



SCHLEY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Minutes

Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 6:30 pm

AGENDA

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:

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

4. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 8TH MINUTES

Minutes:

Commissioner Hammack made a motion to approve the February 8th Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Pilcher and all were in favor.

5. 2020/2021 AUDIT REVIEW

Minutes:

Doug stated that Mr. Krenson had dropped off copies of the annual audit. Please review and let Krenson know if you have any questions. He said there is no fraud, or missing funds but he did report the following findings: We do need budget amendments for our accounts that are over/under, he mentioned the Special Revenue accounts and we addressed the type of account at a previous meeting, there were some reconciliations that were not completed but were completed during the audit, there were some posting errors to interfund accounts and those have been corrected, and we are supposed to have a reserve account for the water system but we do not have sufficient revenues to create this account. All previous finding had been corrected with the exception of the water reserve account.

6. SAND FILTER SYSTEM

Minutes:

We had previously applied for \$5,000,000 in grants and we have received approval on a \$1M+ grant to be used for the Heath Road sand filter system. It's much higher than the one previously but the county did a lot of the work. This grant is for a "turn key" system which includes concrete work, protective building, full filtration system, and a new filter media for Stevens Rd well. We offered a 10% match in the original grant process and so we will have to incur charges up to \$100,000. Doug stated that the Utilities Board approved to move forward but they do not have any money. The match on our part would come from ARPA money that we should be getting around May. The filter system will improve the quality of water and be a substantial savings in chemicals. Commissioner Jones made a motion to move forward with this project, seconded by Commissioner Pilcher. The vote was two in favor and one abstaining. The motion carried.

7. RIGHT OF WAY BIDS

Minutes:

We received two bids for right-of-way mowing, this was for mowing the state/county roads three times and picking up trash each time: Harper's Tree & Stump Removal quoted \$53,575.91 to mow US 19, \$94,347.00 to mow remaining State roads and \$132,750.00 to mow Schley County roads, and a total of \$280,672.91 to mow all roads. Rite-A-Way Mowers LLC quoted differently, they gave a flat quote for the entire county. Their quote was \$134,025.00 for all roads, in addition, they provided quotes for years two and three as well. The quote for year two is \$136,002.00 and year three is \$137,985.00. There was discussion on whether RAW knew for sure what they were bidding on since it was such a drastic difference in price. Doug also mentioned that we are about at the end of life for our mowers. He mentioned that this would allow the public works employees to continue working on their projects; it would free up their time. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve Rite-A-Way mowing to get the bid, seconded by Commissioner Hammack and all were in favor.

8. STEVENS ROAD WELL

Minutes:

Doug stated that the Stevens Road well is losing suction, causing a loss of production and damage to the pump. Art called Donald Smith and they suspect it's clogged screens and some damage to the pump, because of the loss of suction. They advised to take it offline. They are scheduled to come but it will be two months before they will be here. Their quote is to pull the pump assembly, video well, and inspect materials for \$15,429.00 and jet the well and install and pull a temporary well for \$36,500.00. Should we need a new pump we are looking at an additional \$15,000 or so. Commissioner Jones made a motion to allow Don Smith to come do the work, seconded by Commissioner Pilcher. Chairman McClellan asked for discussion. Commissioner Hammack stated he didn't want to cause a conflict of interest and that

Don Smith's prices were reasonable. Doug stated that according to the law that if there is no one else close by and it's an emergency situation, it would not be a conflict. There was discussion about the phosphate causing the issues and Commissioner Hammack said there could be some damage to the pump due to lack of water but he doesn't feel that we would need an entire new pump. Since Vice-Chairman Belcher was not at the meeting it was decided to table the motion until he could be contacted in the morning, before we move forward.

9. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

a. FIRE / EMS

Minutes:

Duane Montgomery stated that they had 59 EMS calls last month, which was down some, 18 fire responses, one mutual aid and so far there have been 109 man hours spent on the training program. Duane said he feels that it is catching on. They had seven community assist calls; one was while they were on another call someone came up and wanted their blood pressure checked. They continue with pre-Incident planning, cleaning and maintenance, and due regard. Duane said that Webster County is hosting an EMT-B Class training and he offered his congratulations to Edgar DeVane for passing National Registry (EMT-A). Duane said this is the first time in a LONG time they have not had scheduling issues.

b. PUBLIC WORKS/SCHLEY COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY

Minutes:

Art stated that the water usage for this month was 6,152,000 gallons, it was down from the month previous. They read 629 meters. They sold 753,850 gallons to Andersonville and zero to Ellaville. They installed a new water tap and service on Covey Run, replaced 4 damaged meter boxes, replaced a water meter and pressure valve on East Shore Dr. to correct pressure loss completed 29 locates for 811 "Call before you dig" and created four new 911 addresses. In the Road department they started hauling dirt from Jack Clark's to the gym project, continued trash pickup throughout the county, hauled dirt and gravel to Mt. Zion Rd to repair erosion, hauled dirt to repair a hole on Trice Rd and two loads dirt to Mt. Pleasant Rd to repair erosion, hauled 4 loads of milled asphalt to Deer Creek Rd and ran the grader as weather permitted. They replaced stop signs on Frank Roberts and Willie Shirah, the boom mower has been repaired and is currently working on McMickle Rd, and patched potholes on Conners Mill, Mt. Zion, Ebenezer and Deer Rd. The CAT backhoe is in the shop in Albany for repair with a "Critical Failure Alarm".

c. RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Minutes:

Jack Clark stated they had a record 258 kids signup for baseball this year. He has 25 teams. This is a first. Jack asked if we had any news on the gym. Doug said Jason Kanasawa has not gotten back to him with a quote.

10. COUNTY MANAGER REPORT

a. EMA DIRECTOR / ZONING / FINANCIALS

Minutes:

Doug reported we may be in for some bad weather later tonight through Wednesday. A widespread hard freeze is expected Saturday night/Sunday morning. Doug stated the EMA annual conference is in April – so we need to shift the BoC meeting to either April 5th or 19th; Kathy stated she will be out on the 5th so it was decided to move the meeting to the 19th. Doug had 5 inspections (3 electrical, 0 COO, 1 Foundation, 1 Plumbing, 0 pre-move), 4 permits (1 house, 0 mobile homes, 1 timber, 1 storage building, 1 elec.) and stated the financials are in the BoC books for review. As mentioned previously, we applied for \$5M + in grants, we have received approval of \$1M+ for the sand filter system. We had applied for the Governor’s First Responder grant and we have received the Sheriff, deputies, and paramedics. We re still waiting for volunteer fire fighters and E911 dispatchers. Doug said the Jailers have fallen off and will need to check on them. The redistricting for County has been approved but we are still waiting on City part. After sending out approximately 200 letters to overdue accounts, the water accounts have been brought up to date but we still have some sanitation accounts still hanging out there. We need to decide what we want to do with those; go to collections or what. We will start work on FY 2023 budget towards the end of the month. Duane has received estimates on a new ambulance: 2022 F550 - \$229,553.00 and 2021 F450 - \$227,553.00. Doug makes the recommendation we go with the F550 due to it being better able to carry the box. There are several mandates in the house right now that will affect us financially; giving Constitutional Officers a \$5000 cost of living pay raise, paying the sheriff for each court they serve beyond the Superior Court. Current law provides that sheriffs can only receive this supplement for one court regardless of the number of the courts served. It is suggested to pay \$4,630.80 per court, most counties will be mandated to increase their sheriff’s salary by \$13,892, in addition to the \$5000 COLA. A permit that would allow vehicles hauling raw forest products, agricultural commodities, and minerals to reach a total gross weight of up to 95,000 pounds. This now applies to more industries, not just logging trucks. This will cause long-term road issues. Another bill is to make all Coroners a full-time position. In addition to the pay, all benefit expenses would be added as well. Another bill is authorizing Probate Judges to shed their election duties. This will cause us to have a Board of Elections and most likely have a full-time Registrar. House Bill 997 exempts all off-road equipment used for the harvesting of timber from ad valorem taxes and Senate Bill 172 would exempt all crop-dusting planes from ad valorem taxes. HB 1280 establishes the provision of a three-way contract between the county, municipality, and the local tax commissioner. This contract lays out the exact services expected of the tax commissioner, the amount paid by the municipality

to the county for services rendered, and any additional personal compensation for the tax commissioner. There are a lot of bills up for approval and we have to figure out where we will get the income.

11. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Minutes:

Chairman McCellan asked if anyone had any comments.

There being no further business, Commissioner Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Pilcher and all were in favor.