

Washington County Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting

October 12, 2023

9:00am

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

Prayer & Pledge

Motion to Begin

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

September Minutes

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

Bills

- The bills to be ratified were as follows:
 - Administrative & Other - \$170,899.16
 - Road Department - \$121,863.55
 - Sheriff office & Jail - \$112,319.52
 - Courthouse - \$50,083.70
 - EMA - \$1,043.50
 - E911 - \$136,955.68
 - Landfill - \$68,845.51
- Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the expenditures, seconded by Commissioner Simmons. The motion was passed unanimously.

Interim Administrator, Chris Hutchings, stated that he was asked to add an executive session to the meeting for personnel issue. Commissioner Simmons approved the request to go into executive session after regular business. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. The motion 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

- Frost Road – Doris Johns
 - Did Not Show
- Change road name from Hazard Road to Daisy Walker Way – Andrea Coleman
 - The Commissioner phoned in Mrs. Coleman and she explained that her Grandmother is 99 years old and has been a resident on this road for many years. Mrs. Coleman stated

that she wanted the Commissioner to consider changing the name to Daisy Walker Way to honor her Grandmother for multiple reasons.

- Being that this is the district of Commissioner Simmons, he presented that majority of Hazard Road had turned in to him petitions signed that agree to the road name change.
- Interim Administrator stated there was no procedure on changing a road name, but he suggested to publicize the name change in the paper for 30 days before officially changing.
- Commissioner Simmons made the motion to approve the road name change after it is publicized for 30 days. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Recreation Department Update – Rosco Walls
 - Did Not Show
- Progress on regulations preventing harmful facilities from moving near homes – Lyle Lansdell
 - Mrs. Lansdell stated that she still has the 123 signatures for the petition against the Gun Range and that she is still hoping the Commissioners get an ordinance in place for the future.
 - Mrs. Lansdell asked if there was any progress on getting an ordinance in place. County Attorney Michael Howard stated that there is progress on this matter. He is still working with the Attorney General to get everything just right for an ordinance of this nature.

Old Business

- Lighting Agreement – Round About Hwy 15
 - The Agreement for the Round About being put on Hwy 15 North states that the County will maintain the maintenance and grass cutting for the round about.
 - Commissioner Watkins made the motion to approve the agreement. Seconded by Commissioner Simmons. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

- Public Safety and Community Violence Reduction Grant
 - Captain Trey Burgamy presented the Grant to the Commissioners explaining that this Grant involves 6 surrounding counties. Each County will have 2 deputies involved in the Grant. This Grant is a great opportunity for all counties to help in dealing with situations specific to citizens with mental health situations.
 - Commissioner Hitchcock made the motion to approve the grant. Commissioner Watkins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Resolution for Mental Health
 - Interim Administrator stated that this resolution is just to urge the continuation of efforts to reform and improve mental health services for Georgia.
 - Chairman Daniel made the motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Simmons. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Subdivision Road Resolution and Ordinance Modification
 - This Resolution is to update the County Road Specs.
 - Chairman Daniel made the motion to approve. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Disposal of Property on Tree Nursery Road

- Mr. Hutchings informed the commissioners that the County has 0.33 acres of land on Tree Nursery Road and it would be a good idea to Bid this property out. The County doesn't have a use for this small portion and there are surrounding land owners that would probably like to take it.
- Commissioner Watkins made the motion to approve bidding the land out to sale, seconded by Commissioner Simmons. The motion passed unanimously.
- Budget Amendment #1
 - Interim Administrator stated that insurance is running higher and the county needed to make an amendment, although the sales tax is running higher as well so we are able to compensate for the insurance increases.
 - Commissioner Simmons made the motion to approve the budget amendment, seconded by Commissioner Hitchcock. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Thiele Kaolin Pipeline Installation
 - Mr. Hutchings informed the commissioners Thiele Kaolin is needing to replace 3 areas of pipeline two down Deepstep Road and one on Old 85 Road. There is a small leak on one and they are needing access to the ROW as soon as possible to go ahead and get started on this replacement.
 - Commissioner Hitchcock approved the pipeline installation. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Defined Benefits Amendment
 - Mr. Hutchings explained that this amendment was for a current retiree situation for the County.
 - Commissioner Watkins made the motion to approve the amendment. Seconded by Commissioner Simmons. The motion passed unanimously.
- Landfill Site #2 Report
 - Interim Administrator, Chris Hutchings, informed the Commissioners that the County received 6 reports of no leakage from the Site #2 Landfill. This means the county will go to quarterly monitoring of the site, which will save the county money. Mr. Hutchings stated that this is a positive report for the County.
- Contract Ratification
 - Interim Administrator Chris Hutchings informed the commissioners that there were six contracts to be ratified for various work in the county. The list of contracts is attached.
 - Commissioner Hitchcock approved the contracts for ratification. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Executive Session
 - Personnel
 - The motion was made by Commissioner Hitchcock to enter into executive session. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.
 - The motion was made to exit Executive Session by Commissioner Hitchcock, seconded by Commissioner Simmons. The motion was passed unanimously.

Chairman Comments

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

Public Comment Session



Horace M. Daniel, Chairman

Attest:



Keri Lewis, County Clerk