



SCHLEY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Minutes

Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 6:30 pm

Attendees: Chairman Bill McClellan, Vice-Chairman Brian Belcher,
Commissioner Dennis Jones, Commissioner Mike Hammack,
Commissioner Tommy Pilcher, County Manager Douglas
Jamieson, County Clerk Kathy Bruer, and Deputy Clerk Gwen
Bellew

MINUTES

Jury Room, 14 S. Broad, Ellaville, Georgia

1. CALL TO ORDER

Minutes:

Chairman McClellan called the meeting to order.

2. INVOCATION

Minutes:

Commissioner Jones gave the invocation.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Minutes:

Vice-Chairman Belcher made a motion to approve the Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Jones and all were in favor.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 10TH MINUTES

Minutes:

Vice-Chairman Belcher made a motion to approve the August 10th Minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hammack and all were in favor.

5. ADOPTION OF THE FY 2021-2022 MILLAGE RATE (12.257)

Minutes:

Doug stated that Jessica Smith (Tax Commissioner) has all the paperwork together and is meeting with DOR in the morning to finalize the Digest. He stated that in 2019 we had to get a \$500,000 TAN, in 2020 we got \$250,000; so far this year we have only gotten \$100,000. This is mainly due to the ARPA funding. Commissioner Jones made a

motion to approve the FY 2021-2022 Millage Rate of 12.257. Commissioner Hammack seconded the motion and all were in favor.

6. FINAL ADOPTION OF THE FY 2021 - 2022 BUDGET

Minutes:

Doug Jamieson stated that due to receiving the ARPA funds and the way those funds were calculated he suggests we continue with the fiscal year budget rather than going to the six month budget that was previously approved. Commissioner Jones made a motion to stay with the fiscal year budget (July 1 -June 30) for 2021-22. Commissioner Hammack seconded the motion and all were in favor. Doug stated that after reviewing the numbers we have found the funding for the revaluation. We are leaving money on the table by not doing this. Doug Jamieson presented a balanced budget of revenue and expenses totaling \$3,068,028.52. Vice-Chairman Belcher made a motion to approve the budget as presented, seconded by Commissioner Pilcher and all were in favor.

7. APPROVAL/DISCUSSION OF SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE GOVERNING PAYMENT OF MOBILE/MANUFACTURED HOME TAX PAYMENTS PRIOR TO MOVEMENT

Minutes:

Doug Jamieson stated that we had presented the Ordinance last month; this is the second and final reading. Basically it is requiring taxes be paid by the previous owner when they are selling a mobile home. Vice-Chairman Belcher made a motion to approve the Ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Hammack and all were in favor.

8. APPROVAL/DISCUSSION OF SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE CREATING THE CRIME OF THEFT AND DIVERSION OF COUNTY AND PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES

Minutes:

Doug Jamieson stated that he had been asked by the Sheriff and Magistrate Judge for this Ordinance. An incident happened when someone was in the City but on County water cut the lock on the meter to get water without paying. The City has an Ordinance but the person couldn't be charged because we don't have one. This happens in the County, as well. The Ordinance was presented last month; this is the second and final reading. Commissioner Hammack made a motion to approve the Ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Jones and all were in favor.

9. APPROVAL/DISCUSSION OF SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE GOVERNING THE POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA IN QUANTITIES LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO ONE (1) OUNCE

Minutes:

Doug Jamieson stated we do not have anything on the books for any marijuana less than an ounce. A few weeks ago we had a part-time deputy who wrote several tickets and they had to be thrown out. Currently, the person would have had to go to Superior County. Doug stated that we had presented the Ordinance last month; this is the second and final reading. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the

Ordinance, seconded by Commissioner Pilcher and all were in favor.

10. APPROVAL/DISCUSSION TO READOPT THE BROADBAND ORDINANCE

Minutes:

Doug Jamieson stated that we had previously approved the Broadband Ordinance jointly with the City. We have been told that we each need to have our own separate Ordinance. Commissioner Hammack made a motion to approve the standalone Broadband Ordinance as presented, seconded by Vice-Chairman Belcher and all were in favor.

11. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

a. FIRE / EMS

Minutes:

Duane Montgomery stated they had 79 calls last month. He said it was pretty steady. He stated that have one new employee; she's part-time. She is currently in school but is working out fine. Commissioner Jones asked if Duane if COVID is better or worse. Duane said they are not as sick as in 2020. He said that Montezuma was short personnel, they were out 9 medics. They had one ambulance, two basics and their director running. Duane said Marion had four out. We had three out. Duane said we have been following the established protocols. He said they have received a lot of PPE from Houston County Fire and GEMA; Duane said they probably received \$4-5,000 free.

b. PUBLIC WORKS/SCHLEY COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY

Minutes:

WATER Art stated the water usage was down this past month. 623 meters were read, sold no water to Ellaville but 815,400 to Andersonville. They have continued to treat the iron bacteria at the Stevens Road well and it has improved greatly. The iron numbers have decreased. They repaired a service line leak on Harvey Circle, replaced five nonworking meters, installed two new water services, locked two meters, completed 27 locates and created six 911 addresses. Commissioner Hammack asked Art how he got the iron numbers down. He said they put Aquamag in it and it will weaken the cell membranes of iron. You have to let it sit for 24 hours then bleach and let sit an addition 24 hours. It was recommended to do this 2-3 times per year. Art said the sand filter system is working much better too. Commissioner Jones asked if they were able to put the sign up in the curve on xxxxxxx Road. Art said yes.

Art stated that he had received a noncompliance letter from the EPD stating he had not completed a report that was due. Art had no knowledge of the report. He contacted Georgia Rural Water to find out what was going on with it. Another contractor was supposed to do the report and submit. Somehow Schley County fell through the crack. He is working to get the report completed and submitted. Georgia Rural water is not happy that this happened and has requested a copy of the last report; we won't be penalized at this point.

Art stated he received his first failure on a bacteria sample on Goolsby Road. He was directed to pull five more samples and submit and if they pass, he is okay. Art thinks it was rainwater in the sample he submitted. He receives a list of addresses where he is supposed to pull the samples; they are random addresses.

ROAD Art stated a grader ran as weather permitted and worked on several roads; the leased grader went down due to an electrical issue as was unusable for a month. The second round of ROW mowing was completed September 14th. The hauled sand and gravel to repair roads, removed trees from roadway on several occasions, replaced culvert pipes, washes, potholes, and replaced several county road signs. They sent two dump trucks and operators to assist the City of Americus with clean up after the tornado damage. Art said a guy with a company in Tampa brought a mower for us to look at and we had a chance to run it. Art said he felt that when the money is available that is something we should consider. This equipment has blades that can attach and has a much higher reach and has a mulching attachment too. Doug stated that it has a mower deck too that the operator can open the front and push things out of the way.

c. RECREATION

Minutes:

Doug Jamieson stated that Jack Clark had called and asked if we had decided to spend any 2013 Splost money at the Rec Department. He is asking for us to pay for a fence. Doug asked him what it would cost. Jack is supposed to get back to him with a cost. Commissioner Pilcher said it looks bad and it's our reputation at stake. There was discussion that Jack should get with Ga Power about a grant, they are wanting to get involved in the Community. As well as reach out to Sumter Electric and Flint EMC. Doug said the City can qualify for grants and money that we can't qualify for. Doug will talk to Jack.

12. COUNTY MANAGER REPORT

a. EMA DIRECTOR / ZONING / FINANCIALS

Minutes:

Doug said each of the Commissioners have a copy of the financials. He then said we will have Damage Assessment Training on October 25th from 1-5. This is training for personnel who would be involved with damage assessments during storms. Doug said he had 11 inspections and 11 permits. We have borrowed \$100,000 on the current TAN. We were able to add the revaluation to the current budget. Doug will meet with Jessica after the Digest is submitted to see what her thoughts are out the Tax Assessor office. Doug stated that he has received a quote of \$33,500 for the stripping which is 24.9 miles. It doesn't cover if the road has not already be stripped. This will be taken out of LMIG money. We have received our first draft of Ordinances from Municode. They have made

recommendations on some of the Ordinances and they are needed. They are supposed to start working on tearing down the gym on October 4th. We have received 2 consistent complaints about cutting trees. We are not in the tree cutting business and if the tree is not on the right of way, it isn't ours.

13. MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION O.C.G.D.50-14-3 (B) (2)

Minutes:

Vice-Chairman Belcher made a motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Jones and all were in favor.

14. MOTION TO RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Minutes:

Commissioner Jones made a motion to go back in to regular session, seconded by Commissioner Hammack and all were in favor.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to pay premium pay to all full time employees of \$1,000, part-time and the commissioners will receive \$500. There is a scale for the P/T EMS employees based on the number of hours worked. Vice-Chairman Belcher seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Commissioner Jones suggested we work to find the radio tower lease and if we can move forward to collect the debt. Vice-Chairman Belcher seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Vice-Chairman Belcher made a motion to sign the non-compete disclosure with Windstream seconded by Commissioner Pilcher and all were in favor.

Doug stated that he had received an email about the delegate for the Legislative Branch for ACCG. Chairman McClellan will look because he thought he was the delegate.

15. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Minutes:

Commissioner Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Hammack and all were in favor.