

**REGULAR SESSION MEETING
BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2013
6:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman, Steve Sumner called the regular session meeting of the Berrien County Board of Commissioners to order on Tuesday, January 15, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. Members of the Board of Commissioners present were, Commissioner Robert Griner, Commissioner Jimmy Parker, Commissioner John Nugent and Commissioner Doc Sumner.

Invocation: Commissioner Jimmy Parker

Pledge: Commissioner Robert Griner

Public Hearing – Special Exception – Christian Family Center Substance Abuse Treatment Center – Commissioner Jimmy Parker made the motion to move into public hearing at 6:01 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner.

Mr. Hank Steverson, Executive Director, spoke on what they are trying to accomplish by allowing the Center to be opened.

Chairman Steve Sumner asked the Board if they had any comments before we move to the audience.

- Commissioner Robert Griner stated that he wanted to make it clear that this Christian Family Substance Abuse Treatment Center has nothing to do with the new Drug Court that is being put in place. They are two totally separate issues.
- Chairman Steve Sumner asked if there is any intent to put up a privacy fence on the west side of the property. Hank Steverson stated that they will put up a fence.
- Chairman Sumner stated he called Sheriff Anthony Heath to see if any complaints had been filed on Pennfield. There has not been. Sheriff Heath also called the Sherriff in Soperton and there has been no major complaints on the facility there. Hank Steverson also stated that they will not accept any sex offenders.
- John Nugent asked what type of security would be provided? They have around the clock headcounts. There will be three staff members. No one will be allowed to wonder off. They will be kicked out of the program if they try. Don Gillis stated there will be 24-hour security. It is a very structured program throughout the day. Mr. Gillis state he will be living at the facility and his wife and children will be staying there at times. They stated they do a background history of everyone that enters the program. He said please remember everyone is not a criminal. Mr. Gillis also stated they believe in a nice therapeutic place and they will be enhancing the property. He also added that we have a beautiful courthouse and was proud to see the Ten Commandments placed in it. Citizens have a right to be proud of this County.
- Mr. Hank Steverson gave the board letters of recommendation from local business and fuel vendors.

Chairman Sumner asked if there was anyone who would like to speak in favor of the rezoning to allow the Christian Family Substance Abuse Treatment Center. The following people spoke in favor of it:

- Jonathan Riddle from Fitzgerald

- Pat Lupo from Ocilla and her daughter
- Chris Singletary, Douglas, GA
- Randy DeLoach, Douglas, GA

Chairman Sumner asked if anyone would like to speak against the center/

- Mark Davis
- Shaun McMillan
- Sue Gaskins
- Edwin Gaskins – sent letter. Chairman Sumner read it during the meeting.
- Ronnie Brogdon
- Kenneth Lee
- Charles Purvis
- Brian Horton
- Steve Robert

Mr. Kenney Greenway said Ms. Molly left the place to him. Ms. Molly asked him to find someone who would run it. He appreciates comments about children but there are school houses everywhere with children being shot. He said he knows the citizens have put up with a lot over the past 40 years. It is a non-profit organization and he does not feel that it should have to be brought before the board for rezoning. Commissioner John Nugent asked what the zoning for the property is now. It is agriculture.

Commissioner Jimmy Parker made the motion to move out of public hearing at 6:50 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner.

Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to move into regular session at 6:50 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker.

Due to the number of citizens with interest to item F, Special Exception – Christian Family Center Substance Abuse Treatment Center, Commissioner Jimmy Parker made the motion to amend the agenda and discuss item F at this time, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. Commissioner John Nugent made the motion to deny the special exception request, seconded by Commissioner Doc Sumner. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to approve the December 11, 2012 Regular Session Minutes and the January 8, 2013 Work Session Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to amend the agenda to include items M – T, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Fire Dept. ISO Ratings – Discussion – At the last meeting the board discussed forming a committee. Chairman Steve Sumner asked Commissioner John Nugent if he would be willing to head this committee. Commissioner Nugent agreed to work and establish this committee. Commissioner Jimmy Parker told Commissioner Nugent to feel free to contact any of the Commissioners for help. No action taken at this time.

Commissioner Jimmy Parker made the motion to amend the agenda and move to item M as the second item on the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.

B. County Cell Phones – Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to table this item temporarily, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Nomination of 2013 Chairman/Vice Chairman for Board of Commissioners – Chair Steve Sumner asked with the pleasure of the Board would be. Commissioner Robert Griner stated he appreciates the hard work and many hours that Chairman Sumner put in. Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to nominate Chairman Steve Sumner as 2013 Chairman of Board of Commissioners. Chairman Sumner stated he would be willing to serve as Chairman with the understanding if he need to step down as chairman at some point then the Board would be in agreement with that. Commissioner John Nugent seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Steve Sumner made the motion to appoint Commissioner Robert Griner as the 2013 Vice Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Lawn Maintenance Bids – Administration received lawn maintenance bids and they were opened on Tuesday, January 2, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. The bids were as follows:

Payne Lawn Care	Nashville, GA	\$ 974.00 monthly
Brad Warren	Nashville, GA	\$1,200.00 monthly
Scott's Lawn Care	Adel, GA	\$2,075.00 monthly

Commissioner Jimmy Parker made the motion to approve the low bid of \$974.00 monthly to Payne Lawn Care, seconded by Commissioner John Nugent. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Equipment Acquisition – Recreation – The Recreation Dept. currently has a Gator that we lease. The lease expired January 1st. The current lease has a buyout option. Administration contacted our sales representative and they are willing to sell that equipment for \$1,500.00. Fair market value is \$2,500.00. Recreation Director, King Bridges, is requesting the Board approve the buyout on this equipment. Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to approve the equipment purchase in the amount of \$1,500.00 from ShowTurf, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Computer Acquisition – Administration – Administration requested the board to ratify the purchase of a computer for the County Administrator. The computer is outdated and is having problems running the accounting software program. Two quotes were provided with Spectra Computing being the lower quote, \$1,397.00. Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to ratify the computer purchase from Spectra Computing in the amount of \$1,397.00, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Juvenile Account – Clerk of Court – Administration received a request from Shawna Hughes, Clerk of Superior Court, requesting the board approve a reimbursement of \$3,000.00 to the Juvenile Account. In August 2010 the Clerk of Superior Court turned over \$10,000.00 to Berrien County with the understanding that if funds were needed in the Juvenile Account the County would reimburse that amount. There have been numerous purchases of services made for the Juvenile Offenders Program which depleted the Juvenile Account and the Clerk of Court is requesting that \$3,000.00 be reimbursed. Administration has contacted the county auditors and they are in agreement with this request. Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to reimburse the Clerk of Court, Juvenile Account, in the amount of \$3,000.00, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

F. Special Exception – Christian Family Center Substance Abuse Treatment Center – Administration received a request from Mr. Don Gillis who is requesting that a special exception be

granted so that the Christian Family Center may open a substance abuse treatment program at the old Open Door School on open Door School Road in Alapaha. Commissioner John Nugent said since this was in his district he will make the motion to deny the special exception, seconded by Commissioner Doc Sumner. The motion carried unanimously.

G. Personnel Policy Update – Administration requested the Board to table this item. Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to table this item, seconded by Commissioner Doc Sumner. The motion carried unanimously.

H. Solid Waste License – Allgreen Services, LLC – Administration is requesting the Board ratify the solid waste license for Allgreen Services, LLC. Application and fee was received December 21, 2012. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made the motion to approve the 2013 Solid Waste License for Allgreen Services, LLC, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.

I. Re-Evaluation of Commercial, Industrial & Small Lots – Discussion. Chairman Sumner requested discussion on the re-evaluation of commercial, industrial and small lots. These properties have not been re-evaluated in 12 years. A re-evaluation should be done every three years. Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to recommend to the Board of Equalization that a re-evaluation be done on the commercial, industrial and small lots, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

J. Budget Amendment Resolution – Administration requested the Board to approve a budget amendment resolution. All capital items were originally budgeted in the Administration budget and the resolution addressed several items to be funded in the correct department. There were several purchases throughout the first half of the budget year and the resolution addressed the funds be placed in the appropriate budget line. Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to approve the Budget Amendment Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

K. Old Jail Repairs – Drug Court Request – Administration received a request from Judge Perkins for repairs to the old jail which will be used for the Drug Court. Repairs can be done by Ernest Stone with some of the welding done by the Shop. Estimated cost is \$1,074.00 which will be reimbursed through the Drug Court Grant. Commissioner Doc Sumner made the motion to approve the repairs, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. Motion carried unanimously.

L. 911 Grant Application – Discussion – Mary Alice McGee requested discussion on the application for the 911 grant. RBEG grant is for \$99,999.00 which is upgrades to the 911 equipment. There would be a county match of \$74,288.92. The application is due February 1. Chairman Sumner stated several people have asked about merging 911. Regardless of what takes pace, we need to update this equipment. Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to approve the submission of the 911 grant (RBEG), seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

M. One Day Beer License – Possum Creek ATV Park - Administration received a request from Ronda Day and Leigh Hendley for a one day beer license for Possum Creek ATV Park on April 27, 2013. Chairman Sumner stated he talked with Sheriff Anthony Heath and he supports this and does not see a problem with this. Commissioner Robert Griner asked if a charity has been designated. At this point, there are several charities that have been discussed but not a firm decision yet. There was discussion on the cost of the one day license which is \$300.00, the same as an annual license. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made the motion to approve a one day license to sell beer at Possum Creek on April 27th providing proper application for county and state are completed along with following the guidelines of the county ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.

N. Transit Capital Grant Change – Administration received notification that the Transit Capital Grant will be changing. In this grant the capital was for cameras and there was a county match. Under the new contract/grant DOT is now funding the cameras and the county will not have a match. They will be sending the change to the contract/grant and will need it signed and returned by January 31st. Administration is asking the Board approve this change and grant the Chairman authorization to sign the contract/grant when we receive it. Commissioner Doc Sumner made the motion to approve the Chairman signing the revised Transit Capital Grant, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

O. 911 ADA Compliance Bid – Administration received notification from Lamar Ray that he received one bid on the remodeling of the 911 building to meet ADA requirements. That bid was from Marlin Giddens in the amount of \$6,000.00. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made the motion to approve the \$6,000.00 bid from Marlin Giddens, seconded by Commissioner Doc Sumner. The motion carried unanimously. County Administrator asked where the board where they wanted to expense this as it was not budgeted. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made the motion to do a budget amendment and move funds from the Commissioner Reserve line to the 911 capital line, seconded by Commissioner Doc Sumner. The motion carried unanimously.

P. Resolution – Short Term Work Program – Administration received a request from SGRC to change the wording and adopt the correct resolution for the Short Term Work Program. DCA requested the word transmit be changed to adopt in the last paragraph of the resolution. Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to approve the Short Term Work Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

Q. Garner Lawn Invoice – Administration received an invoice from Garner Lawn Care for the months of November and December for a total of \$1,900.00. Administration asked for direction on paying this invoice. There was discussion on the upkeep of the grounds and work that had not been completed. Commissioner John Nugent made the motion to deny the payment of the invoice, seconded by Commissioner Doc Sumner. The motion carried unanimously.

R. Computer Acquisition – Elections – Administration received an invoice from Election Supervisor, Christina Allen, to purchase two computers. This is a state mandated upgrade to the elections computer systems, software and other hardware's. This is a capital budgeted item. A quote was received from Spectra Computing for \$3,500.00. Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to approve the computer acquisition for elections purchasing from Spectra Computing in the amount of \$3,500.00, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

S. Fleet Insurance Addition – Road – Administration received a request to add insurance to the spare 1990 American General Hummer, VIN # 104074 that is parked at the Road Dept. The Road Dept. has agreed to remove Unit 17, which is a 1997 Ford F150, VIN # 1FTEF17LOVLA1389. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made the motion to add VIN # 104074 to the insurance and delete VIN # 1FTEF17LOVLA1389 with the understanding that if one of the Hummers in circulation for the fire department needs parts this vehicle will be used for parts, seconded by Commissioner Doc Sumner. The motion carried unanimously.

T. Equipment Acquisition – Sheriff Dept. – Administration received a request from Major Ray Paulk for approval to purchase 8 Alco DUI Sensors and 12 cameras for the deputies. Both items were budgeted as capital items. We budgeted \$4,000.00 for the DUI Sensors and \$1,500.00 for the cameras. Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to approve the equipment acquisition for the DUI Sensors not to exceed \$4000.00 and the acquisition of the 12 cameras not to exceed \$1,500.00, seconded by Commissioner Doc Sumner. The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS:

Mary Alice McGee –

- South Regional Joint Development Authority has requested that we reappoint Mary Alice McGee and Robert Griner to this board. Steve Sumner made the motion to appoint Mary Alice McGee and Robert Griner for a three year term to the South Regional Joint Development Authority, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

Ben Warren, Public Works Dept. –

- Work Detail Crew – County Administrator stated she, Ben Warren and Rob Hawkins, Public Works Department, along with Ray Paulk, Sheriff Department and Antonio Carter, Jail Administrator had a meeting to discuss the county inmate work detail. The Sheriff Department would like the opportunity to make this program work and will commit to providing the detail Monday through Thursday with five inmates and will try to get six inmates. Commissioner Doc Sumner asked Public Works Director how has the agreement been in place for the county detail crew. Ben Warren stated about four years. Ben Warren did state that they had a crew with five inmates that showed up Monday morning. Patten Detention Center stated they would provide a crew with a minimum of eight on it. If we go back to using Patten it will cost \$39,500 and we will have to provide the van. Commissioner Doc Sumner stated he feels it's time for a change. Commissioner Jimmy Parker stated he would like to do business with the Sheriff but if we can figure the funding out then at this time he felt it would be best to use Patten Detention Center. County Administrator, stated that if we go with Patten that she is requesting on behalf of Ray Paulk we give them some time to place the work detail jail staff. The board agreed to make the staffing change effective March 1, 2013. Commissioner Doc Sumner made the motion to move the work detail to Patten Detention Center and notify the Sheriff of the change with the jail detail staff position change effective March 1, 2013, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONER'S ITEMS:

Steve Sumner –

- Gave an update on LOST
- Chairman Sumner met with Paula Raley, BOE on the 1.5% fuel administration fee. The BOE is requesting we appoint two Commissioners to serve on a board with two BOE members, Mark Davis and Tim McMillan, to discuss the administration fee. The Board was in agreement with Commissioners John Nugent and Jimmy Parker to service on this committee.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

Brenda Ferrell –

- Annual Chamber Banquet is January 29th, 6:00 p.m.
- ACCG is requesting that we appoint a representative for Berrien County to be the County Legislative Response Coordinator. This will be the person who receives legislative updates to pass on to the Board. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made the motion to appoint Brenda Ferrell, County Administrator/Clerk as the County Legislative Coordinator, seconded by Commissioner John Nugent. The motion carried unanimously.
- Received a request to pay an invoice from Synergistics Software, Inc. This is the software the Sheriff Dept uses for housing, GCIC, etc. This was an oversight when preparing the budget and was left out. The annual fee is \$6,030.00. The Sheriff asked that I inform the Board of what happened. County Administrator advised we will need to do a budget amendment. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made the motion to approve the payment of the invoice from Synergistics Software, Inc. in the amount of \$6,030.00, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy

Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Eddie Ownes – Commended the Board on what a great job they do.

ADJOURN

With no other business to come before the Board, Commissioner Jimmy Parker made the motion to adjourn at 8:17 p.m., which was seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. Meeting was adjourned.

Chairman, Steve Sumner

Vice Chairman, Robert Griner

Commissioner, John Nugent

Commissioner, Jimmy Parker

Commissioner, Doc Sumner

ATTEST _____
County Clerk