

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2024
9:00 A.M.**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman, Ronnie Gaskins, called the special called meeting of the Berrien County Board of Commissioners to order on Friday, October 25, 2024, at 9:03 a.m. Members of the Board of Commissioners present were Commissioners John Nugent, Jimmy Parker, Robert Griner and Pixie Harrod.

Invocation: Commissioner Robert Griner

Pledge: Commissioner Ronnie Gaskins

EXECUTIVE SESSION: (Litigation)

Commissioner Robert Griner made a motion to move into executive session for litigation at 9:04 am, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Jimmy Parker made a motion to move out of executive session and into regular session at 9:35 a.m., seconded by Commissioner Robert Griner. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Gaskins stated that any comments made need to be held to two minutes and to keep order in the meeting do not speak out unless acknowledged by the Chairman.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. RFP – Disaster Debris Removal and Disposal Services – Laurel Matula with ER Assist stated that an RFP was put out for bid. There were seven responsive bids received and one non-responsive bid. With the scoring process it allows for an interview, if the board chooses, which was done during this meeting. The top four companies who scored the highest were asked to be present for the interview questions. Those companies were:

Herzog Solutions, LLC
Custom Tree Care, Inc.
Ceres Environmental Services, Inc.
Looks Great Services

Laurel Matula, ER Assist collected the interview score sheets and tallied the total scores.

Chairman Gaskins stated that during the scoring of bids submitted, references were called on each one.

Jennifer Herzog was asked by Commissioner Robert Griner to give an update on the first debris contract. County Attorney Herzog reminded everyone that many roads were blocked after Hurricane Helene. Communication lines were at a very minimum with no cell service and with no power. A Federal and State Declaration of Emergency was in place. This allows for an exception to federal procurement. Berrien County contracted with 911 Arborist, LLC due to the timeliness/emergency of clearing roads and debris. It may be that the board determines that we

continue working with that contractor as well as a new contract to ensure the county gets reimbursed by FEMA for the 90 day period paid at 100% reimbursement.

Commissioner Robert Griner said there is so much misinformation being spread. No one has been paid \$850.00 per hour to do work. We did not say for anyone who did clean-up to turn in an invoice and we would pay it. The good thing is we had a lot of people step in and clean up the county and did so out of the goodness of their heart and it is very much appreciated.

Nina Futch asked the board to clarify the invoices which were paid for the debris clean-up. Commissioner Robert Gaskins read those invoices and the amounts.

At this point, Laurel Matula, ER Assist, had calculated all the scores and stated that Herzog scored the highest. The top three scores in order were:

Herzog
Custom Tree Care
Looks Great Services

Commissioner Robert Griner made a motion to award the contract to Herzog, seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The motion carried unanimously.

For clarification purposes, County Attorney stated that the current debris contractor may or may not continue work. Herzog Company stated that would not be a problem.

Commissioner Harrod asked Herzog Company if they will have bucket trucks that go out first. They will.

Chairman Gaskins asked with other obligations currently, are you saying that you will not have a problem getting enough equipment here. Herzog Company stated they will not have a problem on the equipment and is good with the billing at 90 days.

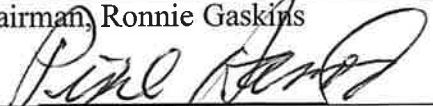
Officer Michael Whitlock asked why would the board choose to keep the other contractor. County Attorney advised we will address that will him after the meeting.

ADJOURN

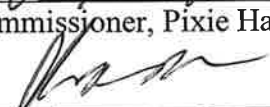
With no other business to come before the Board, Commissioner Robert Griner made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner Jimmy Parker. The meeting was adjourned at 10:21 a.m.



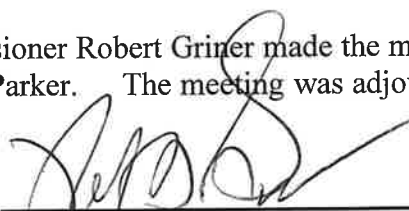
Chairman, Ronnie Gaskins



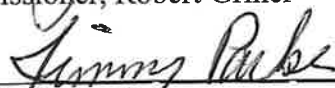
Commissioner, Pixie Harrod




Commissioner, John Nugent



Commissioner, Robert Griner



Commissioner, Jimmy Parker

ATTEST: 

County Clerk