

**REGULAR SESSION MEETING  
BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 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, April 12, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. Members of the Board of Commissioners present were, Commissioner Robert Griner, Commissioner, Steve Sumner, Commissioner Doc Sumner and Commissioner Jimmy Parker.

Invocation: Commissioner Jimmy Parker  
Pledge: Commissioner Steve Sumner

**Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Doc Sumner made the motion to approve the March 8, 2016 Regular Session Minutes, the March 26, 2016 Special Called Meeting Minutes and the April 5, 2016 Work Session Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.

**Additions to Agenda:** Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to add Item H to the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Steve Sumner. The motion carried unanimously.

**INVITED GUESTS:**

A. Mayor Wayne Gulley – City of Ray City - Mayor Gulley came before the board to advise the board that the City of Ray City has requested an increase for the water capacity from EPD. They feel very confident that this will be granted. They are two builders who wish to development a subdivision in Ray City. Commissioner Steve Sumner stated that there are some issues with the lot sizes which will need to be addressed through the Planning Commission which we will not get into at this time. Commissioner Steve Sumner asked Mayor Gulley why doesn't the City of Ray City annex that small portion into the city. He stated they did not want to. Commissioner Steve Sumner stated that the subdivision located in the unincorporated area will have septic systems therefore due to the lot sizes; no one can have a well. Mayor Gulley stated that Ray City will provide water and trash pick-up.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

A. Additional LMIG Funds – Discussion – Administration received notice that there are additional LMIG funds. There is a 30% match on this project. We can use these funds to stripe roads. The following roads were discussed for striping: Teeterville Highway, Vickers Church Rd., Barbershop Rd., Marie McGill Rd., Ray's Millpond Rd., Possum Creek Rd., Allenville Rd., White Pond Rd., Old Ray City Highway, Garner Rd., S. Coffee Rd., Sirmans Rd., Wycliff Roberts Rd. County Administrator stated that if we do the roads discussed we are looking at approximately 45 miles of striping. The estimated cost of the striping is \$2,800.00 per mile. If we apply for \$100,000.00 then we would have a 30,000.00 match which would cover the mileage for all roads discussed. Commissioner Steve Sumner shared with the Board a quote which Ben Warren, Public Works Director, received on a striping machine. The quote was \$49,000.00. He has asked for additional quotes but has not received them. Commissioner Steve Sumner stated he feels that we need to look into the purchase of a machine. Paint will be expensive. Commissioner Steve Sumner made a motion to submit grant application for \$100,000 of the mileage stated above and to look at the machines during the retreat, seconded by Commissioner Doc Sumner. The motion carried unanimously.

B. New Fire Districts – Administration is requesting the Board review the proposed new fire districts which South GA Regional Commission is recommending. Chairman John Nugent explained that these districts need to be approved so 911 can start using them and then they will have to be redone after the fire stations are built. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made the motion to approve the new fire districts as presented, seconded by Commissioner Steve Sumner. The motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Administration received a request from Sheriff Anthony Heath to purchase new vehicles. He provided a quote from Hardy Chevrolet for \$33,936.00 and McLaggan Communication & Radar Service for \$15,352.75. Total vehicle cost is \$49,288.75. County Administrator, Brenda Ferrell, stated the money is not in the budget however it was requested as a capital item during the budget process. Commissioner Steve Sumner stated we did have a settlement along with attorney fees that were paid this year. He also stated that safety is a number one issue and we cannot have vehicles that are not safe. Commissioner Robert Griner made a motion to purchase two vehicles at \$40,000.00 each, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Board Appointment – Planning Commission – Administration received notification from the Planning Commission that the City of Nashville appointed Mr. Antonio Carter to fill the unexpired term of Mrs. Pat Sutton. The term will expire September 2019. Commissioner Jimmy Parker made the motion to approve the appointment of Antonio Carter to fill the unexpired term of Pat Sutton to expire September 2019, seconded by Commissioner John Nugent. Four voted for, Commissioner Robert Griner voted opposed.

C. Solid Waste Contract – There was discussion on the Solid Waste Contract with Rest EZ. There was discussion on the clean-up of the transfer site which had previously been addressed with Rest EZ. There was also discussion on the hours of operation. The Board directed County Administrator to send out a letter notifying Rest EZ that they were terminating the contract which will need to be ratified in regular session. By terminating the contract, it will allow the board to make changes in the contract which will need to address the management of the transfer site. Commissioner Steve Sumner made the motion to ratify the termination of the Rest EZ Contract effective May 31, 2016 until a new contract can be worked out, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.

D. LMIG Award – Administration is requesting discussion on our current LMIG Project and bid. Bids were opened Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. There was only one bid submitted and it was from The Scruggs Company for a total project cost of \$1,178,076.44. We received \$526,427.98 from DOT and we have a match of \$157,928.40. County Administrator stated the project cost needs to be about \$684,356.38 unless we plan on spending additional funds which are not budgeted. Commissioner Robert Griner made a motion to complete .60 miles on Barnes Chapel Rd., .17 miles on Hobbs Walker Rd., 2 miles on West Lenox Road and 2.5 miles on Garner Rd. and Alapaha will be responsible for their road, seconded by Commissioner Steve Sumner. The motion carried unanimously.

E. SPLOST RESOLUTION – Administration is requesting the board ratify a change to the SPLOST Resolution. There was a typo which was caught and corrected before it was advertised in the paper and before the ballots were created. Administration sent the changes to the municipalities and requested they ratify the changes and send a copy of their minutes to file with the original resolution. Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to ratify the changes to the SPLOST Resolution, seconded by Commissioner Steve Sumner. The motion carried unanimously.

F. Ratification Items – Administration requested ratification on the following items:

West Plumbing and Electrical Service (garbage disposal at jail)	\$2,075.00
GA Correctional Industry (signs)	\$1,575.00
Walker & Associates (Locate Machine)	\$3,270.00
Cherokee Culvert	\$8,111.70
Mike Burch Ford (ambulance repair)	\$1,369.47

Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to ratify the purchases listed, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

G. County Attorney- Discussion – Chairman John Nugent stated we had discussion on this last week and unless anyone has anything additional to say then we can just move forward. Commissioner Doc Sumner made a motion to drop discussion on the County Attorney at this time, seconded by Commissioner Steve Sumner. The motion carried unanimously.

H. Supply Request – Jail – Administration received a request from Eston Connell, to purchase toiletry supplies from Bob Barker in the amount of \$1,096.18. Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to approve the purchase from Bob Barker in the amount of \$1,096.18, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS:**

Crissy Staley –

- Crissy Staley asked the Board if they were ok with moving forward with the airport leases at 15 year terms. No vote needs to be taken but they are in agreement.
- Beacon light at airport should be repaired next week.
- Fuel Farm – the bid came in higher than expected so our engineer has been negotiating with the bid that we received and have come up with an acceptable bid. (see attached) The main modification is that we will only have Jet A fuel. The County obligation will be \$26,848.71. Commissioner Steve Sumner made a motion to accept the bid and proceed with the Fuel Farm Contract, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner.

**COMMISSIONER'S ITEMS:**

Doc Sumner –

- Mr. Hogan from The Tire Store is looking at purchasing land and building his own building.
- Commissioner Sumner asked the Board about having Debbie Cole put in the paper the Commissioners and contact information. Several other counties do to. The board was ok with doing that if she will put it in for free but not to list cell phone numbers.
- Commissioner Doc Sumner was talking with Terry Danforth and he said that West Berrien Fire Department is in real need of equipment. The Board asked what type of equipment? Turnout gear and radios were recently purchased for them.

Robert Griner –

- Clinton Ray is interested in purchasing the property at the old landfill that is adjacent to his property. This includes the borrow pit. Commissioner Griner stated that he talked with Ben Warren, Public Works Director, who stated they get some dirt from their but not a lot. This also is located near the solar farm. Commissioner Griner said we need to look at the solar lease and see if there is something that would prevent us selling the land. County Administrator, Brenda Ferrell, will have lease at the Retreat to discuss.
- Johnny Griffin has a borrow pit off of Adel Highway. His accountant said if he could get

something from the County stating that we did in-kind work there it would help him on his taxes. We do get dirt/clay from there but we purchase it. No in-kind work.

Steve Sumner –

- Commissioner Steve Sumner, Commissioner Jimmy Parker and County Administrator, Brenda Ferrell met with a firm called Stifel about refinancing the Administration Building and putting it to bid for private placement. With the drop in rates, we are looking at a potential savings of \$660,000.00 over a 15-year period. We would have to enter into an agreement with Stifel to give us a definite quote but it does not lock us into just them. Commission Steve Sumner made the motion pending legal counsel advice to move forward with Stifel for private placement, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.
- Commissioner Steve Sumner thanked the Board for the flowers and the cards that were received last week during his loss of family.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:**

Brenda Ferrell –

- Economic Development Roundtable Meeting is April 28<sup>th</sup> at Rays Mill Pond.
- Retreat is April 22, 2016 at Pope’s Puddle starting at 9:00 a.m.
- DATE Fund Request was received from Judge Perkins. He is requesting 100% of DATE Funds. Judge Perkins and the Sheriff will discuss and then come back to us for a final request.
- The City of Nashville has approved the purchase of a vehicle for Chief Buck Warren. The vehicle he had was a Forestry Issued vehicle and we cannot get another one. The transmission went out and several other things are wrong with it. The City Council approved up to \$29,000.00 for a vehicle. They are asking if the County would split the cost since it will be used in the county. Commissioner Steve Sumner made the motion to pay 50% of the cost on a vehicle for Fire Chief Buck Warren up to the approved total cost of \$29,000.00.
- EMS Building is having some mold issues. The air ducts need to be cleaned and it is recommended in putting a GPS Air Treatment Device. Ray & Sons provided a quote to complete that work of \$1,160.00. Commissioner Steve Sumner made a motion to approve the work from Ray & Sons for \$1,160.00, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.
- Iron Planet held the auction of the surplus equipment and the total on the items sold was \$14,850.00.

**ADJOURN**

With no other business to come before the Board, Commissioner Jimmy Parker made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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Chairman, John Nugent

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Vice Chairman, Steve Sumner

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Commissioner, Jimmy Parker

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Commissioner, Robert Griner

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Commissioner, Doc Sumner

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