- Commissioner Steve Sumner stated we received our official audit for year ending June 30, 2014. We operated for the third consecutive year with a \$430,000.00 surplus. Total governmental funds with a surplus of \$541,000.00. General Fund still has a deficit of \$583,000.00 which is much improved. We will very confident by June 30, 2015 we will have a positive general fund balance. We have operated the county with better services and fewer funds.

#### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:**

Brenda Ferrell –

- Fire Department Policies – It is recommended that the Fire Department put policies in place. This will consist of qualifications for volunteers with it be fire fighters or support staff.
- CDBG Project – Administration provided a list of roads for discussion for the 2015 CDBG Project. Public Works Director, Ben Warren, is recommending King Rd. and Browning Road. Total cost will be approximately \$563,000.00. The grant is for \$500,000.00. Commissioner Steve Sumner said he would like to ride the road and look at it before a decision is made.
- East Berrien Fire Department Pump – We have received three quotes on a new pump for the new tanker. The quotes are: Municipal Emergency Services, Inc. \$3,696.48, Ten-8 \$3,747.00 and Municipal Equipment Company \$4,205.00. Buck Warren is recommending the Municipal Equipment Company quote in \$4,205.00. Commissioner Steve Sumner made the motion to approve the pump purchase from Municipal Equipment in the amount of \$4,205.00, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Alan asked the board look at Back Swindle Road. It is the Garner Road side. The mud is really bad. Public Works Director will be informed.

**ADJOURN**

With no other business to come before the Board, Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner Doc Sumner. Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman, Jimmy Parker

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vice Chairman, John Nugent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner, Steve Sumner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner, Robert Griner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner, Doc Sumner

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