

**WORK SESSION MEETING
BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2015
6:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman, Robert Griner called the work session meeting of the Berrien County Board of Commissioners to order on Tuesday, January 6, 2015, at 6:02 p.m. Members of the Board of Commissioners present were, Commissioner Jimmy Parker, Commissioner Steve Sumner, Commissioner Doc Sumner and Commissioner John Nugent.

INVITED GUESTS:

Buck Warren and Carlos Vickers – Buck Warren asked the Board to consider purchasing a new tank to go on the fire tanker that is currently being renovated. The tank they were going to use is old and will not work on the truck. A new tank will cost about \$8,000.00 to \$8,500.00. The board asked him to get quotes to us before next week's meeting. There was also discussion on ISO ratings, water supply, fire districts and equipment needed for the fire departments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Termite Baiting System – Administration advertised for bids for a termite baiting system at the Administration Building and received one bid. This item was tabled in December. Commissioner Steve Sumner stated he has done some on-line research on bait stations and from what he sees it is not beneficial. He spoke with a pesticide person out of Valdosta for as an expert opinion who also stated they do not recommend it. Also it was stated that if you use pine bark or straw around the buildings you are defeating the purpose. Unless we have a bond that says they are covering damage, he personally does not feel it is worth it.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Nomination of Chairman and Vice Chairman for the Board of Commissioners – Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to nominate Commissioner Jimmy Parker as Chairman, seconded by Commissioner Steve Sumner. Chairman Robert Griner nominated Commissioner John Nugent as Vice Chairman, all were in favor, no second made. Commissioner Steve Sumner asked Commissioner John Nugent if he is will to move up to Chairman and he stated he is. The board voted unanimously for Commissioner Jimmy Parker to be Chairman and Commissioner John Nugent to be Vice Chairman.

B. RBEG Funding – Development Authority – Crissy Staley asked the Board to consider using the \$30,000.00 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. The Board is in favor of this.

C. Extended Warranty on Ambulance – EMS – Administration received a request from Daryel 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 he suggested at least the Diesel Engine Care Plus. He is reviewing the warranty details and will be able to give a more definite recommendation next week. Commissioner Robert Griner asked Buck Warren what is opinion is. Buck Warren stated you really need to read the fine print of the warranty but feels that a warranty would be a good idea. Commissioner John Nugent asked if the turbo charger would be covered. Again, this would have to be determined after reading the fine print of the warranty. Carlos Vickers

stated he had an extended warranty on his diesel and it would not cover the EGR. Commissioner Steve Sumner stated there is not much difference in the price of the bumper to bumper warranty and we may be better off to go with it.

D. Uniform Purchase – Jail – Administration requested ratification of uniform purchases for the jail in the amount of \$2,760.00 from Adel Outfitters.

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.

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.

G. Equipment Acquisition – WBFD – Administration received a request from Terry Danforth to purchase four pagers. They received on a quote from RCE in the amount of \$409.00 each for a total of \$1,636.00. County Administrator stated we purchased four radios for WBFD in October 2014.

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.

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 stated he would be will to work with County Administrator, Brenda Ferrell, on this project if the Board wishes. The bard is in favor and feels it is a good idea.

J. Limitations of County Appointed Boards and Salary – Discussion – Administration was asked to have discussion on the limitations of these Boards. There was discussion on several items that recently came up where the boards made a decision and did not come to the Board of Commissioners. These items directly affect the budget. The Board directed County Administrator, Brenda Ferrell to schedule a meeting in February with the Chairman from each board.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS:

Crissy Staley -

- Crissy asked the Board to consider doing some repairs in the old courthouse. The Chamber and Economic Development Boards asked that we approve an architect to look at it and give permission to get quotes. Nick Lacey said the paint on the walls is peeling. With the historical society being in that building, there are many people who visit just for the historical aspect.
- Received an application from Bradford Machine Shop for RLF. She feels that the board will approve it. That is what the money is for.
- Airport Engineers – Charles Evans with DOT was reassigned and is no longer our project manager. Crissy stated she has a meeting with our engineers, and Clinton Ray on Wednesday at 3:00.

- Crissy advised the board of an incident where a citizens went to one of the warehouses that was donated to the county and advised them that their contract was not good. There was discussion on how the Development Authority acquired these buildings.

COMMISSIONER’S ITEMS:

John Nugent –

- Commissioner Nugent presented the proposed new fire districts. There was discussion on how this will help on homeowners insurance. There was also discussion on adding some satellite stations to help lower ISO ratings.

Robert Griner –

- Commissioner Griner asked where we stand with the digging sand on Johnny Griffin’s property. County Administrator Brenda Ferrell told Mr. Griffin that he needed to get clearance from GBI before we could start digging.

Steve Sumner –

- Thanked Commissioner Griner for serving as Chairman during the past year. We appreciate all you have done.

Jimmy Parker –

- Commissioner Parker thanked the board for trusting him to lead on as Chairman for 2015.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

Brenda Ferrell –

- LMIG – the bid advertisement comes out tomorrow.
- Lawn Maintenance Contract – The advertisement comes out tomorrow.
- Resignation Letter – Jerry Brogdon resigned as Recreation Chairman
- Approval of Pipe Orders – Audit issues because they are over \$1000.00.
- The Audit is complete and we should have copies next week. We ended up with an overall surplus in the general fund of \$483,000.00. We currently have approximately \$1.4 million in the back to start the year off with. In the past we were borrowing money to continue to operate.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Nick Lacey – complimented the board of a good job with the budget.

Pauline Troop – asked the Board to consider paving Barney Parker Rd. The board explained that it was submitted as a CDBG Project in the past and that it was denied due to lack of land acquisition. The Board asked Pauline Troop to speak with those on the road and get their support and we can try to submit it again.

ADJOURN

With no other business to come before the Board, Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner John Nugent. Meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Chairman, Robert Griner

Vice Chairman, Jimmy Parker

Commissioner, Steve Sumner

Commissioner, John Nugent

Commissioner, Doc Sumner

ATTEST _____
County Clerk

