

**MINUTES
TERRELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

1

Date: June 6, 2023

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Terrell County Courthouse, Lee St

Commissioners and staff present: Chairman Wilbur T. Gamble, III, Commissioners Brad Stafford, Ernest Johnson, Larron Copeland, and Eddie Owens, Clerk Sandra O'Stean, Kenna Pate, Paula Harden, April Jackson, Mandy Cooper

Others present: Laura Copeland, Summer Word, Seth McAllister, Dalton Evans, Margaret Halbrook, Linda Freeman, Gail Faust, Shawn O'Connor, Joyce Espy, Janice Bryant

Call to order: Chairman Gamble

Prayer: Chairman Gamble

Approval of Agenda: *Brad Stafford made the motion to approve the agenda of June 6, 2023. Ernest Johnson gave the second. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

Approval Minutes of May 2, 2023 Regular Meeting: *Larron Copeland made the motion to approve the May 2, 2023 minutes as presented. Brad Stafford gave the second. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

Chairman's Report: Chairman Gamble stated the first Tuesday in July is the 4th and asked for a motion to change the July meeting to the next Tuesday. *Ernest Johnson made the motion to schedule the next regular commissioners' meeting to July 11, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. Eddie Owens gave the second. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

Mr. Gamble commended all parties involved in the repairing and decorating of the Historical Courthouse and reported that Judge Balkcom was delighted with the results.

Clerk's Report: Sandra O'Stean presented the bank balances as of June 6, 2023.

EMS/911/EMA Report: Bo Hamby submitted a written report.

Extension Service Report: Margaret Halbrook gave 4-H news. She reported the Extension offices were in the process of relocating to the Governmental Building and that the Pavilion will be available for rent after clean-up is complete. All rentals must go through the Extension office. She reported the increase in the number of 4-H participants. Seth McAllister gave the agriculture report.

Chamber of Commerce: Eddie Owens presented the activities of the Chamber.

Road Department Report: Bill Sawyer presented a report of the completed works of the road department and the status of the equipment.

Warden's Report: Richard Kilby was attending training and had submitted a written report.

Fire Department: Edward Harvey submitted a written report.

Minutes of June 6, 2023 Regular Commissioners' meeting continued

Delinquent Garbage Report: Paula Harden submitted a written report.

Sheriff's Report: John Bowens submitted a written report.

Recreation Dept: Bill Sawyer presented the report. Bobby Kendricks was hired as Director of the Recreation Department. Leon Ferguson had begun a summer basketball program.

Timber/Planning/Zoning: Martha Ann Coe submitted a written report.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG) Update** - Bill Sawyer presented an update that the project was complete.
2. **Community Development Building Grant (CDBG) Update** – Bill Sawyer gave status of the Phase I project. He announced that a second application (Phase II) had been turned in for the same target area in the County.
3. **Courthouse (Lee St.) Update** – Bill Sawyer applauded Laura Copeland for her work in furnishing the courthouse and also in the improvements to the Governmental Building.
4. **Board of Commissioners Building Repairs** – Bill Sawyer gave a report of the project progress.
5. **Ratify Transportation Special Local Option Sales Tax (T-SPLOST) Referendum** – Bill Sawyer gave a report on the meetings that the County had with the cities within the county regarding the T-SPLOST. He stated that after a couple of negotiation meetings, each governing body agreed to a 1% increase of the current amount being paid out to them and each official had signed the Intergovernmental Agreement for T-SPLOST. The tax should bring the County each year \$525,578 for the next five years. He asked for 100% support of the Board for the T-SPLOST in order to move forward to voting on this in the November 2023 election. ***Ernest Johnson made the motion for the Board to support the T-SPLOST agreement and to approve the submittal of the signed Intergovernmental Contract for the Use and Distribution of Proceeds from the 2024 T-SPLOST for Terrell County, City of Dawson, City of Bronwood, City of Parrott, and the Town of Sasser to Elections Director to begin process to place on the November 2023 voting ballot. Brad Stafford gave the second. The motion carried by unanimous vote.***
6. **Open bids for surplus vehicles** - Chairman Gamble opened and read the two (2) sealed bids. Ulysses Ellington bid \$325 for the 2010 Ford E-350 van only and Morris Childre bid \$3600 for all of the six(6) vehicles being sold. ***Larron Copeland made the motion to award the bid of \$3600 for all six (6) vehicles to Morris Childre. Eddie Owens gave the second. Motion carried by unanimous vote.***
7. **Audit FY 2022-2023 recommendations** – Bill Sawyer requested the Board to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing possible litigation. ***Ernest Johnson made the motion to pause the regular meeting and enter executive session at 6:20 p.m. Brad Stafford gave the second. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*** The audience was excused.

Ernest Johnson made the motion to resume the regular meeting. Brad Stafford gave the second. The motion carried by unanimous vote. The audience returned. Larron Copeland made the motion to approve the County Administrator and the County Attorney to revise the personnel policies as needed subject to the approval of the Board and approve the County Administrator and the County Attorney to go over the actions of the former administrator and report back to the Board in sixty (60) days also subject to Board approval. Brad Stafford gave the second. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- 8. Approval of the acquisition of the required right of way (ROW) of GDOT Cox Road bridge repair and dismissal of condemnation actions previously filed – Jimmy Skipper explained the petitions for condemnation and stated all property owners had since agreed to sign the ROWs. *Ernest Johnson made the motion to approve dismissal of the property condemnations and accept deeds for the right of way on the three (3) properties and approve the disbursement of monies from the County to the property owners. Eddie Owens gave the second. The motion carried by unanimous vote.*

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Health insurance FY 2023-2024 – Bill Sawyer announced the percentages of increase on health insurance and property and liability insurance rates for the upcoming renewal period. He reported health insurance has a 49% increase and property/liability has a 42.3% increase. Mr. Sawyer is currently checking on other carriers and said he will call a future meeting to present insurance to the Board.

Adjourn – Ernest Johnson made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Eddie Owens gave the second. The motion carried by unanimous vote.

Respectively submitted by: *Sandra O'Stean*
Sandra O'Stean County Clerk

Terrell County Board of Commissioners

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

Brad Stafford
Brad Stafford Vice Chairman

Ernest Johnson
Ernest Johnson Commissioner

Larron Copeland
Larron Copeland Commissioner

Eddie Owens
Eddie Owens Commissioner

Bill Sawyer
Bill Sawyer County Administrator

