

**WORK SESSION MEETING
BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2015
6:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman, Jimmy Parker called the work session meeting of the Berrien County Board of Commissioners to order on Tuesday, February 3, 2015, at 6:05 p.m. Members of the Board of Commissioners present were, Commissioner Robert Griner, Commissioner Steve Sumner, Commissioner Doc Sumner and Commissioner John Nugent.

INVITED GUESTS:

Nick Lacey - Mr. Nick Lacey addressed the Board about the new fire districts which were voted on last month. Mr. Lacey stated that he is approximately 2.1 miles from Ray City Fire Station and is currently located in New Lois Fire Department District. This puts him at a higher ISO rating. Commissioner Steve Sumner apologized on behalf of the board that his issue was not addressed. Mr. Michael Rivera from Southern Georgia Regional Commission was also at the meeting. Commissioner Steve Sumner asked him if he looked at the fire districts. He stated he was not given that information. Commissioner Steve Sumner again apologized and stated we need to start this process over and look specifically at the ISO Ratings and see what we can do to bring those down. We need to make sure the citizens of Berrien County are within the district which is near the closest fire station and that both sides of the road are in the same district. Mr. Lacey thanked they board for looking at adding new fire stations. Mr. Lacey also suggested holding a public hearing to educate the public. Mr. Lacey thanked the Board for looking into the matter.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Fine & Fee Schedule – There was no discussion on this topic during work session.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Inmate Medical Invoice – Administration received in invoice from South Georgia Medical Center for inmate medical. The total claim is \$42,365.75. Administration was able to reduce the total invoice to \$9,452.40. Administration is requesting ratification on the payment to South Georgia Medical Center.

B. Board Appointment – Recreation – Administration received a request from Brad Wells with a recommendation from the Recreation Board to appoint Dustin Vic Tucker of Alapaha to fill the unexpired term of Jerry Brogdon. That term will expire December 2019. Commissioner John Nugent stated he knows Dustin Tucker and he would be a good appointment.

C. 2015 CDBG Project & Resolution – Administration is requesting the board make a selection on the 2015 CDBG Project. Several roads were reviewed and it is the recommendation of Ben Warren, Public Works Director, to name King Road, which includes Benefield Lane, and Browning Road as our 2015 CDBG Project. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$563,482.00. The grant is \$500,000.00. This project was approved by the Chairman and needs to be ratified. Administration is also requesting we approve a Resolution naming Watkins & Associates as the project engineer. Lastly, we have to state conflicts of interest and if there are none we have to clearly state that in a public meeting. There is one employee who lives on Browning Road but no on new of any conflicts of interest.

D. 2015 CDBG RESOLUTION – This is the Resolution which will have to be executed for the CDBG Project.

E. Equipment Acquisition – Tax Assessor – Administration received a request from Greg Nimmo, Tax Assessor, to purchase a new server for the WinGap Program. Two quotes were received. We are requesting approval on the lower quote, \$7,185.00, from Spectra Computing. This is something that we need to do in order to support the State site that was changed over three years ago.

F. Equipment Acquisition – Alapaha Fire Department – Administration received a request from Alapaha Fire Department to purchase five pagers from Hasty’s Communications & Electronics, Inc. The Board asked if the cities contribute to capital items. The County Administrator will check with Alapaha Fire Department to see if the city is willing to contribute.

G. Lawn Maintenance Contract – Administration advertised and received bids for the Lawn Maintenance Contract. This is a two year contract. Two bids were received: Paynes Lawn Maintenance \$1,175.00 monthly and 1st Choice Lawn Service, \$815.00 per cut. The Board stated that Justin Payment with Payne’s Lawn Maintenance currently has the contract and we do not have any issues with the service. We did ask for a monthly bid.

H. Equipment Ratification – Administration is requesting the board ratify a change on the purchase of the pump that was approved last month. The motion was made to purchase the pump from Municipal Equipment Company for \$4,205.00. After more review of the quotes it was recommended by Buck Warren to purchase the pump from MES Carolinas in the amount of \$3,696.48.

I. Resolution – Economic Opportunity and Incentive Scale – Administration received a request from the Development Authority Board for discussion on adopting an Economic Opportunity and Incentive Scale and Tax Abatement Plan for Manufacturing/Distribution. The Economic Development Authority is requesting the Board approve a Resolution on this. Crissy Staley, Economic Development Director, stated it is a simple agreement which she can start negotiations with Any taxing agreement would be brought before the Board before it is finalized. Crissy stated that she has a meeting scheduled with Danny Hayes, School Superintendent on Friday and she has met with Ray City asking they be on board with this. She will be visiting the other municipalities. Commissioner Steve Sumner asked what kind of feedback if any has she had. Ray City is concerned that we are ignoring retail investment. Commissioner Steve Sumner asked what discussion has there been on a claw back. Crissy Staley stated if they don’t meet their benchmarks, then we have strong penalties. Tim Tanner drew up the agreement. Commissioner Steve Sumner stated he would like to see something in place with a minimum claw back.

J. ACCG Invoice – Administration is requesting ratification of payment to ACCG in the amount of \$2,500.00. ACCG filed all of the 401(1) Defined Contribution Plans in the ACCG Program with the IRS in January of 2014 for all individual determination letters. The fee for this filing was \$2,500.00. ACCG prepaid the fee on our behalf.

K. Inmate Supplies – Jail – Administration is requesting ratification on expenses incurred from the jail for inmate supplies. There are two invoices from Bob Barker totaling \$3,325.29. Invoice # NC1001203951 \$2,100.00 and NC1001199289 \$1,225.00.

L. Mod 1 Training – Fire Depts. – Administration received a request from Enigma Fire Chief, Wayne Chin, for approval of a Mod 1 class. Steve Adams is willing to instruct the class for a flat fee of \$1,235.00. There will be an additional \$10.00 charge per person if the Board chooses to have him certify the attendees in CPR. That fee covers the card. The board feels if we have the fire fighters committed to going to the class then they support it.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS:

Crissy Staley –

- Tom Thomas is in the process of preparing the closing documents for the Miller Building.
- Airport – Crissy spoke with Clinton Ray about appointments which have expired on the Airport Authority Board. Clinton will be giving us a recommendation for the Board to vote on. Crissy is recommending leaving Clinton Ray as Chairman.
- There will be an Economic Summit on March 10th at Chaparral Boats from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Please make every effort to attend.
- Transportation Bill – We have a meeting scheduled for Thursday at 2:00 with Representative Houston. There were many items on the Transportation Bill discussed. LOST and SPLOST was discussed as well as the GATE Card. Commissioner Parker asked if it would help if they required the GATE applicant to go through the FSA Office. Crissy said that has already been addressed.
- Employment Agreement – The Chamber Board and the Economic Development Boards asked Crissy to present to the Commission Board an Employment Agreement. Commissioner Steve Sumner asked who feels they can hire and fire. Mr. Nick Lacey stated that the Chamber and Economic Development Boards feel they have the hiring and firing powers and the Commissioner Board would only be involved in there was a tie. Commissioner Steve Sumner recommended getting advice from our county attorney. Commissioner Steve Sumner stated that if it's the law that those boards have the hiring and firing power, then we do not need an agreement.
- Coyote Parking Lot – Ben Warren, Public Works Director, gave a quote on crush and run, grading and hauling dirt of \$10,000.00. Crissy did pull the lease agreement and it does not address parking lot. She read the maintenance section of the lease. The Board feels it is Coyote's responsibility. The Bard said if they are willing to purchase the materials then we would put it down and we will supply the dirt. Crissy stated they are meeting all their bench marks according to their lease.
- Crissy Staley stated that their Development Authority Attorney checked into the commission to Mr. Newbern on rent from the warehouse building. The Development Attorney said it is not legal to pay the commission so that will stop.

COMMISSIONER'S ITEMS:

Jimmy Parker –

- We had discussed setting up a meeting with the Chairmen's of all Boards. Chairman Parker suggested that two commissioners meet with the two boards and address their issues with those boards and then do a letter to all other chairmen's of Boards to address concerns. The Board agreed to Chairman Parker and Commissioner Steve Sumner to meet with the two boards and address any other concerns with a letter.

Steve Sumner –

- We were able to assist Rest EZ in coming to an agreement with Advanced Disposal on the hauling rates of the trash. We have ordered the trash compactor from Advanced Disposal and it should be here by March 1st. Brenda Ferrell, County Administrator, stated Rodney Stone, Maintenance, is coordinating the electrical hook-ups as well as getting the pads poured.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

Brenda Ferrell – Met with Guy Whidby, Partners Benefits, today on group supplemental insurance. He is in the process of quoting some rates and should be providing those soon.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to move into executive session for personnel at 7:52 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Steve Sumner. The motion was made to move out of Executive Session and into regular session at 8:06 p.m.

Commissioner Steve Sumner made the motion to give \$3,000.00 increase to the Recreation Interim Director with no increase throughout the upcoming physical year, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. Commissioners Jimmy Parker, Steve Sumner and Robert Griner voted in favor. Commissioner Doc Sumner voted no and Commissioner John Nugent was absent for the vote.

ADJOURN

With no other business to come before the Board, Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner Steve Sumner. Meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Chairman, Jimmy Parker

Vice Chairman, John Nugent

Commissioner, Steve Sumner

Commissioner, Robert Griner

Commissioner, Doc Sumner

ATTEST _____
County Clerk