

**WORK SESSION MEETING
BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2016
6:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman, John Nugent called the work session meeting of the Berrien County Board of Commissioners to order on Tuesday, March 1, 2016, at 6:04 p.m. Members of the Board of Commissioners present were, Commissioner Robert Griner, Commissioner Steve Sumner, Commissioner Doc Sumner and Commissioner Jimmy Parker.

INVITED GUESTS:

Clay Tomlinson – Mr. Tomlinson came before the Board to let them know that he is running for Superior Court Judge. He gave a brief description of his accomplishments. His intentions, if elected, is to keep the office here in Berrien County and is willing to work with the County in any way possible.

Daryl Lancaster – Commissioner Steve Sumner asked that Daryl Lancaster, EMS Director, come to the meeting tonight. Chairman John Nugent, Commissioner Steve Sumner and County Administrator Brenda Ferrell were asked to attend a meeting with several representatives from the South Georgia Medical Center Hospital, Berrien Campus, to discuss the county support of the hospital. There were a number of items discussed at this meeting but it all came back to the hospital is losing about \$300,000.00 per month. They are asking the County/City of Nashville to commitment to a 4 mil increase (approximately \$1,200,000.00) per year to keep the hospital open. Commissioner Steve Sumner asked Daryl Lancaster for input on some of the issues that he has experienced within EMS. Daryl stated that the transports have decreased due to the door between the hospital and nursing home being closed. They actually have to call for a transport when the nursing home needs to admit a patient so they are requesting they go to Valdosta or Tifton most of the time. Daryl stated he has been in several meetings with SGMC on issues such as these. There are things they need to fix within.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Board Appointments – Development Authority – Administration received a request from the Berrien County Development Authority requesting four members be reappointed for a four year term, ending March 2020. Reappointments are: Charles Blewett, Judge Dane Perkins, Scott Stalnaker and Hiram Griffin. Crissy Staley asked the Board to please consider these reappointments.

B. Airport Engineer Selection – Administration received a request from the Berrien County Airport Authority Board to appoint Michael Baker for airport engineering services. The Board reviewed the three submissions for qualification for airport engineering services. The Airport Board scored the qualifications from Holt, Michael Baker and Roberts and Company based on the eight criteria on the request for qualifications. Michael Baker received the highest cumulative score of 158, Holt scored 121 and Roberts and Company scored 120. Crissy Staley stated that every five years we have to appoint an engineering firm. The Airport Board is recommending Michael Baker as the airport engineering firm.

C. GIS Services, SGRC – Administration received a request from Greg Nimmo, Tax Assessor, to enter into contract with South Georgia Regional Commission to maintain the tax parcel boundary GIS database for Berrien County. Two proposals were submitted with the recommendation being Option B in the amount of \$4,200.00. County Administrator, Brenda Ferrell, stated the Option B is being recommended based on the amount of splits last year.

D. CDBG Resolution & Conflict of Interest Statement – Administration is requesting the Board

execute the Resolution to submit an application to obtain FY 2016 CDBG funds for Public Infrastructure Improvements. Also we have to state if there are any conflicts. This is for King Road and Benefield Lane.

E. Equipment Acquisition – Sheriff – Administration received a request from Major Ray Paulk to purchase a “Pack Rat” which would help tremendously for the deputies to be able to communicate when they are away from their car on a traffic stop or a domestic dispute. As of now, once they leave town their portable radios are just about impossible to use. This has become a safety issue. We approved six in December, 2015. With this purchase, it will equip all road deputies with this type of radio. The Board suggested waiting to see how the six we just purchased work before we buy the additional six.

F. Equipment Acquisition – Jail – Administration received a request from Major Ray Paulk to purchase radios for the jail. They have been swapping radios from shift to shift and when one gets broken they cannot hold anyone accountable. With the purchase of these radios, one will be assigned to each jailer. They provided one quote from McLaggan Communications & Radar Service for \$5,778.00. They have money in the equipment maintenance line which they would like to use for the purchase.

G. Equipment Acquisition – WBFD – Administration received a request from Terry Danforth, Chief of West Berrien, to purchase four complete sets of turnout gear. He has provided two quotes. He has four firefighters who do not have any equipment. We approved these sets last year but he never purchased them. Quotes were from Ten-8 Fire and Safety Equipment of GA for \$6,890.20 and FireLine, Inc. for \$7,052.00.

H. Equipment Acquisition – WBFD – Administration received a request from Terry Danforth, Chief of West Berrien, to purchase 3 radios. He has provided one quote. We have asked for additional quotes but at this time RCE of Valdosta was the only one that replied with a quote of \$1,287.00.

I. Paving Petition – Bird Dog Lane – Administration received a Paving Petition from Pastor Clarence Luke requesting to pave Bird Dog Lane. The petition was sent to the Tax Assessors Office and Greg Nimmo reviewed the petition and advised there are nine property owners who did not sign the paving petition. Pastor Luke stated that all owners are in agreement of having it paved. The board explained the process of paving funds and if the board approves it to be added to the list that it does not mean that it will be paved in the near future. There was also some discussion as to whether it would qualify as a CDBG Project.

J. Ratification Items – Administration is requesting ratification on the following items:

Iron Peddlers	H-Link	\$1,543.00
Cherokee Culvert	Pipe (partly for fire substations)	\$5,752.06
Timber Lease		

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS:

Crissy Staley –

- Stated the Airport Authority Board voted on a Policy to make aircraft airworthy and if it is not airworthy then they have 90 days to remove it. Commissioner Steve Sumner asked if there is a fee for a permanent tie down. Crissy Staley said at this time there is not but that is something the board is working on.
- Staley has been working with the County Attorney and the Airport Board to develop a lease for a new tenant at the airport.
- Staley stated they surveyed existing industries and in 2015 there were 134 new jobs.
- Rodeo is March 25th & 26th

- Staley said there is an Economic Development Roundtable Meeting scheduled April 28th at 5:30 at Rays Millpond.

COMMISSIONER’S ITEMS:

Steve Sumner –

- Commissioner Steve Sumner and County Administrator, Brenda Ferrell, had a meeting with Tom Thomas on our retirement plan. This was a request from Tom Thomas to meet. The firm he is working with has been primarily working with schools but would like to offer a very similar plan to governmental agencies. They will put together a proposal and bring it to the board.
- Last year we were able to improve our Moody rating and now that we are in a better financial position, we are receiving requests to basically refinance the Administration Building. We currently are at a 4.3% interest and they are saying we could drop in the 2.5% range. If this is something the Board will like to pursue in looking at, Commissioner Steve Sumner volunteered to start working on it. The Board was in agreement for Commissioner Steve Sumner to proceed with looking into it.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Barbara Gibbs – Mrs. Gibbs addressed the Board about repair of drainage pipe on her private drive, Gibbs Lane. Her husband is disabled. She had two 12” pipes. She stated her neighbors dug a pond and this has caused the road to washout. She just bought more pipes. Commissioner Steve Sumner stated this is a private drive and asked how long the drive is. Mrs. Gibbs stated it is 1,650 feet. Commissioner Doc Sumner stated that Ben Warren, Public Works Director, could go out there and put the pipe in like it should be. Commissioner Steve Sumner asked if someone like Jimmy Drawdy could do it. Commissioner Doc Sumner said this is a unique situation and he is willing for the County to do this. Chairman John Nugent stated he would be willing to make an exception in this situation. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made the suggestion to have Ben Warren assess the cost and come back to us.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

Brenda Ferrell –

- There are additional LMIG Funds available through GDOT. We can use these to stripe roads. Please bring a list of road names in your district to the Regular Session so we can discuss.
- We need to be thinking of an appointment to the South Georgia Community Service Board d/b/a Behavior Health Services of South Georgia for June, 2016.

ADJOURN

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

Chairman, John Nugent

Vice Chairman, Steve Sumner

Commissioner, Jimmy Parker

Commissioner, Robert Griner

Commissioner, Doc Sumner

ATTEST _____
County Clerk