

**WORK SESSION MEETING
BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 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, April 7, 2015, at 6:01 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:

Ken Block – Sherry Lane – Mr. Block addressed the Board with three items.

- The pavement of Barker Road between Garner and Indian Camp Roads
- The public dump area developing on Barker Road in the same area.
- The repair and maintenance of Sherry Lane.

Mr. Block stated that a petition was completed and turned in on Barker Road in 2008. He said they were told that it would be placed on a priority listing. Commissioner Steve Sumner explained the process of the Paving Petition and that it goes on a paving list. That list is reviewed by the Board and placed in priority when funding becomes available. The funding we receive is for resurfacing. Very rarely do we receive funding for a paving project outside of a CDBG Grant which is for low to mod income areas.

The Board said that they would be speaking with Code Enforcement in the morning to find out what is being done about the trash and would make sure that the clean-up process is started. Commissioner Steve Sumner stated that if we have to go through the court system to make them clean it up that it sometimes takes a while but we will find out what is going on with it.

Mr. Ken Block and Mr. Tom Wikle both spoke on Sherry Lane. Mr. Block stated that in 2009 the Road Department built-up, leveled and provided proper drainage for Sherry Lane to include two road signs identifying Sherry Lane. For the next two years, he stated dirt was provided and local residents spread the dirt to level the road. Commissioner Steve Sumner stated that the Board voted to stop delivering dirt about two years ago due to the cost the county was assuming. Chairman Parker and Commissioner Griner both stated that they remember approving some work to be done as a one-time courtesy. Both Mr. Block and Mr. Wikle feel there are still drainage issues. Mr. Tom Wikle said he owns Hawks Landing Ranch. It is a non-profit ranch. He does a lot of things with FFA, DA Child Advocacy for Abused Children, Moody and handicapped children. He said that there was an incident where a child fell off a horse and had to call for EMS. The ambulance would not even come down the road. They drove through someone's yard. He stated he just wants to see what kind of help he can get to fix the road. Commissioner Steve Sumner recommended contacting Charles Crews and find out who the road belongs to. The Board agreed to talk with Ben Warren, Public Works Director, and get his opinion.

Ashley Sewell – VFW – Mr. Sewell did not attend the meeting. Commissioner Doc Sumner stated that the VFW is requesting the County contribute to the cost of flags that they purchase and distribute throughout the community.

Eddie Owens – Republican Party – Mr. Owens former President of the Republican Party introduced the new President, Chris West. They addressed the Board about the rental of the Ag Building for Republican Party Meetings. They were told they would be charged a \$150.00 fee for just an hour use of the building. They were also told that the Board is the one that came up with that. Commissioner Steve Sumner

advised the two men that the County Administrator had done some research on that formation of the Ag Board which was put in place. The County Commission Board signed a Resolution in 2004 naming those appointed to the Board. That Board was given instruction to develop guidelines for the use of the building. This is something that has always been in place but maybe not always enforced. Due to the confidential material in the FSA Office, we are limiting the use of that building to Agricultural which is what the guidelines state. Commissioner Steve Sumner feels that the first step is to re-evaluate the Board and then the Republican Party needs to approach the Ag Board with their recommendation or offer. Commissioner Doc Sumner feels that this was not handled right to begin with.

Mr. Owens also wanted to address the beaver problems. Commissioner Steve Sumner stated he feels it is a property owner's problem. Commissioner Doc Sumner stated it is a problem for anyone who drives on a county road. Mr. Owens asked about the bounty we had several years ago and doing that again. Commissioner Robert Griner said that PETA came after us when we did that. Commissioner Doc Sumner feels we should do the bounty again. Commissioner Steve Sumner still stated that he feels it is the property owner's problem. We take care of the pipes and damage there but we cannot go on citizen's property.

Murray Gaskins & Tray – Commissioner Doc Sumner contacted Mr. Murray about the mold in the old courthouse and asked him if he could give the County a quote on another test. Mr. Gaskins stated that black mold is caused by moisture. You need to do away with the cooled air system. There are possibly some things we could do with sealing the building but if you don't change out the cooling system it will only create a worse problem. There was some discussion on the cost of sealing the problem areas. Commissioner Steve Sumner asked what it would cost to test the building. We were told \$1,500.00 would complete the mold test, tell us where the problem is and what we need to do to fix it. Brian Shaw stated about every two months the air system would back up and flood the area.

Jane Knight & Brian Shaw – Mrs. Knight thanked the Board for allowing the Historical Foundation to operate out of the building as long as they have. Mrs. Knight said they want to get in the courthouse to do what we can to represent Berrien County. Commissioner Steve Sumner said we cannot use it as long as we have mold. Unfortunately we live in a society where claims are made every day and we cannot expose the county to that.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Board Appointment – Economic Development - Administration received a notice from the Berrien County Development Authority Board that Chairman Paul Hamilton resigned his position effective April 30, 2015. Mr. Hamilton will be moving out of the county. The Development Authority Board is recommending Charles Blewett to fill the unexpired term of Paul Hamilton which will expire March 2016. Mr. Blewett is also a graduate of the Georgia Academy of Economic Development. Crissy Staley stated Mr. Blewett has a degree in Regional Development.

B. Nutrition Contract Renewal for FY 2016 - Administration received a request from Southern Georgia Regional Commission's Area Agency on Aging requesting to extend our nutrition contract through FY 16. The Area Agency on Aging has not received a final allocation issuance for FY 16 from the Georgia Department of Human Services, Division of Aging Services. Unless funding cuts are so drastic as to make it impossible, it is their intent to fund FY16 contract at a level very similar to the FY15 contract amount.

C. New Fire Districts - Administration is requesting the Board review the proposed new fire districts which South GA Regional Commission is recommending. This map is showing a 5-mile radius.

Chairman Jimmy Parker stated Vernon Hughes from East Berrien is willing to donate some of his property to place a sub-station on. Chairman Parker also stated that Buck Warren knows someone on SR 129 who will donate property for a sub-station. Commissioner Nugent asked how soon should be start on the substations. The Board feels this is something we need to pursue quickly. County Administrator, Brenda Ferrell, stated that we can apply for some funding with an EMPG Grant.

D. Building Repairs – Ag Center - Administration is requesting the Board ratify the purchase of three new doors for the Ag Center. The purchase and installation was from Rick Fennell Contracting in the amount of \$4,174.00. We tried to get a total of three bids and were not able to find anyone other than Rick Fennel who was willing to bid.

E. A/C Purchase – Ag Center - Administration is requesting the Board ratify the purchase of a new a/c unit at the Ag Center. The purchase was from Air Depot in the amount of \$2,948.00.

F. Drug Court Testing Supplies - Administration is requesting the Board ratify the purchase of Drug Court testing supplies from Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics Web Shop in the amount of \$6,129.12. Commissioner Griner asked the County Administrator to find out if the quantity is based on cases or for an individual test.

G. Hall, Booth, Smith, P.C. – LOST - Administration is requesting the Board ratify the payment to Hall, Booth, Smith, P.C. in the amount of \$96,890.24. This is for LOST. Chairman Parker stated this is less that what we anticipated. Commissioner Steve Sumner said going into this we were afraid it may exceed \$200,000.00.

H. Routine Maintenance Purchases – Road – County Administrator is requesting this items be ratified. They are all items needed for routine maintenance. The Order from Cherokee Culvert, four of the 18 x 20 will be reimbursed by Southern Gas Company for \$796.00. Those pipes will be installed on the roads where they have gas lines crossing the road.

Nashville Tractor – 2 Mower Tires, 6 Blades, 3 Bolt Kits	Unit 120	\$ 988.64
Nashville Tractor – 2 mower tires, 4 skids, 20 bolts, 3 bolt kits	Unit 121	\$ 871.42
Yancey Brothers – 20 blades 5/8x6x7, 20 blades 34x8x7x1/2	Grader & Drag	\$2,161.00
Cherokee Culvert – Pipe		\$6,366.45
Fausett Oil – 250 Gallons 15W40 Oil, 250 gallons AW Hydraulic Fluid		\$3,707.50

I. Fire Tanker Lights – NLFD - Administration received a notification from Blair Joiner advising the 6-month period to get the tanker on the road is up. Charles Rasmussen, Shop Foreman, provided a list of supplies needed. Paul Guay, NLFD Chief, provided a quote for the lights he is requesting.

<u>Galls – Lightbar</u>	\$ 739.98
<u>Agri Supply</u> - 6 – strobes, 1 roll of wire, 2 – 4” LED side (red)	\$ 374.63
TOTAL	\$1,114.61

<u>Southern Sirens & Lights</u>	
LED (used with a warranty)	\$ 500.00
Whelen M7 LED Lighthead (strobes)	\$ 873.60
Flange	\$ 54.00
TOTAL	\$1,427.60

Charles Rasmussen, Shop Foreman, addressed the Board with the quotes he provided. He provided a strobe light for the Board to look at along with The description from Galls on the lightbar. The shop fabricated the mount for the lightbar so there will be no purchase for that. Paul Guay from NLFD was not able to attend but provided the quote from Southern Sires & Lights. Blair Joiner, Forestry, had previously told Chairman Parker and County Administrator, Brenda Ferrell, that the truck did not need any special lighting and that the cheaper quote would be fine.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS:

Crissy Staley – Stated she is still working in gathering information on the Miller Building/Grant issue and the constitutional authority of the Economic Development Board.

COMMISSIONER’S ITEMS:

Doc Sumner – said he had a complaint about the restrooms at the Ag Center not being clean. We feel that the rodeo was just held there and they may have something to do with it. We will check into it.

Jimmy Parker –

- A company by the name of Craftco demonstrated a machine which fills in the cracks in asphalt. There are several different options to look at if we are interested.
- Chairman Parker received a call from Buck Warren who stated that West Berrien Fire Department needs a Class A truck in order to reduce their ISO Rating. We can get a Forestry Truck and have the Macon office equipment the truck for somewhere around \$50,000. Terry Danforth, Wbfd Chief and Buck Warren, Nashville Fire Chief, was going to find out more details on it.

Steve Sumner –

- Cleaning up at the Industrial Park in Enigma. We need to go ahead and have been starting stumping that property. County Administrator asked if they would approve overtime for the stumping. The Board agreed they would pay the overtime.
- Commissioner Steve Sumner has drafted a letter to GenCorp in reference to the 401(a), if the Board is comfortable with the content, then we will go ahead and send it. The Board approves of the content.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

Brenda Ferrell –

- Professionals Luncheon – April 22, 2015
- Hospital Plaques – Judge Perkins would like the Board to consider moving the cancer plaques from the hospital to the Administration Building. The Board is not in favor of doing this.
- South GA Military Affairs Council luncheon April 10th @ 12:00, RSVP needed.
- Bullet Proof Vests up to a 50% grant but not determined until it is awarded in October. Board would like to know how many vests we need.
- Retreat is set for April 23rd – 9:00 to 2:00 – John Nugent said he would not be able to attend. The Board is going to reschedule the date.
- Service Delivery Strategy Meeting – April 30th @ 6:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: (personnel)

Commissioner Robert Griner made a motion to move into Executive Session for personnel at 8:25, seconded by Commissioner Steve Sumner. Commissioner Robert Griner made a motion to move out of Executive Session and back into Regular Session at 8:43 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Steve Sumner.

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 8:44 p.m.

Chairman, Jimmy Parker

Vice Chairman, John Nugent

Commissioner, Steve Sumner

Commissioner, Robert Griner

Commissioner, Doc Sumner

ATTEST _____
County Clerk