

## Washington County Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting

April 13, 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 \$302,813.08
  - Road Department \$141,271.00
  - Sheriff's Office & Jail \$90,096.81
  - Courthouse \$60,914.97
  - EMA \$1,246.59
  - E-911 \$139,224.49
  - Landfill \$64,420.06
- Chairman Daniel asked for a motion to approve the expenditures. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Jackson. The motion was passed unanimously.

### **Road Department Update**

- Mr. Holmes stated that work is being done on Hattaway Road to repair a major washout, with culverts being repaired on Wilker School Road. Commissioner Hitchcock inquired about the new employee hired to run heavy equipment, to which Mr. Holmes stated that he is working out great and has knowledge in running the equipment. Mr. Holmes then stated that the heavy rains have cause erosion that has covered many pipes that need to be located in order to be repaired or replaced, and that crews are out marking those as quickly as possible to avoid further issues.

### **Appointments**

- Charles White – Recreation Department
  - Mr. White stated that his concern with the recreation department was the time the park closes and lack of security at the park. He stated that the park should stay open until dusk with a security officer present to prevent the unruly gatherings that have been occurring. Commissioner Hitchcock stated that he is on the recreation board and that this matter should be taken up with the recreation board. He stated that security is assigned for events sanctioned by the recreation department. He went onto state that security for days in which there are no sanctioned activities should not require security and that adults should use the park for its intended use, instead of using to consume alcohol or drugs or illegally sell food products. Commissioner Jackson stated that after the incident, a meeting was held with the police chief and Sheriff to discuss options and that it was decided a solution should be presented to the recreation board.

- John Kitchens – Jenkins Street
  - Mr. Kitchens stated that he was speaking on behalf of the citizens that live on Jenkins Street. He inquired as to what all would need to be done in order to have the road fixed, as its condition has deteriorated. He stated that each citizen is a tax paying citizen and should not be subjected to a neglected roadway. Mr. Holmes stated to Mr. Kitchens that the road is a private road and cannot be maintained by the County from a legal standpoint. Mr. Kitchens then asked what would need to be done for the County to take it over. The County Administrator stated that the road would need to be brought up to standard as a paved road or dirt road before the County could take it.
- Linda Alexander – Taylor Road
  - Ms. Alexander stated that she was in attendance to speak on the condition of Taylor Road. She stated that the school buses will not come down to the end of the road due to its condition. Mr. Holmes stated that the road was being repaired today. Ms. Alexander then inquired about the pulling of the ditches, to which Mr. Holmes stated that would be taken care of. Commissioner Jackson stated that the school bus issue would have to be discussed with the board of education, which he said that he has already done and will continue to do so. He went on to state the road is on the paving list as currently the third road on the list, but that the timing of the paving is dependent on having the funding to do so.

#### **Old Business – None**

#### **Business**

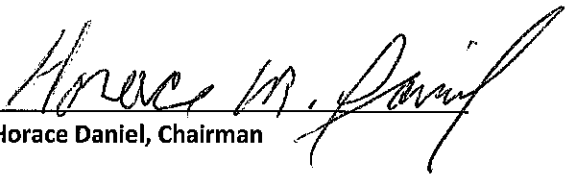
- Opioid Settlement
  - The County Administrator stated that the State of Georgia was joining another class action lawsuit against four more pharmaceutical companies for damages in relation to the opioid crisis. He stated that joining this lawsuit will allow the County to receive funds from the settlement once it is made. He stated that the funds will not be substantial and that the uses for those funds have not been clearly delineated at this time. He stated that a resolution was required to be approved to join the lawsuit.
  - Chairman Daniel asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Hitchcock made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Watkins. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Voting Equipment Support
  - The County Administrator stated that this item was for a continuation of the contract the elections office has with Mr. John Leach for the troubleshooting of election equipment if something adverse occurs. He stated that the rate for Mr. Leach is \$25/hour with a minimum of 2 hours.
  - Chairman Daniel asked for a motion to approve the renewal of this support. Commissioner Hitchcock made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Watkins. The motion was approved unanimously.
- Alcohol Application
  - The County Administrator stated that an application for the sale of beer and wine was received from a Ms. Sabreena Dixon for an establishment on Tennille Oconee Road. He stated that this was not required to be voted on as she must pass the inspection and investigation by the Sheriff's office before the process can be moved forward.

- Executive Session
  - 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 approved unanimously.
  - The County Administrator stated that the executive session was held for the negotiation of bringing on an interim county administrator following his departure in August.

**Meeting Adjourned**

**Comments from Chairman**

**Public Comment Session**

  
Horace Daniel, Chairman

**Attest:**

  
Dustin Peebles, County Administrator/Clerk