

Washington County Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting

April 12, 2018

9:00am

Commissioners Present: Horace Daniel, Edward Burten, Melton Jones, Frank Simmons, Doug Watkins

Prayer

Pledge

Call to Order

Approval of Past Minutes

- A motion was made by Commissioner Simmons to approve the minutes from the previous regular meeting, seconded by Commissioner Watkins. The motion to approve those minutes passed with a show of hands.

Bills

- A motion was required to approve the bills for the past month as follows:
 - Administrative & Other \$983,905.87
 - Road Department \$57,055.80
 - Sheriff Dept. & Jail \$57,615.38
 - Courthouse \$44,045.06
 - EMA \$649.00
 - E-911 \$6,239.18
 - Landfill \$278,379.47

A motion was made by Commissioner Simmons to approve the bill for the past month, seconded by Commissioner Watkins. The motion was passed by a show of hands.

Road Department Update

- The Road Superintendent discussed with the commissioners the possibility of trading in a motor grader that has required three separate transmissions due to mechanical issues. Caterpillar first repaired the transmission for \$30,000, but following further issues have repaired it twice at no charge. The motor grader has approximately 7,400 hours, but has not been tested since repaired this past time as it is due to be delivered in from Caterpillar. Caterpillar recommends that the motor grader be traded in due to the numerous transmission issues. The commissioners would like to see if the motor grader will run as it should after this last repair, before allowing the machine to be traded in towards a new one.

Appointments

- Opioid Litigation – Mike Smith
 - Mr. Smith gave a short presentation on the ongoing opioid epidemic affecting Georgia and the rest of the nation. Mr. Smith represents a law firm that is filing a class-action style lawsuit against opioid companies on behalf of county governments, citing misinformation regarding the addiction levels of opioids leading to the epidemic that has fueled crime and resulted in direct costs to be absorbed by county governments.

Mr. Smith stated that if Washington County would join the suit, that this county would one of approximately 25 as of now, and would not be charged any amount of money unless the suit wins any monies.

- The County Attorney stated that he would review the information provided by Mr. Smith, then give an opinion to the board of commissioners at a meeting later in the year.

Old Business – None

New Business

- Resolution – CDBG Application
 - The County Administrator explained that this resolution was to approve the submittal of another CDBG application for the mental health facility located next to the high school. Since this will be the third time that Washington County has applied for the grant for this particular purpose, there will be no charge from the regional commission for working on and submitting the grant application. A vote was required to approve the resolution.
 - A motion was made by Commissioner Simmons to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Burten. The motion was passed by a show of hands.
- Memorandum of Understanding – Archway Partnership
 - The County Administrator explained that, on an annual basis, the memorandum of understanding with the Archway Partnership is renewed. The annual cost for the County to participate in the partnership is \$8,000. A vote was required to approve the memorandum.
 - A motion was made by Commissioner Simmons to approve the memorandum, seconded by Commissioner Burten. The motion was passed by a show of hands.
- Vehicle Purchase – Sheriff's Department
 - The Sheriff solicited quotes to purchase a new vehicle. The vehicle is a 2018 Dodge Charger pursuit vehicle. The quotes received were from the following: Don Jackson Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram in the amount of \$23,929.00, and Akins Ford Dodge Jeep Chrysler in the amount of \$26,003.00. Both bids included the same options. The bid from Don Jackson was the recommended bid. A vote was required to approve the purchase of the vehicle.
 - A motion was made by Commissioner Simmons to approve the purchase of the vehicle, seconded by Commissioner Burten. The motion was passed by a show of hands.
- Air Methods Agreement
 - The County Administrator explained that Air Methods, an emergency air evacuation company, will be relocating one of its helicopters to Washington County to be based at the Washington County Regional Medical Center. The company will pay property taxes on the helicopter for having it based here, and will purchase aviation fuel from the local airport. The agreement allows for county residents to be flown out for medical emergencies at no cost. The county will pay a one-time fee of \$52,967.50 for one year of this service, with the amount recalculated on an annual basis according to the consumer price index. Air Methods will only send a bill to the insurance provider of the resident to recoup operating expenses. If a resident does

not have insurance, the company will not have any remedy to recoup those expenses. In addition, this service is provided nationwide; meaning if a county resident is evacuated by an Air Methods helicopter or plane, providing proof of residence in Washington County, the resident will be covered.

- Representatives from Air Methods were present at the meeting to answer any questions that the commissioners or the public may have had. Several questions were asked and answered pertaining to the service and cost. Dr. Able, head of the emergency department at the Washington County Regional Medical Center, was also in attendance and encouraged the adoption of the agreement, citing the volume of emergencies that occur in this area and the need to have quicker access to critical care. A vote was required to approve the agreement with Air Methods.
- A motion was made by Commissioner Jones to approve the agreement with Air Methods, seconded by Commissioner Simmons. The motion was passed by a show of hands.

Chairman Comments

Meeting Adjourned

Public Comment Session



Horace Daniel, Chairman

Attest:



Dustin Peebles, County Administrator/Clerk