

## Washington County Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting  
September 14, 2023  
9:00am

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

### Prayer & Pledge

### Motion to Begin

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

### August Minutes

- Commissioner Simmons made a motion to approve the August 2023 Board Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Hitchcock. The motion was passed unanimously.

### Bills

- The bills to be ratified were as follows:
  - Administrative & Other - \$302,081.35
  - Road Department - \$118,535.05
  - Sheriff office & Jail - \$161,752.25
  - Courthouse - \$49,992.81
  - EMA - \$2,921.89
  - E911 - \$8,059.65
  - Landfill - \$78,182.56
- Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the expenditures, seconded by Commissioner Simmons. The motion was passed unanimously.

### Road Department Update

- Road Department Director Robert Holmes Jr. gave an update on where the crews are for the week and the progress they have made.

### Appointments

- Katie Moncus – Kaolin Festival Update
  - Mrs. Moncus gave an update on the Kaolin Festival this year. The festival will be coming back to the square this year. The theme is the 90's and they will have a grand marshal again. The grand marshal will be the 1994 WACO State Champ team. The Festival will only be Saturday this year.
- Eddie Moyer – Chamber of Commerce Update
  - Mr. Moyer gave an update on how well the Chamber has been doing this year. They have added 30 plus members since January. Mr. Moyer thanked to Commissioners for working so well with the Chamber.
- Miller Peacock – Elderite Update

- Mr. Peacock gave a brief description of what Elderite does in our community and thanked the Commissioners for their support.
- Carson Daley – Promoting Public Safety Event on Square
  - Mrs. Daley explained about the event that was going to be happening this evening on the square. The event is meant to help engage kids and the community with public safety knowledge. They have many different activities to help engage with public safety staff from the county and city.
- Lyle Lansdell – Progress on regulations preventing harmful facilities from moving near homes
  - Mrs. Lansdell presented the commissioners with three other county ordinances that she would like to see certain things from those ordinances mimicked in a Washington County Ordinance. The three counties she pulled from was Glascock County, Gordon County, and Columbia County.

### **New Business**


- Financial Policy Change
  - Interim Administrator Chris Hutchings explained he would like to increase the amount for the minimum bid limit from \$2,500 to \$5,000. He would also like to increase the limit for the Chairman approval from \$25,000 to \$40,000. This is to account for inflation.
  - Commissioner Hitchcock made the motion to approve the increase. Seconded by Commissioner Watkins. The motion passed unanimously.
- Attorney Contract
  - Attorney Michael Howard presented the commissioners with his contract for approval.
  - Commissioner Watkins made the motion to approve the attorney contract. Commissioner Hitchcock seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- IT Contract
  - Interim Administrator presented the new IT Contract for approval. Responsive Technology Partners was the chosen company after review of the two bids the county received.
  - Commissioner Watkins made the motion to approve the contract, seconded by Commissioner Simmons. The motion was passed unanimously.
- IGA: Contract with CSRA
  - The annual Agreement between the County and the Regional Commission we reviewed.
  - Commissioner Hitchcock made the motion to approve the contract. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Technical Appraisal Services Contract
  - Mr. Hutchings informed the commissioners that this contract is for the Tax Assessors office for new appraisals of properties.
  - Commissioner Hitchcock made the motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Watkins. The motion passed unanimously.
- Contract Ratification & Cancellation
  - Interim Administrator stated that there were eight contracts to be ratified. There was also a Cancellation on the current Bowen Technical Management contract. (list is provided)

- Commissioner Hitchcock made the motion to ratify the contracts and approve the cancellation, seconded by Commissioner Simmons. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Lighting Agreement- Hwy 15 Round About
  - Mr. Hutchings informed the commissioners that there was an agreement previously between GDOT and the County for the County to maintain the electric bill and maintenance of the upcoming Round About on Hwy 15. The commissioners wanted to look further into this. There was no action taken on this matter.
- Alcohol License
  - There were three businesses that needed to be approved for Alcohol License. Chris informed the commissioners that everything checked out in the background checks for each business. The three businesses are Copperhead Shine, Teqmo, and Sanderfresh.
  - Commissioner Watkins made the motion to approve the alcohol license. Seconded by Commissioner Simmons. The motion passed unanimously.
- Fire Fee
  - Lee Strickland spoke on the need for the fire fee and how it will benefit the Volunteer Fire Departments in the county. Mr. Strickland mentioned that the fire departments came to the commissioners 7 years ago and it has now become a dire need to find a way to help funding. Darrell Lanier with Harrison Fire Department read off the issues they are facing and how old and out dated their equipment is. There were 4 different methods for a fire fee presented.
  - The Commissioners did not take action on this matter at this time. Commissioner Jackson wanted the public to decide which method they prefer on payments for funding the fire departments. The commissioners asked Chris Hutchings to get a few public meetings scheduled to hear the publics input on the four methods. The fire fee will be brought back to the November meeting to be voted on.
- ACCG Wellness Grant Award
  - Interim Administrator Chris Hutchings informed the commissioners that the county received the Wellness Grant again after a few years of not receiving it. Mrs. Georgeanne Cook with the extension office will be over the Wellness Program for the County.
- Executive Session
  - Legal
  - The motion was made by Commissioner Simmons to enter into executive session. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.
  - The motion was made to exit Executive Session by Commissioner Hitchcock, seconded by Commissioner Watkins. The motion was passed unanimously.
  - Interim Administrator stated that in the Executive Session there was one topic to be voted on. The LMIG Contract being amended to include Grady Mertz striping.
  - Commissioner Watkins made the motion to approve the amendment. Seconded by Commissioner Hitchcock. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Comments from Chairman

Public Comment Session



---

Horace M. Daniel, Chairman

Attest:



---

Keri Lewis, County Clerk