

**WORK SESSION MEETING
BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, MAY 5, 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, May 5, 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:

- A. Paul King – No show
- B. Ashley Sewell – No Show
- C. Melissa Watson – No Show

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Fire Districts – Administration is requesting the Board review the proposed new fire districts which South GA Regional Commission is recommending. Commissioner Steve Sumner recommended having 911 send a letter to every address to let them know their district will be changing and that we will be holding a public hearing for any comments or input.

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.

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.

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.

D. Uniform Purchase – Recreation – Administration is requesting ratification on the purchase of uniforms from Cook Athletics in the amount of \$7,362.00.

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 suggested discussing this with the municipalities at the Service Delivery Strategy Meeting.

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. The road has been posted and a public hearing is scheduled for May 12, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Steve Sumner stated that in this case, he looks at it a little different. Usually the Board will not close a road if anyone opposes but in this case it runs directly through Langdale property and does not affect anyone. Dennis Adams, Code Enforcement, said there are no utilities affected by this portion of the road being closed.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS:

Dennis Adams – Dennis Adams, Code Enforcement asked the Board to send a letter to Irwin EMS, Colquitt EMC and Slash Pine to contact the Code Office to get the correct right-of-way before putting in new power poles. Commissioner Steve Sumner suggested checking with a few surrounding counties to see if they charge a permit fee. Commissioner Steve Sumner requested Dennis Adams or Greg Nimmo prepare the letter for the Board’s signature.

Paul King Rd. – Dennis Adams asked if he needed to move forward with the landowner on Paul King Rd since he did not appear at the meeting. The Board feels we need to be consistent and we need to move forward with the process.

COMMISSIONER’S ITEMS:

John Nugent –

- Commissioner Nugent suggested we need to focus on adding substations before we purchase any additional trucks. We may need some of the older trucks to be placed at the new substations. The Board was in agreement. Commissioner Steve Sumner said he will call Blair Joiner, Forestry, and tell him that we are going to hold off for now.

Jimmy Parker –

- Met with Vernon & Jerry Hughes who is willing to donate a piece of land in East Berrien right off of SR 168 to build a substation. He is going to thin his pines and was going to have this area clear cut. Commissioner Parker also stated there is a well on this property also. We may have to plumb and do a little to it but we will not have to dig a new well. There is also a pond there. Commissioner Steve Sumner suggested getting advice from County Attorney, Tom Thomas, on how we can do it where Mr. Hughes can also get a tax break. Commissioner John Nugent said that looking at West Berrien Fire Department and the area where their station is that we will need about 4/10 of an acre to build the substations. Commissioner Nugent stated we could go with a one bay unit with an expandable door. Commissioner Steve Sumner feels we need a two bay door. Commissioner Jimmy Parker also stated that Buck Warren has indicated that someone that has land close to the Forestry Department is willing to donate land also. This is an area that is being recommended for a substation.
- Rest EZ is using the contractor. Ben Warren, Public Works, has had to go back and add rock. Our next step will be to get the site cleaned up.

Steve Sumner –

- Commissioner Steve Sumner gave an update on legal issues.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

Brenda Ferrell –

- County Administrator, Brenda Ferrell, received a call from Hazel Knowles, 86 year old who requested that it be on record that she does not want the old courthouse torn down. She was

assured that the Commissioner Board has not discussed the courthouse being torn down.

- County Administrator, Brenda Ferrell, will be attending a GDOT Drug & Alcohol Training Wednesday and Thursday in Macon. This is a required training for the Transit Grant.
- The Commissioners' Retreat is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20th from 9:00 to 1:00.
- Skate Park – This was a discussion item last year as far as maintenance on the skate ramp. There is a lot of maintenance to be done on this and the caution tape as well as the no trespassing signs continue to be torn down. The Board suggested calling Regina Clark since she was key in getting it built to inform her that the County is not going to maintain and it will be torn down.
- Thursday is National Day of Prayer here at the Administration Building at 12:00 p.m.
- GebCorp advised to two ways to proceed with the retirement plan. Option two is to freeze the existing plan and start a whole new plan. The Board was in agreement to proceed with Option 2.
- Service Delivery Strategy Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 14, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Administration Building.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

ADJOURN

With no other business to come before the Board, Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner John Nugent. Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Chairman, Jimmy Parker

Vice Chairman, John Nugent

Commissioner, Steve Sumner

Commissioner, Robert Griner

Commissioner, Doc Sumner

ATTEST _____
County Clerk