

**WORK SESSION MEETING
BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JULY 5, 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, July 5, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. Members of the Board of Commissioners present were, Commissioner Steve Sumner, Commissioner Jimmy Parker, Commissioners Robert Griner and Doc Sumner.

INVITED GUEST: Patsy Blanchard – Fire Tower Rd. – Paving Petition

Ms. Sally Franks, 5014 Firetower Rd. stated that she is present to speak for Ms. Blanchard who is running late. She said that Firetower Rd. is 2.2 miles long with 26 houses on it. There is one additional house being restored and one new house being built. There are 123 houses with disability residents out of which three of those are visited frequently by the ambulance, which they are saying takes 45 minutes to arrive. She stated there are many retirees / Sr. Citizens that live on that road. There are seven households with children. Ms. Patsy Blanchard of 4781 Firetower Rd. arrived at the meeting and asked why Barnes Chapel was partially paved. They had many questions about Firetower Road being on the paving list for many years and why it has not been paved. The Board explained the process of the paving list, the funds received for paving and how the board goes about rating the roads to be paved. The board explained CDBG Funding and told them that we will look into seeing if that road and area would meet the requirements for a CDBG Grant.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. General Liability Insurance Renewal – Ratification – Administration received the final quote from One Beacon Insurance for the 2016-2017 General Liability renewal. The total cost was \$210,932.00. I received this final quote on June 24th and our existing policy expired June 25th. Administration is requesting ratification on this item. County Administrator, Brenda Ferrell, stated that this is a 2.5% increase from last year's final premium.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Nutrition Contract – SGRC – Administration received from Southern Georgia Area Agency on Aging the Contract to provide Operations of a Senior Center with Congregate and Home Delivered Meals. This is the annual contract that we execute. County Attorney, Jennifer Herzog, is reviewing the contract. There is some unfriendly language that she would like to see changed. She will make those recommendations for us.

B. Computer Acquisition – Administration - Administration is requesting the purchase of a new computer for Human Resources/Payroll. One quote was received from Spectra Computing in the amount of \$1,353.94.

C. USDA Grant/Loan – Sheriff & EMS – Administration received notification on USDA Grant Funding where we can receive \$50,000.00 towards each application. Funds will be disbursed by August 1st. County Administrator, Brenda Ferrell, prepared applications for three sheriff vehicles and an ambulance. Administration is requesting permission to move forward with the submittal of these grants/loans. The board was in agreement that this is a time sensitive grant and we need to move forward quickly with it.

D. Solid Waste Contract with Rest E-Z – Administration is requesting the board review the terminated contract with Rest EZ. They currently are operating without a contract. Brenda Herring will be changing some of the rates and will have those to the Administration Office this week. County Administrator also stated that the Administration Office had a complaint about the transfer site being

closed on Saturday, July 2nd.

E. New Benefits – Teledoc – Administration is requesting the board approve the removal of the new Benefits, which is teledoc, from our supplemental insurances which are offered. This has proven to be a plan which is not working for most employees. Everyone who originally enrolled in the plan has cancelled it with the exception of one employee. They are now charging a fee of \$24.10 because we do not have a \$50.00 minimum. Administration is requesting we terminate this insurance effective immediately.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS: None

COMMISSIONER’S ITEMS:

Steve Sumner –

- Commissioner Sumner gave an update of the last meeting with the hospital.
- Commissioner Sumner gave the board an update on having a special election for sheriff which is what the law states we have to do. If a position has more than six months left, we are required, by law, to hold a special election.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

Brenda Ferrell –

- County Administrator stated that Tommy Barber came to her office in reference to Gladys Rd. He said that at one time this road was graded and he would like to know why it has not been maintained and wanted to know if the county would maintain it. It is a private road.
- We received notification from GDOT that the 2016 LMIG Applications are being accepted as of July 1st. The deadline for submitting the application is January 1, 2017. The estimated amount we should receive is \$686,181.05 which makes our 30% match \$205,854.32.
- County Administrator asked the Board of about send office staff for training and naming her person as Deputy Clerk. The board was in favor.
- Okeefeenokee Occasion is coming up. Is this something that we want to do as a county? Crissy Staley with the Chamber/Economic Development has been doing this in the past. The board would like Crissy Staley continue with this and they County will not participate.
- County Administrator distributed a letter written to the Governor about the Sheriff’s plea and naming of Ray Paulk as sheriff as well as notification of the special called election.
- We received a request for a pay increase of \$3.00 per hour for the employee doing the duties of the Jail Administrator. He was due to retire July 29th but has agreed to continue working through the transition of sheriff change and the election as well as finding someone qualified to take that position full time. The board was in agreement of the increase.

ADJOURN

With no other business to come before the Board, Commissioner Jimmy Parker made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner Doc Sumner. Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Chairman, John Nugent

Vice Chairman, Steve Sumner

Commissioner, Jimmy Parker

Commissioner, Robert Griner

Commissioner, Doc Sumner

ATTEST _____
County Clerk