

MINUTES  
TERRELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING

Date: March 5, 2024  
Time: 6:00 p.m.  
Place: Historical Courthouse

Commissioners and staff present: Chairman Wilbur T. Gamble, III, Commissioners Brad Stafford, Ernest Johnson, Larron Copeland, and Eddie Owens, Administrator Michael McCoy, Clerk Sandra O'Stean, Attorney Jimmy Skipper, April Craft, Mechelle Miller

Other attendees: Bo Hamby, Debra Jones Margaret Halbrook, Cheryl Cannon, Shelby Cannon, Darlene Paul, Joyce Espy, Bobbie Kendricks Jennifer Stephens

Call to order: Chairman Wilbur T. Gamble, III

Prayer: Chairman Gamble

Approval of Agenda: Chairman Gamble asked the Board to amend the agenda by adding the item of appointing a member to the Southwest Georgia Workforce Board. **ACTION: Brad Stafford made the motion to amend the agenda to add appointment of a member to Southwest Georgia Workforce Development Board. Ernest Johnson gave the second. The motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes of February 6, 2024 Regular Meeting: **ACTION: Larron Copeland made the motion to approve the minutes of February 6, 2024. Ernest Johnson gave the second. The motion carried.**

Chairman's Report: Chairman Gamble announced Ms. Tonja Dotson resigned from the Southwest Georgia Workforce Developmental Board and Shawn O'Connor-Veazie had agreed to serve in that capacity. **ACTION: Ernest Johnson made the motion to approve the appointment of Shawn O'Connor-Veazie to serve as Terrell County representative to the Southwest Georgia Workforce Developmental Board. Brad Stafford gave the second. The motion carried.**

Clerk's Report: Clerk Sandra O'Stean presented up to date expenses applied against the current fiscal year budget.

EMS/911/EMA Report: Director Bo Hamby submitted written reports. He announced the Pre-Hazard Mitigation Plan had been approved. Mr. Hamby also gave update on the EMS training classes.

Extension Service Report: Margaret Halbrook gave a summary from activities of the Extension Department.

Chamber of Commerce Report: Cheryl Cannon presented highlights of the Chamber of Commerce activities.

Road Department Report: Deputy Warden Lauren McClung presented the Road Department report.

Warden's Report: Warden Richard Kilby presented reports from the Correctional Department. He stated the need to replace gas pumps. He presented a quote of \$15,484.20. The Board asked him to obtain additional bids and report back.

Fire Department: Chief Edward Harvey submitted a written report.

Delinquent Garbage Report: April Craft submitted a written report and gave results of the solid waste tax sale held March 5, 2024.

Sheriff / Jail Report: Kim Williams submitted a written report.

Recreation Dept: Director Bobbie Kendrick presented a report of activities from the Recreation Department.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Consideration for approval of \$10,000 increase in subsidy to Chamber of Commerce budget: Commissioner Stafford questioned if the consideration was for just the \$10,000 to go toward the director's salary or was the request for the cost of health insurance to be included. Chairman Gambled stated the matter of the health insurance came up later and could be presented at another time; so only the \$10,000 increase in subsidy was on the floor for consideration. Mr. Stafford questioned the administrator as to whether the funds were available to increase the budget. Administrator McCoy explained that the proposed amendments were in the next agenda item and that within the proposal, the \$10,000 was budgeted and the total amendments would reduce the current fiscal year budget expenditures by \$300,000 plus dollars. Commissioner Stafford stated he wanted it clear that the amendment was for only the \$10,000 increase. **ACTION: Brad Stafford made the motion to approve increasing the subsidy to the Chamber of Commerce from \$35,000 to \$45,000. Eddie Owens gave the second. The motion carried.**
  
2. Presentation of proposed amended budget for fiscal year 2024 and consideration of adoption: Michael McCoy explained that the proposed amendments were basically administrative housekeeping. He and the clerk went through the budget with all department managers and the amendments are in alignment with the line items to meet the needs of the departments to provide services to the community. **ACTION: Brad Stafford made the motion to approve the proposed amended budget. Eddie Owens gave the second. The motion carried.**
  
3. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading of Ordinance to amend Chapter 38 of the Code of Ordinances -Solid Waste billing and collection - assessment placed on tax bills – Consideration of adoption of same: Attorney Jimmy Skipper pointed out that Section 38-81 of the ordinance states the Commissioners have to establish the garbage fees ensuing by April 10<sup>th</sup> unless they change that date. The reason it is by the April date, is to allow time to place the fees on the tax bill for this year. Tax Assessor, Darlene Paul, asked the Board to consider delaying the placement of the garbage fees on the tax bills until 2025 due to unanswered questions as to how this will work, and due to the large amount of work that must be performed. This is her crunch time for tax digest and getting the assessment notices mailed out. **Commissioner Johnson made the motion to delay the assessment being placed on the tax bills to 2025. There was no second.** Commissioner Copeland asked the assessor what problems she foresees in carrying this out this year. Discussion followed pertaining to the way other counties have done this. **The motion died for lack of second. ACTION: This item was tabled in order to obtain information from other counties on the process of placing fees to tax billing and to allow the assessor to have conversation with parties from the Department of Revenue with whom she would meet the next day. Brad Stafford made the motion to table the matter until next month. Eddie Owens gave the second. The motion carried.**

- 4 Consideration of participation in P25 Communications System Upgrade Grant and approval of County's commitment cost of \$697,713.50: Chairman Gamble explained that when the information regarding the upgrade of the communication system concerning emergency responders was first presented, there was none or very little cost to the county. Now a match in funds is being requested. EMS Director, Bo Hamby, stated there will be maintenance costs further along as well. Chairman Gamble stated he was not in favor of the county participating in the grant. **ACTION: Larron Copeland made the motion to not participate in the Communication Grant due to lack of funds available to make a county match. Brad Stafford gave the second. The motion carried.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Consideration of Proclamation to designate March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month: Jennifer Stephens, Community Supports Day Coordinator, presented information regarding the services ASPIRE provides in Terrell County. **ACTION: Eddie Owens made the motion to approve designating March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. Larron Copeland gave the second. The motion carried.** A photo was taken of the ASPIRE group and the commissioners.
2. Consideration of appointment of Daniel Beavers as member to the Development Authority Board: Cheryl Cannon, Chamber Director, explained that there was a need to add another member to the Chamber Board. **ACTION: Eddie Owens made the motion to approve the appointment of Daniel Beavers as a member of the Development Authority Board. Ernest Johnson gave the second. The motion carried.**
3. Consideration of appointment of elected county official to the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Counsel: Chairman Gamble stated Ernest Johnson had previously served on the Council; but no longer wants to serve. At this time, no one expressed willingness to serve on the board. **ACTION: This item was tabled.**
4. Consider for action the recommendation of a County Commissioner as the County Voting Delegate at the Region 4 meeting on March 26, 2024 in Moultrie, GA as part of Georgia's participation in the National Opioid Distributor and Janssen Settlement. Appointments are made by nominations. **ACTION: Brad Stafford made the motion to appoint Chairman Gamble as the voting delegate to attend the Region 4 Opioid meeting on March 26, 2024 in Moultrie, GA. Eddie Owens gave the second. The motion carried.**
5. Ratification of purchase of 2011 Crown Victoria vehicle by Sheriff at cost of \$7,000 for use by Constable – funds used from ARPA: Administrator McCoy presented the fact that Sheriff Bowens had purchased a vehicle for the Constable's use. Funds from the ARPA had been allocated for this purchase. **ACTION: Brad Stafford made the motion to ratify the purchase of the vehicle for use by the Constable. Larron Copeland gave the second. The motion carried.**

Minutes of March 5, 2024 regular Commissioners' meeting continued .....

- 6. Consideration of approval to surplus the 2006 Ford Crown Victoria currently used by Constable:  
**ACTION: Ernest Johnson made the motion to surplus the 2006 Crown Victoria currently being used by the Constable. Brad Stafford gave the second. The motion carried.**
  
- 7. Consideration of approval to surplus wrecked 2001 Ford F-150 located at Public Works:  
**ACTION: Eddie Owens made the motion to surplus the wrecked 2001 Ford F-150. Larron Copeland gave the second. The motion carried.**
  
- 8. Consideration of quotes for paving parking lot at Courthouse Annex and approval: Chairman Gamble announced two quotes had been received for the paving of the parking lot. He stated funds from the CARES Act would be used. The bid from Mickey Rice Land Clearing and Grading, LLC for 1.5" thickness on 25,000 square ft. was \$42,300 and the bid from Zane Grace Construction, Inc. for 1.5" thickness for 31,941 square ft. was \$62,708. **ACTION: Brad Stafford made the motion to accept the Mickey Rice bid option 2 at \$42,300. Eddie Owens gave the second. The motion carried.**
  
- 9. Consideration of quotes for paving parking lot at EMS Center: Three bids were received for the paving of the parking lot at the EMS Center. A bid from Jim Boyd Construction for 2" thickness for 18,750 square ft. was \$ 67,738. A bid from Mickey Rice Land Clearing and Grading, LLC for 1.5" thickness for 18,500 square ft. was \$ 31,750. A bid from Tri County Ready Mix for 1.5" thickness for 18,400 square ft. was \$ 38,400. The Chairman reported the funds from ARPA would also be used. **ACTION: Brad Stafford made the motion to accept the bid of \$31,750 by Mickey Rice. Eddie Owens gave the second. The motion carried.**

Commissioner Copeland stated the need for a larger pipe to be installed to drain water from the Courthouse Annex property. **ACTION: Mr. Copeland made a motion to have Mickey Rice coordinate the pipe replacement with the paving project. Ernest Johnson gave the second. The motion carried.**

Commissioner Owens pointed out that the Chamber of Commerce Building sustained flooding during the last heavy rains. It was checked by the warden, a roofer and a contractor, Stan Howe. Determination was made that the roof condition was satisfactory; but water was coming through the brick walls and need resealing. The Warden stated the Correctional Institution will look into sealing the bricks.

Adjourn – ACTION: **Adjourned**

Respectfully submitted by: Sandra O'Stean  
Sandra O'Stean County Clerk



Wilbur T. Gamble III  
Wilbur T, Gamble, III Chairman

Eddie Owens  
Eddie Owens

Larron Copeland  
Larron Copeland

Brad Stafford  
Brad Stafford

Ernest Johnson  
Ernest Johnson