

Washington County Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting
December 10, 2020
9:00am

Commissioners Present: Horace Daniel, Doug Watkins, Edward Burten, 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 \$192,779.51
 - Road Department \$37,631.51
 - Sheriff Dept. & Jail \$57,259.66
 - Courthouse \$38,897.84
 - EMA \$1,833.89
 - E-911 \$6,721.44
 - Landfill \$63,361.76

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 has been compiling data to send to GDOT for funding related to the damages repaired that were caused by Hurricane Sally. He stated that while most of the roads are now passable, more work will need to be done to have them permanently fixed. He stated that road signs all over the County are old and have become faded, and that he has a crew replacing signs to bring those up to current standards.

Appointments

- Chamber of Commerce Update – Katie Moncus
 - Ms. Moncus distributed a short report and new magazine to the commissioners. She stated that the Chamber currently has 263 members, adding 14 new members during 2020. She stated that the retention rate for member is 86%, with the businesses dropping due to closure or relocation. She stated that Covid has forced the Chamber to embrace virtual meetings and more use of social media, which has led to more posts and many more followers on those platforms. She stated that, also as a result of Covid,

the number of ribbon cuttings and Business After Hours events were reduced compared to previous years. She informed that \$27,000 worth of the shop at home gift cards have been sold throughout the year thus far, not counting December when sales of those cards are popular. She shared the new branding for Washington County, and how excited the Chamber is to handle to marketing and management of the new logos and materials. She stated that the Chamber currently has 10 committees that help drive initiatives in the community, with a special committee recently being formed to address the lack of broadband access in the County. She mentioned that the program WACO Works was successfully connecting students from the schools in exploring career opportunities and programs that are in Washington County. In closing, she thanked the County for its support in the activities and initiatives.

New Business

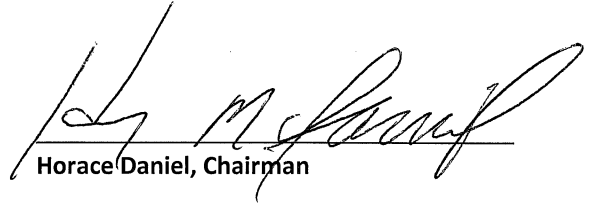
- Airport – PAPI Lighting
 - The County Administrator explained that the County received \$20,000 from the CARES Act that is mandated to be utilized at the airport, as well as funds in the previous SPLOST that must also be used for purposed at the airport. He stated that the recommendation for the use of those funds were to replace the PAPI lighting, which are the directional lights pilots use for landing to stay on the correct approach. He stated that there were quotes for both the older style of lighting and LED. The older style was for \$29,600 and the LED was for \$40,920. He stated that the recommended type of lighting was for LED, since they will last longer and are cheaper to operate, which will close the gap of the higher price over time and likely exceed it.
 - Chairman Daniel asked for a motion to approve the LED lighting. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Simmons. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Road Repairs – Hurricane Sally
 - The County Administrator explained that the roadway engineer assembled a short package for contractors to submit quotes on repairing the following roads: East Lake Drive, Henderson Grove Road, Mayview Road, McCoy Pond Road, New Road, News Bridge Road, Riddleville – Mt. Moriah Road, and Thompson Road. He stated that three quotes were received following Mr. Waller reaching out to several contractors, with two quotes being fairly close: L&L Utilities in the amount of \$773,778 and Superior in the amount of \$720,380; the third quote was \$1.2 million and not considered. He stated that after reviewing both quotes, there were clear distinctions in the project activities that each contractor could do cheaper than the other. He stated that the projects should be split to reflect those unit prices, as well as finish the work quicker. He stated that East Lake, Thompson, Riddleville – Mt. Moriah, and McCoy Pond should be given to Superior since their costs for grading and the pipes needed for those roads was less than L&L. He recommended the remainder of the roads be awarded to L&L since their unit costs on asphalt and guardrail were less than Superior. He stated that breaking the work up in this fashion also gives each contractor roughly the same amount of work as well. He then stated the GDOT will be reimbursing up to \$650,000 for these repairs. He stated that any amount left over that is not covered by the GDOT reimbursement can be covered by residual funds of TIA.

- Chairman Daniel asked for a motion to award the work as recommended. A motion was made by Commissioner Watkins to approve, seconded by Commissioner Simmons. The motion was passed unanimously.

Chairman Comments

Meeting Adjourned

Public Comment Session



Horace Daniel, Chairman

Attest:



Dustin Peebles, County Administrator/Clerk