



SCHLEY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Minutes

Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 7:30 am

MEETING LOCATION

Upstairs Court Room, 14 S. Broad, Ellaville, Georgia

The Schley County Board of Commissioners held their regularly scheduled monthly meeting October 13, 2020. Those present were: Chairman Greg Barineau, Vice-Chairman Brian Belcher, Commissioner Dennis Jones, Commissioner Bill McClellan, Commissioner Mike Hammack, County Manager Doug Jamieson, and County Clerk Kathy Bruer.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Minutes:

Chairman Barineau called the meeting to order.

2. INVOCATION

Minutes:

Vice-Chairman Belcher gave the invocation.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Minutes:

Commissioner McClellan made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented, seconded by Commissioner Hammack. All were in favor.

4. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 8TH & SEPTEMBER 25TH MINUTES

Minutes:

Vice Chairman Belcher made a motion to approve the September 8th Minutes, seconded by Commissioner McClellan and all were in favor. Vice Chairman Belcher made a motion to approve the September 25th Minutes, seconded by Commissioner McClellan, and all were in favor.

5. GA FORESTRY ANNUAL REPORT

Minutes:

Brent McCarty presented his annual Forestry Report. He thanked the Fire/EMS

department for their support. Brent stated that a request has been submitted for a 400 gallon, 4 wheel drive, dooly truck through the Forestry Commission. This truck could access wildland fires more easily than the big firetruck. It may be a couple years down the line, it just depends on the number of trucks available and the number of requests in front of us. Brent stated there were 12 wildfires in Schley County during the 2019/2020 year; total land burned was 24.22 acres of forest and open land. The average wildfire in Schley County was held to 2.02 acres per fire. Brent stated that his department continues to receive training and are readily available for deployment to wildfires.

6. STATE REPRESENTATIVE MIKE CHEOKAS

Minutes:

Representative Cheokas stated that they recessed on March 15th due to the Coronavirus. They were expecting a huge cut in the budget but they went back in session June 15th and realized the economy was doing better than expected; therefore, rather than a 14% cut we were able to only cut 15%. We also developed new guidelines and procedures to be followed during the pandemic. The National Guard was called in to sanitize Senior Centers, hospitals and nursing homes; they sanitized over 730 buildings. The economy is continuing to grow and Georgia is still a good state to do business. Mike stated that in 2019, 100,000 was allocated to the library in Schley County. He is still in the process to see if those funds can be redirected to use for public service. If it can be moved, he will work on getting it moved. This will be addressed in January. The coronavirus continues to bring challenges. One being more budget cuts. There is talk to consolidate Georgia Southwestern and South Ga Technical College, as well as many other educational branches. Mike said there would be a money savings there but it's not the best for local interests.

7. APPROVE/DISAPPROVE SCHLEY COUNTY EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

Minutes:

Doug Jamieson stressed that the Handbook is a living document; it can be revised/updated, as needed. Commissioner Hammack made a motion to accept the Handbook as presented, seconded by Commissioner McClellan. All were in favor.

8. DISCUSSION OF LMIG PROJECTS

Minutes:

Doug Jamieson stated he and Art had met with Paul Rakel with SOWEGA Engineering, to discuss Ebenezer Road. Doug mentioned that the State had advised to hold off on resurfacing until after the bridge was complete. Paul will bring a plan to repair the road; we will wait on his recommendation. It doesn't look like the holes were water based problems. Doug stated that his recommendation would be to use one year's worth of LMIG money to repair sections of road and restripe roads until the bridge is complete. We have some areas in the County that are safety issues that we can take care of now. Commissioner McClellan asked how long it will be to get the price. We

will wait until we get the quote before we approve the next step.

9. APPOINTMENT OF OLIVIA MALICHEK TO THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT BOARD

Minutes:

Doug Jamieson stated we had received a phone call from the Health Department requesting Olivia Malicheck to replace Nancy Young on the Health Board. Vice Chairman Belcher made a motion to approve Olivia Malicheck to the Health Board; seconded by Commissioner Hammack. All were in favor.

10. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

a. FIRE / EMS

Minutes:

Duane Montgomery stated that we have received a grant from Sumter EMC for the Lucas device; he's waiting to hear from Flint EMC. Duane said their calls have maintained; they are having to run to Columbus more often due to Phoebe's ER being full. They have been going through BiNex training for COVID rapid testing to monitor the EMS employees. Duane said they had their annual CPR training last night. He also stated that during Hurricane Sally he hydroplaned going to a call and the department truck was totaled. He has gotten a new truck through SPLOST funding, which can be set up as a mobile command center. It will be outfitted with the same equipment as an ambulance. Initial medical care can be given as well as housing a cardiac monitor and ALS.

b. PUBLIC WORKS/SCHLEY COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY

Minutes:

Art Barfield stated the water usage was down this past month. The City is still not on our system. They installed two new services, repaired a service line leak, replaced a leaking meter, completed 30 locates, and assigned two new 911 addresses. Construction has begun on the shelter for the Sand Filter System. The ROW mowing round 3 continues, the graders ran on several roads, repaired potholes, cleaned out ditches, trimmed trees, hauled dirt for roadwork, replaced a sign on Frank Roberts Road. Removed deer from roadways throughout the county and installed three new driveways.

11. COUNTY MANAGER REPORT

a. EMA DIRECTOR / ZONING / FINANCIALS

Minutes:

Doug stated he issued two mobile homes permits and had three inspections. The package has been mailed to USDA requesting help with two new trucks for Public Works. The paperwork is going through the proper channels for approval. Doug stated that we are looking at options for next year's mowing season. We are considering having a part-time mowing crew. That way it will cut down on full-time employee expenses/benefits and will free up our Road crew. They would be temporary employees. In addition, we are looking at shifting some

people around in the Road Department.; having a road repair crew and a projects crew. These guys could be dedicated and not have to be moved around for mowing. We are looking at the prospect of hiring out Hwy 19 to a crew that specializes in right of way mowing. They come through the county and mow the highway in a couple of days. Commissioner McClellan asked if we had heard anything else about CARES money. Doug stated not yet. Doug stated we are still getting complaints about trash not being picked up and scattered all over the road. Doug and Art met with Caterpillar about a motor grader; the cost to purchase would be about \$205,000. Another option is a lease and those payments would be approximately \$2500/mo for five years with a buyout of \$150,000 at the end or roll to a new lease. The road department lost another vehicle this month. We are still advertising for a new full time FF/EMS position. We are losing our county agent; Matt Murdoch has resigned and is moving back home. The plan is to use Bill Starr for Schley/Sumter. Doug presented a point paper on the old gym renovation. The bottom line is even though we don't have enough money budgeted/in hand, to make all necessary changes we must, according to the law, make it feasible. In other words, make it to where it is usable just not with all the bells and whistles.

12. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Minutes:

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