

MINUTES
TERRELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1

Date: August 6, 2024

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Terrell County Historical Courthouse

Commissioners and staff present: Chairman Wilbur T. Gamble, III, Eddie Owens, Ernest Johnson, Brad Stafford, Larron Copeland, Interim Administrator Michael McCoy, Attorney Jimmy Skipper, Clerk Sandra O'Stean, PR/HR Clerk Paula Harden, AP Clerk Mechelle Miller

Others present: Carol Speir, Cindy Thomas, Bo Hamby, Seth McAllister, Richard Kilby, Cheryl Cannon, Darlene Paul, Margaret Halbrook, Janice Bryant, Linda Freeman, Dani Landry, Daniel Fleuren, Joyce Espy

Call to order: Chairman Wilbur T. Gamble, III

Prayer: Commissioner Ernest Johnson

Approval of Agenda: **ACTION: Brad Stafford made the motion to approve the August 6, 2024 agenda. Eddie Owens gave the second. The motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes of July 2, 2024 Regular Meeting: **ACTION: Brad Stafford made the motion to approve the July 2, 2024 minutes. Larron Copeland gave the second. The motion carried.**

Chairman's Report: Chairman Gamble welcomed everyone to the meeting. He stated the budget is in reasonable shape for this time of the year. Seventeen percent (17%) remains in budget for the two (2) months remaining in this fiscal year.

Clerk's Report: Sandra O'Stean submitted written bank balances and vendor activity. She announced the final public hearing on the proposed FYE25 budget will be held Monday, August 26, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. and a quorum will be needed to adopt the budget.

EMS/911/EMA Report: Bo Hamby gave report on the EMS classes. And announced Amy Lozito was retiring from the department.

Extension Service Report: Seth McAllister gave the agriculture report. He announced that the Georgia Peanut Commission will sponsor a state wide peanut tour with attendees from all over the world. The group will be in Terrell County September 19. Margaret Halbrook submitted a written report on 4-H activities.

Chamber of Commerce Report: Cheryl Cannon submitted a written report. She stated that Georgia Power was no longer working with the company that was expected to perform the lighting conversion. The Board said the County work detail should be able to assist converting the lights to LED.

Road Department Report: Lauren McClung presented the activities of the Road Department.

Warden's Report: Richard Kilby presented the report for the Correctional Institution.

Fire Department: Richard Kilby presented the report for the Fire Department. He stated all fire engines are now in operation.

Minutes August 6, 2024 regular Commissioners' meeting continued.....

Delinquent Garbage Report: Sandra O'Stean

Sheriff / Jail Report: A written report was submitted. The Sheriff made a request to the Board to approve the renewal of the permit to use speed detection devices on Terrell County roads.

ACTION: Brad Stafford made the motion to approve the renewal of the permit to use speed detection devices in the County. Eddie Owens gave the second. The motion carried.

Recreation Dept: A written report was submitted.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Update on current financials and projections for fiscal year ending 2025: Michael McCoy, Ed Wall, and Bill McDaniel presented analysis of the finances for current budget which ends September 2024 as well as projections for fiscal year beginning October 2025.
2. Consideration of proposals for joist/seal repair to floor of building at 508 Oak St.:
Warden Richard Kilby presented his findings on repairing the building and estimated costs involved for the work. **ACTION: Ernest Johnson made the motion to approve the floor repairs by Artesian Contracting Co. of Albany, Georgia at a cost of \$49,950, to make additional building repairs, and for the tree removal by Bryant Tree Service at a cost of \$2,500. The estimated total cost for repairs is \$60,000. Eddie Owens gave the second. The motion carried. Discussion followed about the amount of rent currently paid and the renewal of the rent agreement with ASPIRE. Eddie Owens made the motion to continue the rent of the building at the rate of \$325 per month. Brad Stafford gave the second. The motion carried.**
3. Consideration of quotes for second phase of window replacements in the Historical Courthouse:
There was much discussion about which windows are to be replaced in the next phase, the cost involved, and maintaining the historical status of the building. Commissioner Copeland requested a chart of windows that have been replaced and which ones have not; so, decisions regarding the windows can be determined in the future.
ACTION: Brad Stafford made the motion to table the matter to obtain more details and to charge Michael McCoy with the task of ascertaining what is needed to move forward and how to go about that and get back to the Board. Ernest Johnson gave the second. The motion carried.
4. Consideration of policy amendment for leave accrual policy for exempt/salaried employees:
Attorney Jimmy Skipper presented a draft of a resolution as to amend the personnel policies relating to accrual of vacation time and sick leave for exempt/salaried employees. He explained the changes that would occur if the resolution was approved. The question was asked if the retiring employees could go ahead and draw pay for any accumulated time. Administrator McCoy stated the payout would occur when they are separated from the County, which is per policy. Donated sick time is still allowed with supervisor approval.
ACTION: Ernest Johnson made the motion to table the matter and to edit the proposed draft for approval at the September meeting. Larron Copeland gave the second. The motion carried.
5. Consideration for the establishment of a Terrell County Government Social Media page which will be managed by the Administration: Michael McCoy stated conversations had been held around the establishment of a policy for social media use and formatting a social media page. Attorney Skipper provided information in regards to restricting comments and the first amendment rights. The Chairman recommended this item be tabled to format a policy.

Minutes August 6, 2024 regular Commissioners' meeting continued.....

ACTION: Brad Stafford made the motion to table the item. Eddie Owens gave the second. The motion carried.

6. Consideration of adoption of Nepotism Policy to amend section 5:18 (Employment of Relatives) in the employee manual: Michael McCoy recommended approval basically for immediate family members not be assigned in the same department without approval by the Board of Commissioners. Immediate family members cannot be assigned in direct line of supervision by a family member. Chairman Gamble stated he would like for the policy to be amended to expand the description of family members to include in-laws and that the Commissioners could override the hiring of family members. **ACTION: Attorney Skipper will present a resolution for consideration of adoption at the September meeting.**
7. Ratify sales of surplus vehicles on July 19, 2024: Chairman Gamble presented the results of the bids for surplus vehicles. **ACTION: Brad Stafford made the motion to ratify the sales of the vehicles as result of the bid process. Eddie Owens gave the second. The motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Presentation of Terrell County Disaster Recovery and Redevelopment Plan: Danielle Landry of FCMC explained the process that took place to complete the Disaster Recovery And Redevelopment Plan for the County. She presented a summary of the contents of the plan. **ACTION: Brad Stafford made the motion to approve the adoption of the plan. Eddie Owens gave the second. The motion carried.**
2. Ratify approval of invoice of \$24,789.82 from Hopkins Heating & Cooling to install 7 ½ ton air conditioning unit at Jail- SPLOST Fund used **ACTION: Brad Stafford made the motion to ratify the payment of the invoice from Hopkins for \$24,789.92 to replace the AC unit at the Jail. Eddie Owens gave the second. The motion carried.**
3. Consideration for approval the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) award from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – Grant totals \$ 496,132 which includes a federal share of \$372,099, a state share of \$49,613.20, and a local share from Terrell County of \$74,419.80 - Funds will be used for the purchase of six (6) generators to support the continuity of critical services in the community **ACTION: Larron Copeland made the motion to submit application for the HMGP. Eddie Owens gave the second. The motion carried.**
4. Consideration to appoint a delegate to represent Terrell County as voting delegate at the 2024 ACCG Legislative Leadership Conference October 9-11, 2024 Chairman Gamble volunteered to attend. **ACTION: Larron Copeland made the motion to approve Chairman Gamble as the voting delegate to the 2024 ACCG Legislative Leadership Conference in Athens in October. Brad Stafford gave the second. The motion carried.**

Chairman Gamble recognized Talmadge Beckum to address the Board regarding Animal Control removing his dogs from his property due to an ordinance concerning dog breeding. Chairman Gamble stated he would provide Mr. Beckum, by Thursday, information as to the Terrell County policy on the matter.

Adjourn: ACTION: Brad Stafford made the motion to adjourn. Eddie Owens gave the second. The Motion carried.

Respectively submitted by: 
Sandra O'Stean County Clerk

Terrell County Board of Commissioners

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

Eddie Owens
Eddie Owens

Brad Stafford
Brad Stafford

Ernest Johnson

Larron Copeland
Larron Copeland

