

SCHLEY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Tuesday, August 13, 2019

The Schley County Board of Commissioners held their regularly scheduled monthly meeting August 13, 2019. Those present were: Chairman Greg Barineau, Vice-Chairman Brian Belcher, Commissioner Bill McClellan, Commissioner Dennis Jones, County Manager Bill Sawyer, County Clerk, Kathy Bruer and Jessica Ellis. Excused: Commissioner Mike Hammack.

ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Barineau called the meeting to order.

ITEM 2. INVOCATION

Commissioner Jones gave the invocation.

ITEM 3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner McClellan made a motion to approve the Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and all were in favor.

ITEM 4. APPROVAL OF THE JULY 9TH MINUTES

Vice-Chairman Belcher made a motion to approve the July 9th minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and all were in favor.

ITEM 5. REPRESENTATIVE MIKE CHEOKAS

Chairman Barineau introduced Representative Cheokas. Mr. Cheokas spoke on various projects/committees/budget he has been involved with. The new voting machines has received a lot of attention. With the new machines you will have a chance to review a hard copy of your vote prior to casting the vote. Money has been allocated for both GSW and SCTC. Schley County is going to receive \$100,000 to go towards renovations on the library. Since our general fund/Splost has already incurred some of the expense of the repairs that money can be used for other projects. Representative Cheokas supported "Protect our Monuments", the heartbeat bill, pay increase for educators, broadband through the Rural Development Council. Representative Cheokas is serving on the Appropriations Committee for higher education, Education committee, Health Committee, and implementing Creative Arts throughout the colleges to attract more of the music, film, entertainment industry. Representative Cheokas is excited about the work being done at the State level and would like for the Commissioners to call him if he can help them.

ITEM 6: APPOINTMENT OF T-SPLOST BOARD MEMBERS

Bill Sawyer stated he had received a letter from Jim Livingston (RVRC) asking for two people to be appointed to a newly formed T-Splost committee. Normally it is the Chair and County Manager. Bill asked for a motion and unanimous approval of he and Chairman Barineau being appointed to serve on this committee. Commissioner Jones made a motion to appoint Chairman Barineau and Bill Sawyer to the committee, Commissioner McClellan seconded the motion, and all were in approval.

ITEM 7: APPROVAL/DENIAL EMERGENCY DECLARATION RE: HEATH ROAD WELL REPAIRS – ITAD GRANT

Bill Sawyer stated that approximately three weeks ago the Operations Manager for Water, came to him with concerns about the Heath Road well. They immediately called the contractor (Commissioner Mike Hammack) who originally installed the well. After reviewing the facts and evidence an email was sent to the Commissioners declaring an emergency with the Heath Road well. Bill stated that the law states this must be ratified at the next Board meeting. Bill acted within his authority of notifying the Board of Commissioners, attorney and the contractor. It was in our best interest to move forward with repairing the well. Commissioner Jones made a motion to ratify the decision to repair the Heath Road well, seconded by Commissioner

McClellan, and all were in favor. Due to this being an imminent threat, Bill got with the Department of Community affairs and is in the process of sending all the information to the River Valley Regional Commission who will help us file a grant to get some of the money back. The County has already paid \$30,000 and do not expect it to go much higher than that. Art Barfield stated he expects the work to be finished by the end of the week. He will test the water to make sure the numbers are correct before he turns back on. Vice-Chair Belcher asked what the chances were for the Stevens Road well to have the same problems. Art stated very likely. The wells are approximately 16 years old and it's not a matter of will it happen but when will it happen.

ITEM 8: ZONING BOARD UPDATES

Bill Sawyer stated there has been two barn permits, one mobile home and three meters. There were 11 inspections for the month of July. Bill stated that there is a group of people who have inquired about purchasing 200 acres of land to build poultry houses. The Zoning Board will review this because the setbacks most likely will not meet the requirements and the neighbors do not want poultry houses next to them. Bill has not heard back from the cell tower on Coogle Road,

ITEM 9: DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Fire/EMS – Duane Montgomery stated they had 67 calls last month; and went on 6 public assist calls. Two EMT's have passed Part B and will begin Advanced classes soon. There has been one retiree from the firefighters; one medic has completed the Tactical Preparedness Program. They have received the turnout gear that was ordered due to the Fireworks grant and everyone is very happy about that.

Public Works –Mark Royal stated the mowing is continuing. They have patched potholes, installed a driveway and a culvert, delivered six loads of gravel. They continue routine maintenance and repairs on equipment as needed.

Water – Art Barfield stated the water usage was up this past month; Andersonville was on the system, as well as the City; however, we had to ask them to come off when we declared an emergency with the Heath Road well. . Art installed one new tap and three meters. Locked one meters and unlocked one. He completed 21 locates for 811 and added one new address. The Green Filter system is in operation. The iron readings have dropped from 1.86 ppm to 025 ppm. Works continues the Heath Road well; the screens are being cleaned and a new pump will be installed. Art was asked about the sludge that is developing from the Filter system. Art stated a final decision has not been made, at this time.

EMA – Douglas Jamieson was out of town.

ITEM 10: COUNTY MANAGER REPORT

Bill Sawyer stated we have not received anything further on the lawsuit against the Sheriff and doesn't think it's going anywhere. He has heard from the attorneys with the Opioid Crises; however, no action has been taken. Bill asked that the Board approve the tentative Millage Rate of 12.262 percent. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the tentative rate of 12.262; seconded by Vice-Chairman Belcher and all were in approval. Bill stated this will be the sixth or seventh year that we have not raised the millage rate. The Board of Education will set their millage rate on the 29th and we will need to meet to set ours. We will notify you by email of that meeting.

ITEM 11: APPROVAL/DENIAL SURPLUS PROPERTY - VECHICLES

Bill Sawyer presented a list of vehicles that need to be sold. Vice-Chair Belcher suggested adding the green firetruck that is out at Wall Trucking. Duane Montgomery was asked to furnish the VIN number. Commissioner McClellan made a motion to approve this list, to include the green firetruck, Commissioner Jones seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Once the VIN is received the vehicles will be advertised in the local paper.

ITEM 12: FINANCIAL REPORTS

Bill Sawyer presented the financials. Commissioner McClellan stated he had been trying to keep up with the TAN and wanted to confirm we had borrowed \$250,000. Bill stated yes; that was correct.

ITEM 10: MOTION TO ADJOURN

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

Attest:

Greg Barineau, Chairman

Kathy Bruer, County Clerk

**SIGNED /APPROVED COPIES
AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.**