

## Washington County Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting

August 13, 2020

9:00am

**Commissioners Present:** Horace Daniel, Doug Watkins, Edward Burten, James Hitchcock, Frank Simmons

**Prayer**

**Pledge**

**Call to Order**

### **Approval of Past Minutes**

- A motion was made by Commissioner Simmons to approve the minutes from the previous regular meeting, seconded by Commissioner Watkins. 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 \$1,043,407.27
  - Road Department \$178,979.49
  - Sheriff Dept. & Jail \$14,050.17
  - Courthouse \$44,421.36
  - EMA \$9,530.15
  - E-911 \$116,193.62
  - Landfill \$65,710.48

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

### **Road Department Update**

- Mr. Waller stated that the Road Department has the newly acquired work detail picking up trash in areas that have been affected most. He stated that there is a lot of trash on our roadways since the work detail hasn't been available since the latter half of March. He asked the public to please not litter. He also stated that the crews are doing their best to keep up with washouts and other issues caused by the heavy rains received over the past week
- The County Administrator stated that the County received a grant to install a new generator at the Road Department in the amount of approximately \$16,000, in which the County will be asked to provide a match of \$2,000.

### **Appointments – None**

### **Old Business**

- Amendment to Beer/Wine Ordinance
  - The County Administrator explained that the amendment to the ordinance was read aloud at the last meeting, reflecting the referendum results from the election in June of this year. He stated that the amendment was publicized in the legal organ and that all

procedural requirements were completed to allow for a vote on the amendment. He stated that if there were no concerns or changes to be discussed, a vote could be taken.

- Chairman Daniel asked for a motion to approve the amendment. Commissioner Simmons made a motion for approval, seconded by Commissioner Watkins. The motion was passed unanimously.

## **New Business**

- Resolution – 2020 Millage Rates

- The County Administrator explained that a resolution is required to be passed by the commissioner to levy taxes on property in the County. He read aloud the proposed millage rates as follows:

▪ County M & O	9.677
▪ Board of Education M & O	17.036
▪ Development Authority M & O	0.500
▪ Hospital Authority	3.000

- He stated that this year's rates are slightly higher when compared to last year's rates, due to the state calculated roll back rate. He asked the Tax Commissioner to provide further explanation.
- The Tax Commissioner stated that the millage rates are calculated utilizing a formula sheet provided by the Georgia Department of Revenue, called a PT-231. She stated, although the rates are higher, it is not legally a tax increase on the citizens. Since the overall tax digest, which is prepared the Tax Assessors office, decreased from last year's figures, the calculation rebalances to allow counties to receive the same or close to the same revenue as the year before. She stated that any increase over last year's bills would be very small.
- Chairman Daniel asked for a motion to approve the millage rates. Commissioner Simmons made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Watkins. The motion was passed unanimously.

- Air Conditioning Units

- The County Administrator explained that there were three units that needed work or replacement. He read out the following locations and quotes to be considered for approval:
  - Courthouse
    - Replacement of bad compressor
    - Mel Daniel - \$3,100.00; Helton Electric - \$3,146.52
  - Library
    - Replacement of entire unit #4
    - Helton Electric - \$5,750.00; Mel Daniel - \$6,267.00
  - New Elections Building
    - Replacement of entire system
    - Mel Daniel - \$11,769.00; Helton Electric - \$13,700.00
- The County Administrator stated that the low bid was recommended for each location
- Chairman Daniel asked for a motion to approve the low bid for each. A motion was made by Commissioner Watkins to approve, seconded by Commissioner Simmons. The motion was passed unanimously.

- Airport Consultant Agreement
  - The County Administrator explained that the agreement with the current airport consulting firm will end in September 2020. He stated the GDOT and FAA have strict guidelines to follow when soliciting packets for a consulting firm to help with airport projects. He stated that the guidelines were followed and that only one packet was received, which was from the current consultant Lead Edge Design. He stated that another packet was received, but was a day late and could not be considered. He went on to state that Lead Edge Design has been an excellent firm to work with, and has not had a project that went awry or a project with any change orders, as well as helped the County receive millions in federal funding to complete those projects. He stated that the new agreement will be for 5 years, as that is the field standard.
  - Chairman Daniel asked Commissioner Hitchcock his thoughts on the consulting firm as he is on the Airport Authority. Commissioner Hitchcock stated that they do a great job and are easy to work with.
  - Chairman Daniel asked for a motion to approve the agreement. Commissioner Hitchcock made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Simmons. The motion was passed unanimously.
  
- Pipe Replacement – Henderson Grove Road
  - Mr. Waller stated that there are 3 pipes on Henderson Grove Road, where it goes over a section of Sunhill Creek, need to be replaced before the wet season arrives. He stated that if those pipes are not replaced, there will likely be major issues with erosion and that the road could collapse since the existing pipes are rotting away.
  - The County Administrator stated GDOT has agreed to give the County \$60,000 to go toward the project, as part of the emergency funds the Governor made available earlier this year for flood damage.
  - Mr. Waller stated that two quotes were received for the work: Barksdale Contracting for \$139,980.00 and DBI Services for \$198,855.00. He stated that Barksdale Contracting was the recommended bidder.
  - Chairman Daniel asked for a motion to award Barksdale Contracting the work. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to award, seconded by Commissioner Simmons. The motion was passed unanimously.
  
- Road Department Shop Lighting
  - Mr. Waller stated that there are numerous lights that are out in the shop, many of which are very old and not energy efficient. He stated that, if approved, the change out of the current lighting would greatly improve visibility in the shop and allow for the shop lighting to be more efficient. He stated that two quotes were received: Mel Daniel for \$7,120.00 and Helton Electric \$7,539.11. He stated that Mel Daniel was the recommended bidder.
  - Chairman Daniel asked for motion to award the work to the recommended bidder. Commissioner Simmons made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Burten. The motion was passed unanimously.

Chairman Comments

Meeting Adjourned

Public Comment Session



Horace Daniel, Chairman

Attest:



Dustin Peebles, County Administrator/Clerk