

## Washington County Board of Commissioners

Called Meeting

July 21, 2021

11:00am

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

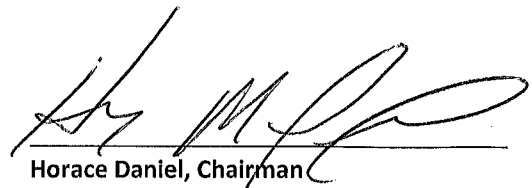
### Business

- Jones Road
  - There were 2 representatives from GP's Enterprises and 2 representatives from the Georgia Department of Transportation present at the meeting. The reasoning for their attendance was in regards to Jones Road and the mass deterioration of the road, along a stretch from Highway 242 and the crossing with Sunhill Road, since the beginning of the Highway 15 truck route project due to the weight from loaded dump trucks hauling dirt to the project.
  - Chairman Daniel stated that the commissioners have received numerous calls for months regarding the condition of the road, and would like to see it fixed.
  - Mr. Corbett Reynolds, district engineer from GDOT, stated that the best course of action would be for GP's enterprises to perform an assessment, then discuss the findings with the commissioners. He went on to state that GDOT would assist with facilitating those meetings.
  - The County Attorney inquired if the road will still be used for hauling dirt in the future. Mr. Ben Archer, project manager with GP's, stated that there is more to be hauled out. The hauling should be completed by the end of this calendar year. Mr. Waller expressed concerns about running out of paving season and the winter rains.
  - The County Attorney inquired as to any contingencies in the project budget to address such issues as this. Mr. Reynolds stated that the state does not hold funding for corrective problems, and that it would be a unique situation for GDOT to pay for anything outside of the project. He stated that GP's needs to formulate a cost estimate to repair the road.
  - The County Attorney asked what the timeline would be for receiving an estimate and the meeting to discuss. Mr. Archer stated that they would begin immediately on the plan and return for the regular meeting in August.
  - Commissioner Watkins inquired of the usual procedure in these types of instances. Mr. Reynolds stated that typically local governments have bonds, similar to the process loggers must follow. He also stated that the deterioration experienced in this case was unusual, however.
  - The representatives from GP's called Mr. Martin O'Neil, a chief officer in the company, to discuss the road further. Mr. O'Neil stated that he was aware of the road and its deterioration, but that it had been approximately three months since.
  - The County Attorney expressed to Mr. O'Neil the overall concerns and feelings of those living on the road and other that use it regularly, then stating that those citizens basically want to know when the road will be fixed. Mr. O'Neil stated that roads are not fixed until the projects are completed. He then asked what the expectations were from the commissioners. Chairman Daniel stated that the board expect to see the road returned to the condition prior to the beginning of the project, not just the filling of potholes. Commissioner Burten stated that while permanently fixing the road is a priority, it is also important to keep the road in good passable condition until that time. Mr. O'Neil stated that

- GP's do not want to leave the roadway in worse shape than found, and that a goal would be to take care of it until permanently fixed.
- Mr. O'Neil inquired about the weight restriction on the road. Mr. Gary Waller, Public Works Director, stated it is the State recommendation of 56,000 pounds. He also asked if there was anything that has been done beyond the scope of the project or the number of trucks hauling dirt. To everyone's knowledge, nothing had been done to cause the deterioration to the roadway beyond the continuous volume of loaded dump trucks traveling the roadway, but that the road was not built to accommodate such activity.
  - Mr. O'Neil stated that GP's will make a proposal on repairing the roadway permanently. He asked Mr. Archer if there were any millings and binder available, to which the answer was no. Mr. Archer stated that ASE was being used from the quarry, but segregates and beats out leading to more damage. Commissioner Simmons expressed the importance of making sure the road is maintained until fixed.
  - Mr. O'Neil stated that GP's would locate millings to utilize on the road to help get through to the time the road is fixed, and will provide a proposal soon. The commissioners were in agreeance with that plan.
- Deepstep Road – Pipe Replacement
    - The County Administrator explained that the project for Deepstep Road was advertised and quotes were received to perform the work. He stated that the road will need to be closed for the duration of the project, which should be no longer than 30 days. He stated the Road Department will keep detour routes maintained to provide safe travel during that time. He stated that four quotes were submitted from the following companies: DBI Services, Superior Custom Services, L&L Utilities, and Barksdale Contracting. He stated that Barksdale Contracting was the lowest bidder at \$135,435.75, approximately \$55,000 lower than the next two quotes, and is the recommended to receive the award.
    - Chairman Daniel asked for a motion to award the contract to Barksdale Contracting. A motion was made by Commissioner Watkins to award, seconded by Commissioner Burten. The motion was passed unanimously.
  - Road Department – Vehicle Purchase
    - The County Administrator explained that the Road Dept. was in need of a truck to haul heavy equipment, and asked Mr. Waller to give more detail on the existing truck and the one being considered.
    - Mr. Waller stated that the existing truck has had a litany of issues, from blown parts, to its age, and lack of power to pull the equipment adequately. He stated that the truck being considered does not have the power issues and would serve the County for years.
    - Commissioner Burten inquired of the miles on the existing truck. Mr. Waller stated that the overall mileage on the truck is not that high, but its age and the wear and tear from pulling equipment it has trouble pulling are the main culprits of the issues. He went on to state that the County is down to one truck that can pull the equipment, which is an old dump truck that was converted to a pull truck. He stated that the truck being considered will cost \$23,018, while the cost of a new truck would be around \$190,000.
    - Chairman Daniel asked for a motion to purchase the truck discussed. A motion was made by Commissioner Simmons to purchase, seconded by Commissioner Hitchcock. The motion was passed unanimously.
  - Ordinance – Noise Control

- The County Administrator explained that there have been recent problems related to noise, with the County having no ordinances related to noise or the response to such issues. He stated that he and the County Attorney discussed ordinances in place from other counties and the issues faced by the County, which resulted in the proposed ordinance provided to the commissioners. He stated that there was no action that could be taken in this meeting since the public is to be noticed.
- Commissioner Simmons inquired as to whether this proposed ordinance would affect properly organized rallies, marches, and similar events. The County Attorney stated that there is a provision in the ordinance that excludes those events permitted by the local government.
- Commissioner Hitchcock asked about the effects on the use of fireworks. The County Attorney stated that the ordinance adheres to the guidelines set forth by the State and does not impose any further restrictions beyond that.
- The County Administrator stated that the ordinance would be made available for public review and advertised in the legal organ for two weeks. He stated that the commissioners could vote on the proposal at the next meeting if desired.

**Meeting Adjourned**



Horace Daniel, Chairman

**Attest:**



Dustin Peebles, County Administrator/Clerk