

# Washington County Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting  
February 14, 2019  
9:00am

**Commissioners Present:** Horace Daniel, Doug Watkins, Edward Burten, James Hitchcock, Frank Simmons

**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 \$272,942.03
  - Road Department \$47,126.42
  - Sheriff Dept. & Jail \$31,975.98
  - Courthouse \$37,569.92
  - EMA \$631.02
  - E-911 \$105,858.20
  - Landfill \$48,719.31

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

## **Road Department Update**

- Dean Davis, retiring Public Works Director at the end of May, introduced Gary Waller, the new Public Works Director, that began his tenure on February 4<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Davis went on to update the commissioners on Lamars Creek Road, citing some progress despite the days of rain received. He also stated that the project will require more right of way along an elevated section that is collapsing due to unstable dirt, as well as the need for a French drain in an area that revealed a small spring. Mr. Davis also informed the board that the striping project approved towards the end of 2018 has begun, with the center striping on Breezy Hill Road completed. The striping project will allow for approximately 100 miles of paved road to be newly striped. Mr. Davis also requested the ability to negotiate with Caterpillar and John Deere on leases for at least two new motor graders, as well as the acquisition of a low boy trailer.
- Commissioner Simmons voiced concerns over the intersection with Smith-Robson Road and Kaolin Road, stating that there are safety issues and that he would like to see a four-way stop installed there. He also requested that assistance be extended to Eddie Turner regarding the AT&T line that Mr. Turner would like removed. Mr. Davis stated that he would consult with the Georgia Department of Transportation on the four-way stop. Mr. Davis also stated that he has contacted AT&T multiple times regarding the issue with Mr. Turner, but has not received a return call.

## **Appointments**

- Cox Town Road – Eston Price
  - Mr. Price spoke to the board about considering the placement of Cox Town Road on the paving list, citing the road's condition as being the worst he has ever witnessed during his lifetime.

## **Old Business – None**

## **New Business**

- Sandersville School Authority Recommendations
  - The County Administrator explained that there is a vacancy on the Sandersville School Authority, in which the board must nominate three individuals to the Authority. Once approved, the Authority will select one of the three individuals to join their board. The names were: Bobby Jackson, Daniel Douglass, and Edward Burten.
  - A motion was made by Commissioner Hitchcock to approve the three recommendations, seconded by Commissioner Simmons. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Intergovernmental Agreement – Sandersville Fire Services
  - The County Administrator explained that the County had been in negotiations with the City of Sandersville regarding fire response by the Sandersville Fire Department to calls outside of the City. Currently, the County remits \$50,000 to the City for these services, including rescue response to accidents. The terms of the agreement would call for the County to continue to remit the \$50,000 to the City, as well 14% of the budget for the Sandersville Fire Department, which would currently amount to approximately \$93,000. There is also a provision in the agreement that the County provide a fire truck for responses located outside the City for their fire department's use.
  - A motion was made by Commissioner Simmons to approve the agreement, seconded by Commissioner Watkins. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Amendment to Hospital Funding Schedule
  - The County Administrator explained that he had spoken with the CEO of the hospital and the chairman of the Hospital Authority to discuss altering the funding schedule outlined in the current intergovernmental agreement. The proposed amendment would take the smaller amounts from the each of the three years and move each of them combined to February 2021. The hospital will receive no extra funding, nor will there be any further targets imposed.
  - A motion was made by Commissioner Simmons to approve the amendment, seconded by Commissioner Burten. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Cattle Ordinance
  - This item was tabled following concerns voiced by Commissioner Hitchcock. It was agreed that the County Attorney would discuss solutions to remedy Commissioner Hitchcock's concerns before proceeding.
- Amendment to Beer/Wine Ordinance
  - The County Administrator explained that the County's ordinance regarding licensing of those that sell alcohol needed an update to allow fingerprinting of new applicants for improved identification during the application process, as well as a provision for establishing penalties for late renewals and a deadline for renewal. This amendment will have to be

published in the legal organ of the county for three weeks prior to voting. This will constitute as the first reading of the amendment. Mr. Burten requested that each of the existing vendors be sent notification of the proposed amendment.

- Silas Lane – Closing
  - This item was tabled due the existence of a short driveway that was not previously identified.

**Contract Ratification – None**

**Chairman Comments**

**Meeting Adjourned**

**Public Comment Session**



Horace Daniel, Chairman

**Attest:**



Dustin Peebles, County Administrator/Clerk