

Washington County Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting
December 13, 2018
9:00am

Commissioners Present: Horace Daniel, Doug Watkins, Edward Burten, Melton Jones, Frank Simmons

Prayer

Pledge

Call to Order

Approval of Past Minutes

- A motion was made by Commissioner Watkins to approve the minutes from the previous regular meeting, seconded by Commissioner Burten. The motion to approve those minutes passed with a show of hands.

Bills

- A motion was required to approve the bills for the past month as follows:
 - Administrative & Other \$231,810.21
 - Road Department \$152,226.02
 - Sheriff Dept. & Jail \$112,375.98
 - Courthouse \$48,659.46
 - EMA \$509.29
 - E-911 \$6,445.11
 - Landfill \$50,722.67

A motion was made by Commissioner Watkins to approve the bill for the past month, seconded by Commissioner Burten. The motion was passed by a show of hands.

Road Department Update

- The Road Superintendent informed the commissioners of an accident that occurred at the dumpster site located on Yank Brown Road, in which a vehicle struck destroyed nearly one-third of the fencing located at the site. The individual's insurance should pay to have the fencing and any other damaged items replaced. He also informed the commissioners that the new guard rails to be placed on Deepstep Road will be installed over the next week.

Appointments

- GDOT – Highway 15 Truck Route
 - Mr. Caleb Lord and Mr. Dylan Lindsey gave a presentation on the northern half of the truck route that will circumvent Sandersville. Mr. Lord, through a projected display, showed the commissioners and public that the route will begin at Highway 242 and roughly go along Ridge Road until it meets Highway 15 north of town. Silas Lane and parts of other current roads will be eliminated, and a roundabout will be installed at the new intersection of Highway 88 and the Highway 15 truck route. The northern half of the Highway 15 truck router project is scheduled to be complete in 2021, while the southern half is proposed to be let in 2020.

- WCRMC – Update
 - Mr. Antoine Poythress, CEO of WCRMS, and Jim Croome, Chairman of the Hospital Authority, updated the commissioners and public of the activities and performance of the hospital. They discussed the following:
 - The Intensive Care Unit will be reopened following the completion of the renovations and hiring of staff
 - Installation of a new computer system that will be congruent throughout the hospital, to improve efficiency and effectiveness
 - Continued recruitment of specialists and physicians to encourage more confidence in the hospital. Successful recruiting of a new general practice doctor, cardiologist, and gynecologist has occurred, with new efforts placed on obtaining an orthopedic surgeon.
 - Financially, the hospital has improved dramatically compared to the previous year. Last year the hospital lost north of \$4.5 million, while this year is just over \$1 million.
 - The rural tax credit for hospitals has resulted in \$700 thousand, which is well beyond what was expected.
 - Efforts will continue with ERH, the management company assisting with the hospital's turn arounds, to obtain self-sustenance.
- Abandoned Home and Trash – Ed Long
 - Mr. Long spoke to the commissioners regarding a dilapidated mobile home, in which it has been partially torn down with debris piled in the front yard, and trash that winds up on his property due to negligence by neighbors. He discussed his disgust with the issue, and that this would influence people to move away. Chairman Daniel expressed the commissioner's concerns over the issues, and assured Mr. Long that this matter would be discussed with his neighbors.

Old Business – None

New Business

- Development Authority Appointments
 - Mr. Jayson Johnston, President of the Development Authority, explained that the terms of Mr. Mike Sheppard and Mr. Ben Tarbutton III will expire at the end of this year and requested that both be reappointed, as they have been excellent assets on the Development Authority. He also explained that Mr. Aubin Willis will be retiring from the Authority after many years of service and Mr. Carl Cummings has resigned from the Authority due to issues concerning his availability. Recommendations were made to appoint Mr. Eric Tillirson, President of Thiele Kaolin, and Mr. Sonny Barksdale, owner of Barksdale Contracting. A vote was required to reappoint and appoint the individuals mentioned.
 - Commissioner Simmons made a motion to reappoint and appoint those listed, seconded by Commissioner Burten. The motion was passed unanimously.
- 2019 LMIG Projects
 - The Road Superintendent explained that the County will have roughly \$1.6 million in 2019 to allocate towards transportation projects funded by LMIG and TIA. He proposed that the following projects be considered for 2019:
 - Resurfacing - \$1,251,792.00

- Deepcut Road 2.8 miles; South Sparta Davisboro 4.6 miles; Walker-Dairy Road 1.6 miles; Pleasant Grove Road 1.1 miles
 - Restriping - \$300,000 of various roads
 - Patching – Kaolin Road \$80,000
 - A motion was made by Commissioner Watkins to approve the proposal, seconded by Commissioner Simmons. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Road Paving Priority List
 - The Road Superintendent explained that the priority list for paving was open for addition of new roads. Each commissioner was given the opportunity to place two roads on the list. Also, following discussions with the property owners, Wright-Urquhart Road will be removed from the priority list. The following roads were placed on the list:
 - District 1 – Bussel Road (portion); Leverett Road (portion)
 - District 2 – New Hope Church Road; Stanley Road
 - District 3 – Stevens Road (portion); Sunhill-Harrison Road (portion)
 - District 4 – Smith Road; Haynes Road
 - Chairman – Sunhill Road (portion) ; Whippoorwill Lane
 - Following the completion of Taylor Road, the priority list will begin with New Hope Church Road, then go in numerical order by district until each of the roads listed are paved (i.e. Stevens Road, Smith Road, Sunhill Road, and Bussel Road will follow, then the other selections from each commissioner in the same order).
- Library Board Reappointment
 - The term of Ms. Norma Wright will expire at the end of this calendar year. The Library Board has requested reappointment of Ms. Wright.
 - A motion was made by Commissioner Watkins to reappoint Ms. Wright, seconded by Commissioner Simmons. The motion was passed unanimously.

Contract Ratification – None

Chairman Comments

Meeting Adjourned

Public Comment Session


Horace Daniel, Chairman

Attest:


Dustin Peebles, County Administrator/Clerk