

SCHLEY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Tuesday, November 12, 2019

The Schley County Board of Commissioners held their regularly scheduled monthly meeting November 12, 2019. Those present were: Chairman Greg Barineau, Vice-Chairman Brian Belcher, Commissioner Bill McClellan, Commissioner Dennis Jones, Commissioner Mike Hammack County Manager Bill Sawyer, County Clerk, Kathy Bruer and Jessica Ellis.

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

Chairman Barineau asked to add 5B. Doug Jamieson, EMA Director and Duane Montgomery, Fire Chief. They have a meeting to attend. And delete them from 12. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the Agenda with changes, seconded by Vice-Chairman Belcher, and all were in favor.

ITEM 4. APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 8TH MINUTES

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the September 17th minutes as presented, seconded by Vice-Chairman Belcher, and all were in favor.

ITEM 5. GA FORESTRY ANNUAL UPDATE

Brent McCarty presented his annual forestry update.

ITEM 5B: DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Douglas Jamieson stated that there has been a freeze warning issued for tonight. He also stated that GEMA is going to be offering a class on December 16th at 2:00 for department heads and Elected Officials on damage assessments before/after a storm. He encouraged everyone to attend. In addition, there will be another class that evening at 6:30 for individuals and volunteers. Douglas stated we are required to do three training exercises and there is a lock down at the elementary school this morning. He then stated that GEMA has changed the way you apply for grants; it is now online. The paperwork is in the process of being completed. Douglas then spoke about the communication capability out in the field. He expressed a need for our repeater to be moved. There was a situation a few weeks ago with two guys were within a mile of each other but couldn't communicate. Duane mentioned it's a problem for their ambulance; if they are in Columbus, they have no idea what is going on until they get back or communicate via a cell phone. Douglas mentioned that the Johnson Road water tower is 600 feet high and would be the highest point in the county and if they repeater could be moved there, that would be great. Duane said he is looking for grant money for this move. Douglas stated that 911 doesn't own our radios; we do. Chairman Barineau asked how much it would cost to go digital rather than analog. Duane stated a portable unit would cost around \$500 but the repeater would be about \$4000-\$5000. Duane stated the biggest cost would be the coax cable that would need to be run up the water tower. It would have to be in a climate-controlled box, but one repeater would cover the entire county. Douglas stated he will be attending a hazardous materials training in December in Atlanta and a three-day training in Forsyth in February. That should be all the training he needs right now.

Duane Montgomery stated they have had 12 fires this past month and have had to go to Columbus several times. They have done some multi-service calls with Stewart and Webster Counties and there were some things that needed to be improved; they have corrected those, and it is good to go. Duane stated they went through the Medicare audit and it was 100%. Duane has received a grant for \$2178 from the Trauma Commission and plans to purchase digital/analog portable radios so we will be ahead of the game if we ever swap over to digital. In

addition, he stated year-to-date we have received \$27,000 in grant monies, this year. One thing Duane brought up was that the State is trying to make changes to the way the ambulance operates, and, in his opinion, it is going backwards. Currently, an EMT basic or advanced must have a paramedic in the back. The state wants to change so two EMT basics can ride together; one sitting in the back. Duane stated an EMT basic is a first responder; he can change a band aid and drive. The State is going to let the County's decide their protocol.

ITEM 6: UPDATE ON EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK PERSONNEL POLICY REVIEW

Bill stated the book should be ready this week. The Board will review from there.

ITEM 7: APPOINTMENT OF ZONING BOARD MEMBER TO REPLACE JIM SELLARS

Bill Sawyer recommended Tye Bivins. Commissioner Jones made a motion to ask Tye Bivins to serve on the Board, seconded by Commissioner Hammack. All were in favor.

ITEM 8: APPROVAL/DENIAL OF SURPLUS VEHICLE SALE

Bill Sawyer stated the Burgundy Chevrolet Cheyenne was sold on GovDeals for \$425. The Red GMC Firetruck was sold on GovDeals for \$328. The Yellow Ford F7700, the Crown Victoria, and the 1984 Green Firetruck will need to be rebid. Commissioner Hammack made a motion to accept these bids and rebids, seconded by Commissioner Jones; and all were in favor.

ITEM 9: APPROVAL/DENIAL RESOLUTION FOR TAYLOR COUNTY TO BECOME JOINT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY MEMBER

Bill Sawyer asked for unanimous consent for Taylor County to be added as a member. Commissioner Hammack made a motion for Taylor County to be added; seconded by Vice-Chairman Belcher, and all were in favor.

ITEM 10: GARBAGE PRICE INCREASE

Bill Sawyer stated that our new price will be \$17.38 per cart; we currently charge 18.25 so our profit is still \$.87 per cart. Bill stated that this was authorized by a Superior Court judge, so it's a good thing we recently went up on our fees. Chairman Barineau asked how much longer we have on our contract; Bill stated three more years. Vice-Chair Belcher stated that Transwaste is locked into the landfill so even if we go with another company, it will cost more due to them having to haul the garbage to another site. Chairman Barineau stated that the service is horrendous. The miss houses constantly and litter the roads daily. Bill stated he talks to the TransWaste director, Winn, on a weekly basis.

ITEM 11: APPROVAL/DENIAL FIRST READING OF PROPOSED NUISANCE ORDINANCE

Bill stated he has received complaints from three large industries located by the Deer Processing plate and the smell is horrendous; this Ordinance addresses that. Bill stated the City has forced them to go to weekly pickups. If they do not comply with the Ordinance, we can get the Probate/Magistrate involved. Commissioner McClellan stated he had read the Ordinance and some of it sounds ridiculous. Bill Sawyer stated he agreed and at the next meeting that can be discussed and take out what they feel is unnecessary.

ITEM 12: ZONING BOARD UPDATES

There was no discussion.

ITEM 13: DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Public Works/Water –

Art Barfield stated the water usage was up this past month. One new tap and two meters were installed, and one meter was locked. Art completed 19 locates for 811. The new SCADA system is working well; they wrapped the pipes and winterized the equipment at the wells. Preston and Lemont have been in training for the daily test samples at the wells. The Road Department was very busy. ROW mowers have completed their final round, ahead of schedule. They have removed litter, trees, limbs, dead carcasses, cleaned ditches, repaired potholes and driveways. They have graded roads, installed a new driveway, repaired one, delivered one load of dirt and

replaced a street sign on Kirby Dirt Road. In addition, the EPD inspected the Landfill and there were several issues were discussed and corrective action taken.

Chairman Barineau brought up the work schedule for Public Works. A couple months ago they moved to a five-day work week rather than four. Art stated they are more productive now than ever before; it is his recommendation that Public Works go back to a four-day work week. Commissioner Hammack made a motion to allow Public Works to go back to a four-day work week, seconded by Commissioner Jones. All were in favor. Commissioner McClellan made a motion that all overtime must be approved by Bill Sawyer, seconded by Commissioner Hammack; and all were in favor. Commissioner McClellan asked about Lemont and Preston testing the water. Art stated that they can test under his license.

ITEM 14: COUNTY MANAGER REPORT

Bill Sawyer stated the Insurance Premium tax came in and that when we receive tax money, we will pay the TAN. Bill also mentioned that we have a new account for the monies we received from FLINT Energies for the Tennis Court Renovation. Bill then discussed that the EPD is changing acreage regarding wells vs. county water. Our Zoning Ordinance states a minimum of one acre; however, if a new residence has county water the EPD recommends .75 acre minimum. For a well they are requiring 1.5 acres. Our Zoning Ordinance states we must follow the EPD regulations. The EPD is coming to the Zoning meeting on Monday to discuss further. We have no lawsuits, no judgements, against the county. Bill stated the Cell tower Agreement is almost complete. Bill stated that we will rebid the fuel costs in December. The attorneys for the Opioid case stated that the case has been through the initial phase and the judge has ruled in our favor.

ITEM 15: FINANCIAL REPORTS

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the financials as presented; seconded by Commissioner McClellan and all were in favor.

ITEM 16: MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ITEM 17: MOTION TO RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

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

ITEM 18: MOTION TO ADJOURN

Commissioner Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Vice-Chairman Belcher seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Attest:

Greg Barineau, Chairman

Kathy Bruer, County Clerk

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