



SCHLEY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Minutes

Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 6:30 pm

Jury Room, 14 S. Broad, Ellaville, Georgia

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. INVOCATION

Minutes:

Commissioner Jones gave the invocation.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Minutes:

Chairman McClellan stated that we needed to add to changes to the Agenda. We need to add 4a: Ebenezer Road Bridge Closure and 4b: Old gymnasium. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the Agenda with changes, seconded by Vice-Chairman Belcher and they were all in favor.

4. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 9TH MINUTES

Minutes:

Vice-Chairman Belcher made a motion to approve the February 9th Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Jones and all were in favor.

a. EBENEZER ROAD BRIDGE CLOSURE

Minutes:

Art received a call from the DOT yesterday advising that an inspector had inspected the bridge and it was deemed unsafe for traffic. The pilings under the bridge are rotten. We will formally close the bridge tomorrow. We have alerted the Board of Education and other staff. Shawn Foltz will bring several loads of dirt and signs for both sides of the bridge to close it down. There are two residents on the far side of the bridge. They will have to go down Hwy 30 to 153 or they can take one of the dirt roads. Doug will contact the DOT and see what the long-term plans are.

b. OLD GYM

Minutes:

Doug stated he had received a preliminary report from the Engineer. The roof needs to be fixed, the structure has extensive decay, the decking joists are rotten, the bricks are a veneer so there is nothin to tie the bricks to; all seam beams need to be replaced, the wood flooring needs to be replaced and the brick and mortar would need to be repaired. Chairman McClellan stated he is looking at other options: pour a slab and put up a metal building. The demolition of the old building is going to be costly as well. It needs to be completely torn down, hauled off and a new concrete slab poured.

5. DISCUSSION OF SOLID WASTE

Minutes:

Doug stated that he has talked to Jimmy Skipper about the issues we are having with Solid Waste. Actually, our contract is with Crisp County Waste Authority; we have no legal grounds to get out of the contract. Sheriff Tondee has taken inmates out and had them pick up trash on four roads. He is going to check on the cost to get the Department of Corrections to pick up trash. Doug stated that the guy, Kenny, who drives the grapple truck has had surgery and will be out of work for 4-6 weeks.

6. APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL LMIG

Minutes:

Doug stated that we received bids on the pot holes on the other side of the bridge for Ebenezer Road. The engineer had estimated a cost of \$80,000. Robinson Paving came in at \$60,000 and Jim Boyd out of Albany came in at \$38,170. We would like to modify the contract to do other sections of roads throughout the county. We want to get pricing for Englishville and Candy Cane Lane. We have money in LMIG to use and since Jim Boyd will already be in town we think we'd get a better price with them. Commissioner Hammack made a motion to accept the bid from Jim Boyd and check on pricing for additional roads, seconded by Commissioner Jones and all were in favor.

7. DISCUSSION OF BROADBAND READY COMMUNITY

Minutes:

Doug stated that there is money available through the Fed and State to have broadband networks expanded. We feel this will benefit us to become a Broadband Ready Community. Doug recommends that we add this to our Comprehensive Plan and put this in motion. Commissioner Jones made a motion to move forward with becoming Broadband Ready, seconded by Commissioner Pilcher and all were in favor.

8. DISCUSSION ROAD DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT

Minutes:

Doug stated that he had received an estimate on the prices of the motor grader that we have now. It's \$150,000 with a 90 day warranty. A new one is \$205,998 and has a 5 year warranty and financing is 3.5%. We could take \$100,000 out of SPLOST. Doug said Volvo said they would give us \$10,470 for a trade and quoted \$55,000 for a new transmission. If we go with the new one we would take the monthly payments

(approximately \$2,10 per month) out of TSplost. Commissioner Jones made a motion to move forward with the purchase of the new motor grader, seconded by Commissioner Hammack and all were in favor. Doug stated that we need to replace Art's truck; if we do this then Doug could keep Art's truck. There are places Doug need to get to in the county but can't in the car. Commissioner Hammack made a motion to purchase a new truck for Art, seconded by Commissioner Pilcher and all were in favor. Doug stated that there is a \$9,000 rebate on a new batwing mower. Doug said he's not sure how long the rebate will be in place. If we were to purchase a new mower then with the rebate and our trade-in, we would be getting a new mower for half price. Original price \$30,000, rebate \$9,000, trade in \$6,250. Our price \$15,000. There was discussion about the shape of our current mower. Art said it's not in horrible shape; the decision was made to hold off on this purchase for a while and continue to repair the current one as needed.

9. DISCUSSION DIRT ROAD PRIORITIES

Minutes:

Doug stated that our dirt roads need to be prioritized; if people live on them then they need to be passable. Another issue is if Fire/EMS gets a call; they have to be able to go down the roads. Doug said if people live on the roads we need to fix them, if not, they are not a priority.

10. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

a. FIRE / EMS

Minutes:

Duane Montgomery stated that they had 63 calls during February. He had been working on the License packet, and it has been approved. Duane said one of their challenges the state is facing is that 8000 medics have not renewed their license. Schley County has four; he doesn't know how that is going to affect us. The state has made available a learning platform that will enable medics to obtain training and education online to make it more accessible to everyone.

b. PUBLIC WORKS/SCHLEY COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY

Minutes:

Water: Art Stated that the water usage was down over 5,000,000 gallons last month. This was mainly due to the leak that had been repaired. We are back at our normal daily usage of about 192,000 gallons. They read 619 meters last month. Three new water services were installed, replaced on meter, completed 19 locates for 811 and created on new 911 address. The Heath Road well is back in service and the Stevens Road well is still running high unless they have the well valved back. Commissioner Hammack with get with Art to discuss some options. The Johnson Road tank was cleaned and inspected and is being repainted now. They started a water line extension on Deer Road. They will be adding 1140 feet of 2: pipe and should gain 2-3 more customers.

Road: Both graders and the boom mower ran as weather permitted. They hauled

sand and gravel as needed and repaired several roads throughout the county. They cleaned out a beaver dam, buried two horses, removed a fallen tree, replaced stop signs, and repaired road shoulders on a couple roads. They spent several days picking up trash and patched potholes on several roads. We have now put a trash dumpster out by the Fuel Barn on Railside Drive and have been picking up household items since the grapple truck is not running due to the driver having surgery. The leased motor grader was delivered on February 8th. Lemont Thornton had surgery on February 23rd and will be out of work for several weeks.

c. RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Minutes:

Jack Clark reported that Schley County had 213 kids sign up for spring ball. They have 20 teams who will be playing. They have made several repairs to the fields during the off season. They made repairs to the fence at Roland Jones, redid the bathrooms, dugouts, etc. Opening day for ball is March 20th. They expect to have about 800 people there. Schley is hosting the Dixie League Allstars in June; this is for eight different counties and will be a Friday - Sunday event. Jack requested that if the county can help grade Airport Road. Last year the Road Dept graded and put down gravel and now some of it is moving towards the middle of the road and caused potholes. He would appreciate any help they can get.

11. COUNTY MANAGER REPORT

a. EMA DIRECTOR / ZONING / FINANCIALS

Minutes:

Doug stated that we had received the GEMA grant money; we completed two exercises, which is required each year. One was being part of the dispensing of the Covid vaccines, at the Health Department and the other was with a fire response. Zoning: Doug stated we had 3 mobile homes, five timber, and one electrical permits. Three electrical inspections, one Certificate of Occupancy and one foundation was inspected. We were originally approached about having two separate cell towers: one for Verizon and one for AT&T, now that are going on the same tower. Doug asked about the County having a repeater on the tower. We will be able to have one at the 200' level. Doug stated that the financials are in the Commissioner's books. Doug stated that the COVID Relief Act has passed in the House and was kicked back to the Senate with changes. NACO has been very involved to get this Act passed. The monies will be given out over two years; one allotment around June and another next year. Dave Wills has asked all Georgia Counties to join NACO. Doug stated that River Valley has requested two appointments; one on their Council Board and it is normally the Chairman or an elected official. Bill McClellan will serve on this board. They have also asked for an appointment on the Regional Transportation Board; Doug Jamieson will represent Schley. Doug stated that our Ordinances have been uploaded at

Municode and are now being reviewed by an attorney.

We have subscribed to Diamond Maps; this system will help identifying water lines as well as water hydrants. Art and Duane will be involved in getting the files updated. One good thing about this is that we can send our information to River Valley to update the GIS system. Lynn McCargue has agreed to let us borrow a dump truck for now. Mike Patel is interested in opening a liquor store in Ellaville/Schley County. The guy at the old Dollar General continues to raise his price so that is a no go. We will continue to try and find him a place to open. A Family Dollar store will open on Hwy 26, right across from Lizzie Mae Peeks property.

12. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Minutes:

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