

Washington County Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting

January 11, 2024

9:00am

Commissioners Present: Horace Daniel, Doug Watkins, Bobby Jackson, Frank Simmons Jr.

Prayer & Pledge

Motion to Begin

- Commissioner Simmons made a motion to begin the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Watkins. The motion was passed unanimously.

December Minutes

- Chairman Daniel made a motion to approve the December 2023 Board Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Watkins. The motion was passed unanimously.

Bills

- The bills to be ratified were as follows:
 - Administrative & Other - \$503,779.67
 - Road Department - \$81,178.68
 - Sheriff office & Jail - \$114,943.77
 - Courthouse - \$64,790.42
 - EMA - \$1,049.83
 - E911 - \$3,430.66
 - Landfill - \$77,225.60
- Commissioner Simmons made a motion to approve the expenditures, seconded by Commissioner Watkins. The motion was passed unanimously.

Road Department Update

- Road Department Director Robert Holmes Jr. was unable to attend the meeting today. Administrator Durden commented that Mr. Holmes gave a brief explanation Tuesday of where the road crews were this week.

Appointments

- Morgue – E.K. May
 - Mr. May spoke on Tuesday and gave a briefing on how their process is going right now with handling multiple bodies at once. He stated that they currently have to pay to send some to Augusta to hold until they can then be transported again to the crime lab. Mr. May asked that the commissioners approve him to go ahead and look around at other counties that have a morgue and see how they are operating and get back with them to discuss the matter further.
 - Administrator Durden restated the proposal from Mr. May and asked for the commissioners to make a motion to allow Mr. May to move forward with looking at other counties and then coming back to discuss further. Commissioner Simmons made

the motion to allow Mr. May to look at other counties. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Solar Ordinance – Jayson Johnston
 - Commissioner Hitchcock could not make the meeting, but requested Tuesday that they phone him in for this portion of the meeting. Administrator Durden attempted to call, but he did not answer. Mr. Johnston stated that Mr. Hitchcock did reach out to him Tuesday afternoon and they had already discussed this matter.
 - Mr. Johnston stated that the development authority already has a bond agreement that is in place for these solar projects that are coming into the county. He wanted the commissioners to understand that there is a part of that bond that does state that the solar project must be decommissioned if they decide to leave.
 - Mr. Johnston stated that he agrees with the county passing the solar ordinance because there are chances that someone may not come through the authority for this. If that happens the county having an ordinance means that they would still be held accountable. Mr. Johnston asked that the county keep two things in mind for the ordinance: vegetative screening and that if processed through the Development Authority then they could be exempt from the county ordinance.
- Financial Audit Report – Brian Wright
 - Mr. Brian Wright gave the financial audit report on Tuesday. Administrator Durden said that Mr. Wright reviewed and stated that the county received a good report.

Old Business

New Business

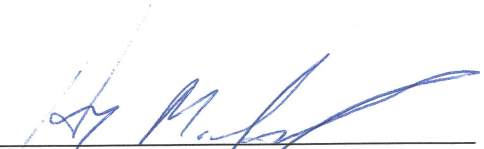
- Mayview/Kittrell Creek – For Bid
 - Administrator Durden asked that the Commissioners approve to go ahead with putting a bid out to re-do the pipe on this road. Commissioner Simmons made the motion to go ahead with the bid process. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Open bank account for Mental Health Grant
 - Administrator Durden asked to open a new bank account for the new Sheriff Office Mental Health Grant that the county will be receiving.
 - Commissioner Simmons made the motion to approve the new bank account, seconded by Commissioner Watkins. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Sell property at Tree Nursery Rd. to high bidder
 - Administrator Durden stated that the county received two bids for the parcel on Tree Nursery Rd. He asked that the commissioners approve the sale of this parcel to the highest bidder, which was Ben Tarbutton, III for \$2,000.00.
 - Commissioner Watkins made the motion to sell the property to Ben Tarbutton, III. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Elder Room Renovation Funding
 - Administrator Durden stated that he was asked by several ladies at the library about renovating the Elder Room. They received a quote from Johnson-Laux Construction and Administrator Durden went on to put a bid out on the project just to verify the lowest bid. Johnson-Laux Construction was still the lowest bidder.

- Administrator Durden asked that the commissioners approve to go ahead with Johnson-Laux Construction to complete the renovation. Commissioner Jackson made the motion to approve going forward with the renovation. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Appointments of Commissioners
 - Administrator Durden gave out a list of the Committees that the commissioners participate on. He asked that the commissioners approve the committee list if they have no issues with the list.
 - Commissioner Simmons made the motion to approve committees, seconded by Commissioner Watkins. The motion was passed unanimously.
 - Chairman Daniel refrained from the vote of the Vice-Chairman appointment. Commissioner Simmons made the motion to approve the Vice-Chairman, seconded by Commissioner Watkins. The motion passed unanimously.
- 2024 LMIG project list review
 - Administrator Durden presented the four roads from each district that the commissioners requested to be put on the 2024 LMIG list. The roads are District 1: Tucker Road, District 2: Breezy Hill Road, District 3: Holmes Cannery Road, District 4: Phillips Road.
 - Commissioner Simmons made the motion to approve the LMIG list. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Insulation for Election office
 - Administrator Durden stated that the Elections office needed insulation installed immediately. He said that Sandersville Builders Supply will begin installing the insulation if they approve to move forward.
 - Commissioner Simmons made the motion to move forward with insulation at the Election Office. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Election Qualifying Fees
 - Administrator Durden presented the new fees for qualifying. They fees are as follows:
Magistrate \$1,694 Clerk of Court \$1,660 Probate Judge \$1,660 Sheriff \$1,928
 Tax Commissioner \$1,660 Coroner \$723 State Court Judge \$1,372
 State Court Solicitor \$1,136
 - Commissioner Simmons made the motion to approve the qualifying fees, seconded by Commissioner Watkins. The motion passed unanimously.
- Years of Service Certificates
 - Administrator Durden presented the years of service certificates. We had 5 years of service and 10 years of service.
- Retiree Plaque Presentation
 - Administrator Durden presented Ms. Angela Holley with her Retirement Plaque.
- Executive Session
 - Chairman Daniel made the motion to enter into executive session. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - Commissioner Watkins made the motion to exit executive session. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Comments

Meeting Adjourned: Motion made by Commissioner Simmons, Seconded by Commissioner Watkins.
Passed unanimously.

Public Comment Session



Horace M. Daniel, Chairman

Attest:



Keri Sumner, County Clerk