

## Washington County Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting

May 14, 2020

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 Watkins to approve the minutes from the previous regular meeting, seconded by Commissioner Simmons. 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 \$1,400,143.47
  - Road Department \$133,858.49
  - Sheriff Dept. & Jail \$137,979.83
  - Courthouse \$102,287.22
  - EMA \$680.71
  - E-911 \$124,679.78
  - Landfill \$115,686.99

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**

- Mr. Waller stated that the Road Department is behind on road maintenance due to the record rainfall received during the beginning of this year, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic. He stated that catching up will take some time but that the crews are hard at work to do all they can.

### **Appointments**

- Georgia River Network – Cynthia Cox
  - Ms. Cox stated that she was speaking on behalf of the Georgia River Network and the Lower Oconee River Trail, citing that herself and numerous others kayak and canoe down the Oconee River. She stated that the nearest formal landing from the Milledgeville location is 38 miles down river at Ball's Ferry. She stated that there is an old boat ramp located near Adams Road, but access to that boat ramp is not allowed by Thiele Kaolin. She stated that an easement does exist based on previous property deeds, and that she has spoken with several officials, but has not received any proper documents that allow the boat ramp to be blocked off by Thiele. She asked that the commissioners consider creating a water trail location that utilizes that boat ramp.

- Chairman Daniel stated that the commissioners have no issues with the boat ramp being open, however he'd like representatives from Thiele to be at one of the upcoming meetings to discuss the issue.
- Commissioner Hitchcock ask if she had spoken with Thiele and had copies of the easement. Ms. Cox stated that she had spoken with Jeremy Walters and Eric Tillerson about the issue, and that she has copies of the deeds she mentioned. Mr. Drew Pittman, brother of Ms. Cox, stated that a deed from 1953 referenced a River Road as a public road. He went on to state that there was also a prescriptive easement that allow public access if a road has been utilized by the public for at least seven years.
- The County Attorney stated that he would like to do a title and deed investigation into the property in order to be able to give a legal opinion to the commissioners and the public. He stated that it would take time to do the research, but that he should be finished by the June meeting.

### **Old Business - None**

### **New Business**

- Resolution – GDOT Runway Rehabilitation
  - The County Administrator explained that the resolution required to receive funding for the runway rehabilitation project at the airport. He stated that the County will receive approximately two million dollars in state and federal funding to do the project.
  - Chairman Daniel asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Simmons made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Hitchcock. The motion was passed unanimously.
- 2020 Resurfacing – Contract Award
  - The County Administrator explained that the resurfacing projects for this year were advertised with four bids being received. He stated that the lowest and recommended bid was received from C & H Paving in the amount of \$3,170,969.57, with Washington County's portion being \$1,488,057.75. He also stated that C & H Paving has performed the previous two years of resurfacing in the County.
  - Chairman Daniel asked for a motion to award the contract to C & H Paving. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to award the contract, seconded by Commissioner Simmons. The motion was passed unanimously.
- UGA Extension – MOU
  - The County Administrator explained that this Memorandum of Understanding is an annual renewal for the services that they provide to Washington County. He stated that the contract amount is \$60,719, which will provide for all the salary costs associated with county extension.
  - Chairman Daniel asked for a motion to approve the MOU. Commissioner Hitchcock made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Burten. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Road Department Equipment
  - Forklift
    - This item was tabled for further discussion

- Backhoe
  - Mr. Waller stated that the new backhoe would be used for emergency situation, with the old one used for road improvement projects. Three quotes were received from Border Equipment in the amount of \$95,000, Yancey Equipment in the amount of \$93,258, and Flint Equipment in the amount of \$85,243. Mr. Waller stated that the recommended quote was from Flint Equipment.
  - Chairman Daniel asked for motion to purchase the backhoe from Flint Equipment. Commissioner Simmons, seconded by Commissioner Watkins. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Fuel System Upgrades
  - This item was tabled for further discussion

**Contract Ratification - None**

**Chairman Comments**

**Meeting Adjourned**

**Public Comment Session**



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Horace Daniel, Chairman

**Attest:**



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Dustin Peebles, County Administrator/Clerk