

**REGULAR SESSION MEETING
BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2015
6:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman, Jimmy Parker called the regular session meeting of the Berrien County Board of Commissioners to order on Tuesday, May 12, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. Members of the Board of Commissioners present were, Commissioner Robert Griner, Commissioner Steve Sumner, Commissioner Doc Sumner and Commissioner John Nugent.

Invocation: Tom Thomas
Pledge: Robert Griner

MINUTES: Commissioner Steve Sumner made the motion to approve the April 14, 2015 Regular Session Minutes, the April 14, 2015 Executive Session and the May 5, 2015 Work Session Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to amend the agenda and add items G - I to the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Steve Sumner. The motion carried unanimously.

INVITED GUESTS:

A. Walt Stone – Jack C. Lindsey Rd. – Mr. Stone addressed the Board about Jack C. Lindsey Rd. He said the ditches need to be dug out. Water is running across the road and carrying rock, dirt to his pond and on his property. The ditch on the side of the road where his pond is the ditch was about five feet wide. Over years, it has been filled in. He said normal ditching will not take care of his problem. Commissioner Griner asked him what he thinks will fix it. He said it needs to be back like it was. Commissioner Steve Sumner asked if the road as gotten wider or what has happened. He said the way the road is sloped that everything runs across the road fills the ditch and then runs into his yard. Commissioner Griner said he thought that the Road Department was going to ditch that today. He said he has called the Road Department but they will not call him back. Commissioner Doc Sumner looked at the road and the issues Mr. Stone is talking about. Mr. Stone wants the county to clean his pond where the road has washed into it. Commissioner Steve Sumner asked Commissioner Doc Sumner if he wanted to contact Ben Warren to see if the ditches can be dug a little deeper and wider. He also said that we may need to put a pipe there. Commissioner Steve Sumner suggested Commissioner Doc Sumner get with Ben Warren to see what can be done and to communicate with Mr. Stone. Commissioner Steve Sumner said we can check into the issue but do not think we can do anything with the pond.

PUBLIC HEARING: Partial Road Closure of June Hendley Rd. – Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to move into Public Hearing on the Partial Road Closure of June Hendley Rd., seconded by Commissioner Steve Sumner at 6:12 p.m. Chairman Parker opened the public hearing and stated that it was for a partial road closure on June Hendley Road. Commissioner Steve Sumner stated in this case, he looks at it a little differently. Usually if there is anyone who opposes, we will not close a road but in this case, the road runs through Langdale property and does not affect anyone else. Dennis Adams with Code Enforcement has verified that there are no utility companies that will be affected. Chairman Parker asked if there is anyone who would like to speak against the road closure. Commissioner Robert Griner asked how many was for and how many against. Commissioner Griner said there appears to be a lot against does someone like to speak for those citizens.

David Keefe – Mr. Keefe thanked Commissioner Sumner for the way he handled this item when it was brought up before. We are back with the same issue again. That road may not serve any purpose to the county other than Happy Hill is a historical aspect for many citizens. This road does not need to be closed. There is an old pear tree which has been picked for years. He is requesting the Commissioners to not pass this once again. We just do not want it closed. Happy Hill is heritage for the County. A hunting club is asking to shut the road down and the ones asking are not Berrien County residents. He said he don't want to step on anyone's toes or make anyone mad but we just don't want it closed. If this comes up again in six months, it shouldn't because we were told it should not happen within a year. Commissioner Steve Sumner brought this up to the board when this surfaced again this tie. Steve Sumner clarified that with this issue coming up before a year that this is a significant amount reduced. Totally different on the section of road closed. It is 100% Langdale owned land. Commissioner Steve Sumner also stated that Chairman Parker and County Administrator, Brenda Ferrell went out to look at the area about two weeks ago and checked the mileage, the number of pipes and just checked everything. Mr. Keefe asked who petitioned to close the road. Aubrey Halstead paid the \$200.00 fee but it is a non-county resident. The Planning Commission received another petition signed by James Barrett who is VP of Langdale. Mr. Keefe stated he is in several hunting clubs that would benefit by closing the roads.

Cliff Grant – Recreational Lease Manager for Langdale. He commended Berrien County on the Ten Commandments and the In God We Trust Sign that is in the lobby and the board room. It was brought to our attention that we have had some problems arson fires, trash thrown on the road. We enjoy helping people, we look after our neighbors and the local people the best we can. It was brought to our attention that there has been some problems. We want to look over the neighbors the best we can. We want to protect the integrity of our forest. He is for the local people. They have actually had one county come to Langdale wanting a road closed. But they simply want to protect the integrity of their land.

Aubry Halstead – Mr. Halstead spoke in favor of closing the road. He stated he understands the heritage of the land. He has young boys. This is a recreational lease. You hear a high powered rifle go off at midnight when you have your kids out there that is a safety hazard. We want to be good stewards of the land. By no means are we trying to cut public access. We do things in the club to try to beautify the property.

Robby Brooks – Spoke against the closure. He stated his family is the Harpers that use to be out there. My Granny is in the Victory House. I have an aunt who comes from Albany that she will pick my Granny up and take flowers to the graves. It is my heritage. He stated he asked Ben Warren why he wanted the road closed and he stated it is only because of the hunting club. I don't care about the hunting club. He stated that a young man was stopped out there this past weekend just riding. He said he has heard several stories about it but he knows that it has happened before. No one should be stopping people from riding the roads. The hunting club should not be stopping people or following them. Commissioner Steve Sumner asked if a lot of people drive those roads. Yes it is a recreational thing. Any road in this county has trash on it.

Scott Stobern – Spoke against the closure. Mr. Stobern stated he appreciates both sides of the argument. If we let this hunting club shut the road down, hunting clubs all over will want to shut down their road. It sets a precedent.

Brian Rudeseal – Spoke against the closure. He said he has a two year old who he takes riding out there every night.

With no other comments, Chairman Jimmy Parker asked if there is a motion to close public hearing. Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to close the Public Hearing at 6:37 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Steve Sumner.

Commissioner Steve Sumner stated that he is not trying to delay this but that Dennis Adams received a call today wanting to know where they road was closing, from what point to where and said there were no signs. Part of our operational guidelines, it is our responsibility that we run the newspaper advertisement and advertise where it is going to be closed at. We sent Dennis Adams back out and put the signs up. He does not feel that anyone here tonight would be hear just because of the sign. I am concerned about taking a vote on this tonight because of the lack of proper notification. We need to readvertise and have Dennis check those signs daily. Commissioner Steve Sumner made a motion to table until next meeting and properly advertise and post at our cost, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Robert Griner said that he does not care about the hunting club but I am an elected official. Our job is to save money for the county. Sometimes that good and sometimes it's not. I have heard all kinds of stuff about the road today. Someone at Nashville Tractor said four graders were grading it today. There was not four graders but one did grade it today because it was on the routine schedule to grade. The pipe cost alone will save money. If we can save money, he is for closing the road.

Kerry Holbrook – He said we have a lot of equipment to grade roads and a mile of road is not going to make a difference. Commissioner Steve Sumner stated that he checked on it and the operator did not even know about the meeting tonight. It was on the normal rotation. The Board told him that it would not be graded until a decision is made. We do not need to serve a road that we are potentially going to close or not close. Chairman Parker said that the operator called him and said that he was not told that the road may get closed. Commissioner Steve Sumner stated that the hunting club have been pulled over people out there. If that happens they need to call 911. He said if we are going to save money, they carried an excavator was carried up there last fall and mowed both sides of the road. Then two weeks after that they were sprayed. That road is in good shape. If we are going to save money we need to do it in the right way. Commissioner Steve Sumner explained that every little bit of savings does help the county. It is those few dollars here and there that add up. He has had numerous calls about an article that was in the paper about closing an election precinct. The citizens of Berrien County asked us, the Board, to manage the money. You don't get out of debt without cutting funds from somewhere. Commissioner Steve Sumner explained the fire districts and how the board is trying to redraw the fire districts to help citizens save money on their homeowners insurance.

Kerry Holbrook stated that the Board needs to pay attention to what is being done. A county grader graded a road that has never been graded up to the house. Commissioner Steve Sumner asked what road. Herman McLellan Road use to be graded up to the hay field. Now it is graded to a house. If you are looking at savings money, you need to look at every little thing. This is something that the Board will have to look into.

Robby Brooks said that he wanted to say one more thing. He said this would be the last he will say on the matter. The Berrien County residents spoke. You have two people from Lowndes County here wanting the road closed. He does not feel that it should take another month.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. Fire Districts – Nothing new to discuss at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Board Appointment – Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Addictive Diseases Regional Planning Board – Administration received a request from Jackie Davis, Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities to reappoint Ms. Elaine Landy-Johnson to the Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Addictive Diseases Regional Planning Board. This is a three year

term which will expire June 2017. Commissioner Steve Sumner made the motion to appoint Ms. Elaine Landy-Johnson to the Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Addictive Diseases Regional Planning Board, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.

B. FY 2-15-2016 Dental and Vision Renewal – Ameritas – Administration received notification from Ameritas that the vision insurance rates will remain the same. The dental insurance has an increase of 3%. The 3% increase is simply the reinsurance and PCORI fees associated with the Affordable Care Act. The new Ameritas rates are \$28.68 per month which is a shared 50/50 cost with the employee. The vision rates remained the same at \$7.00 per month which is 100% employee cost. The board feels that we should remain with Ameritas at those rates. Commissioner Steve Sumner made the motion to approve the dental and vision insurance rates with Ameritas at \$28.58 per month, per employee for dental and \$7.00 per month for vision, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Equipment Repair – EMS – Administration is requesting ratification on an ambulance repair (10M3) that the Chairman approved due to an emergency. See attached quote for parts to be repaired. Total cost from Mike Burch Ford \$3,716.00. Commissioner Robert Griner questioned the cost of the parts and questioned why our shop is not completing the labor. County Administrator stated she will find out why the shop cannot perform this work but reminded them that this is a ratification. Commissioner Steve Sumner made the motion to ratify the equipment repair from Mike Burch Ford for \$3,716.00, seconded by Commissioner Doc Sumner. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Uniform Purchase – Recreation – Administration is requesting ratification on the purchase of uniforms from Cook Athletics in the amount of \$7,362.00. Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to ratify the purchase of uniforms for the Recreation Department from Cook Athletics in the amount of \$7,362.00, seconded by Commissioner John Nugent. The motion carried unanimously.

E. 2015 HAZ-MAT Response Fee – Administration is requesting approval for participation in the 2015 HAZ-MAT Response Team for Regional 8. The fee will be payable after July 1st, which is a budgeted. This fee is based on population at \$100.00 per 1,000 population. Berrien County's cost is \$1,623.50. Commissioner Steve Sumner made the motion to approve the participation in the Haz-Mat Response Team for Region 8 and the payment of \$1,623.50, seconded by Commissioner John Nugent. The motion carried unanimously.

F. Partial Road Closure – June Hendley Rd. – Administration received a request which came through the Code Enforcement Office for a partial road closure. The Petition to Close a Road was filed with the Code Enforcement Office which also received the \$200.00 filing fee. The petition is to close a portion of CR #002 June Hendley Road. This item discussed during Public Hearing.

G. Emergency Housing Agreement – Quality Health of Fernandina Beach – Administration received a request from Stephen Jordan, Administrator of Quality Health of Fernandina Beach to extend our Emergency Housing Agreement for another year. Commissioner Robert Griner made a motion to approve the Emergency Housing Agreement with Quality Health of Fernandina Beach for an additional year, seconded by Commissioner John Nugent. The motion carried unanimously.

H. Consent Items – Administration requested the following items be ratified:

Siemens Health Care Diagnostics Web Shop (Drug Court Testing Supplies)	\$3,325.33
Southeastern Tire (Dump Truck Tires)	\$2,398.40
GA Correctional (50 stop signs)	\$1,125.00

Albany Industrial (jail supplies)	\$1,233.06
Dixie Sales & Graphics (BB/SB Uniforms)	\$4,789.00

Commissioner Steve Sumner made the motion to ratify the items listed, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.

I. CERT Shelter – Homeland Security Grant – Administration received a request to purchase the shelter that was approved in the Homeland Security Grant (CERT). Three quotes were received with the lowest coming from Atlas Manufacturing, Inc. in the amount of \$2,270.50. This is a 100% reimbursable grant. There were three quotes: Atlas Manufacturing, Inc. \$2,279.50, Metal F-X \$3,331.25 and Tyson Steel Building Products \$5,709.28. Commissioner Steve Sumner made the motion to approve the shelter from Atlas Manufacturing, Inc. in the amount of \$2,279.50, seconded by Commissioner Doc Sumner. The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS: None

COMMISSIONER’S ITEMS:

Doc Sumner –

- Commissioner Sumner stated he visited Langdale and Wesley Langdale said he travels in 25 counties in the area and Berrien County has the best roads.
- Commissioner Sumner stated that in reference to Mr. Kerry Holbrooks item earlier that the road is graded. Commissioner Sumner said he told Ben Warren to use his judgement. Commissioner Steve Sumner stated Ben knows that one commissioner cannot make a decision.

Steve Sumner –

- Commissioner Steve Sumner said that he and Brenda Ferrell, County Administrator, and Chairman Parker had a meeting on the health insurance and proposed plans. Commissioner Sumner gave an update.

Jimmy Parker –

- Scruggs will be back in Berrien County in a week or week and half to complete the paving.

Robert Griner –

- Ms. Elma Jo Harris who was a prominent leader in the community passed away. She started the Alternative Center. Their family did not have an area larger enough to feed the family after the funeral. Commissioner Griner rented the Ag Center and paid for it out of his own funds so they would have a place for lunch. He just wanted the board to know in case anyone questioned it. It is not county funds.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

Brenda Ferrell –

- We have received new Plan Documents for the GebCorp 401(a) Plan. The old plan will be frozen. If the Board approves of the documents, I will need a motion. Commissioner Doc Sumner made a motion to approve the new GobCorp 401(a) Plan and freeze the existing plan, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner.
- We received a request from the Sheriff Department to apply for a grant for Body Cameras. I do not have any of the details on the grant. Commissioner Steve Sumner made the motion to table this item until we have more information, seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Jean McCranie/Kathryn commended the Board on the way the conducted the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Legal

Commissioner Steve Sumner made the motion to move into executive session for legal at 7:30 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to move out of Executive Session at 8:08 p.m., seconded by Commissioner John Nugent.

ADJOURN

With no other business to come before the Board, Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner Doc Sumner. Meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Chairman, Jimmy Parker

Vice Chairman, John Nugent

Commissioner, Steve Sumner

Commissioner, Robert Griner

Commissioner, Doc Sumner

ATTEST _____
County Clerk