

## Washington County Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting

January 12, 2023

9:00am

**Commissioners Present:** Horace Daniel, Doug Watkins, Bobby Jackson, James Hitchcock

**Prayer**

**Pledge**

### **Approval of Previous Minutes**

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

### **Bills**

- Chairman Daniel read the bills to be ratified in the following categories and amounts:
  - Administrative & Other \$219,915.95
  - Road Department \$86,011.74
  - Sheriff's Office & Jail \$74,549.20
  - Courthouse \$44,584.48
  - EMA \$1,484.75
  - E-911 \$5,594.72
  - Landfill \$59,509.34
- Chairman Daniel asked for a motion to approve the expenditures. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Hitchcock. The motion was passed unanimously.

### **Road Department Update**

- Mr. Holmes stated that work is currently being done on Mayview Road with the grass cutting crew, shoulder work on Tennille Harrison Road, and trash pickup on Hamburg State Park Road. He stated that the Road Department has been obtaining gravel for the rainy, wet season to help with dirt roads. He stated that crews are also clearing out drainage pipe structures to mitigate issues caused by erosion.

### **Appointments – None**

### **Old Business**

- Road Closure Request – Cedar Creek Road
  - The County Administrator stated that a request was submitted to the County to request the closure of a portion of Cedar Creek Road. This request was read aloud and published in the legal organ of the County. Several responses were received from member of the community by the County Administrator and Commissioner Hitchcock. A letter with signatures will be submitted by those opposed to closing the road.
  - Due to the opposition of the request, it was tabled for further discussion at a later date.

## Business

- Alcohol License Application
  - The County Administrator stated that an application for the sale of beer and wine was received by a Ms. Nimmala, who will be taking ownership of the convenient store located on East McCarty Street just outside the city limits. The application was read aloud to the public and will be advertised for any public comment before being voted on at the next meeting, provided she passes the investigative process.
  
- Scale Repair Proposal
  - The County Administrator stated that two quotes for repairing the scales at the landfill were received, following a discussion concerning the losses taken by the collection center on an annual basis. Operation of the scales will provide a more fair and accurate fee schedule than what is currently in place. The two quotes were: S&S Scale Service for \$13,827.35 and Scale South for \$17,162.50. S&S Scale Service was the recommended contractor.
  - Chairman Daniel asked for a motion to award the work to S&S Scale Service. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Hitchcock. The motion was passed unanimously.
  
- Tax Assessment Proposal
  - Being that Commissioner Hitchcock was not able to attend the work session meeting, and that Commissioner Simmons was not able to attend the regular meeting, this item was tabled.
  
- Linton Park Architecture Proposal
  - The County Administrator stated that proposal for architects to design the park were solicited following a commitment from the City of Sandersville to split the costs for the park. He stated that 3 proposals were received and scored by a committee consisting of County and City officials. The highest scoring proposal was received by Cranston Engineering from Augusta, Georgia. He stated that their proposal was best on scheduling and costs, with all other items being equal between the firms. He stated that the total cost from beginning to end of the project would be approximately \$90,000, with the County's share being half of that at \$45,000.
  - Chairman Daniel asked for a motion to approve the recommended proposal. Commissioner Jackson made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Watkins. The motion was passed unanimously.
  
- Elections Office Sidewalk Proposal
  - The County Administrator stated that quotes were solicited for the repair of the sidewalk located at the Elections Office. He stated that the sidewalk has areas that are trip hazards that could result in injuries and subsequent lawsuits. He stated that only one quote was received, although more inquiries and site visits were held. He stated that All American Concretes submitted a quote of \$13,500.00 to remove the existing sidewalk and replace with new sidewalk, as well as repair an area at the front of the handicap accessibility ramp.
  - Chairman Daniel asked for a motion to award the work the All American Concrete. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Jackson.

The motion was passed unanimously.

- Health Department CDBG – Contract Award
  - The County Administrator stated that sealed bids were solicited for the renovation and addition project at the Health Department. Two bids were received: MMI Construction for \$1,504,000.00 and Contract Management for \$2,358,995.00. MMI was the recommended bidder by the architect and regional commission. He stated that the County and Health Department received a grant for \$1,000,000 for which the County had a match of \$50,000 that has already been met by fees for architecture. Any amount remaining will be paid by the Health Department.
  - Chairman Daniel asked for a motion to award the contract to MMI Construction. Commissioner Hitchcock made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Jackson. The motion was approved unanimously.
  
- RSAT – After Care Services
  - The County Administrator stated the in the previous advertisement for proposal on all RSAT services, the after care services provision did not receive a proposal. Due to that, advertisements were made for proposals to be submitted specifically for after care services. One proposal was received from The Vital Link and met the requirements of the program. Funding for these services is provided via grant funds to be received.
  - Chairman Daniel asked for a motion to approve the proposal for after care services to the RSAT program. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Hitchcock. The motion was passed unanimously.
  
- Surplus Equipment
  - The County Administrator stated that the Sheriff requested to sale several vehicles that are almost at the end of useful life, or past any useful purpose. There were 18 vehicles listed to sale. The Sheriff also requested that the proceeds from these sales be credited to the Sheriff's office budget for future purchase of new vehicles or equipment.
  - Chairman Daniel asked for a motion to approve the sale of the surplus equipment. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Hitchcock. The motion was passed unanimously.
  
- Recognition of Commissioner Burten
  - Chairman Daniel, the Commissioners, County Administrator, and County Attorney made comments regarding Commissioner Burten for his service to Washington County. Chairman Daniel presented Commissioner Burten with a plaque to commemorate his services, followed by time to allow Commissioner Burten to speak and fellowship with everyone that attended the meeting.

- Executive Session – Litigation
  - Chairman Daniel asked for a motion to enter into executive session. Commissioner Hitchcock made a motion to do so, seconded by Commissioner Watkins. The motion was passed unanimously.
  - Upon returning to regular session, the County Administrator stated that the executive session was in regard to litigation on engineering failures of the Lamars Creek Road project.

**Meeting Adjourned**

**Comments from Chairman**

**Public Comment Session**



Horace Daniel, Chairman

**Attest:**



Dustin Peebles, County Administrator/Clerk