

MINUTES
TERRELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING

Date: October 3, 2023
Time: 6:00 P.M.
Place: Terrell County Historical Courthouse

Commissioners and staff present: Chairman Wilbur T. Gamble, III, Brad Stafford, Ernest Johnson, Larron Copeland, Eddie Owens, Jimmy Skipper, Michael McCoy, Sandra O'Stean, April Craft, Amanda Cooper, Paula Harden

Others present: Seth McAllister, Gail Faust, Margaret Halbrook, Claudia Moore, Joyce Espy, Lynn Johnson, Sandra Walker, Sue Ewings, Bobbie Kendrick

Call to order: Chairman Wilbur T. Gamble, III

Prayer: Bobbie Kendrick

Approval of Agenda: *Ernest Johnson made the motion to approve the October 3, 2023 agenda. Brad Stafford gave the second. All Commissioners voted in favor and the motion carried.*

Approval OF Minutes of September 15, 2023 Special Called Meeting: *Eddie Owens made the motion to approve the minutes of September 15, 2023 special called meeting. Ernest Johnson gave a second. All Commissioners voted in favor and the motion carried.*

Chairman's Report: Chairman Gamble brought to the Board's attention that the current County code regarding prize machines in establishments that sell alcohol needed to be changed. The Chairman also asked Attorney Skipper to explained the Broadband Project in Terrell County in regards to telecommunications and the use of the Local Fiscal Recovery Fund grant and give the status of this project.

Clerk's Report: Sandra O'Stean presented the bank balances and the expenditures report.

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

Extension Service Report: Margaret Halbrook presented the 4-H report and Seth McAllister gave an agriculture report.

Chamber of Commerce Report – Claudia Moore presented the activities of the Chamber of Commerce.

Road Department Report: A written fuel report was submitted.

Warden's Report: Richard Kilby submitted a written report.

Fire Department: Edward Harvey submitted a written report.

Delinquent Garbage Report: Sandra O'Stean presented the report.

Minutes of October 3, 2023 regular Commissioners' meeting continued.....

Sheriff / Jail Report: Sandra Walker submitted a written report. Ms. Walker mentioned a Domestic Violence Program in the Sheriff Department. She also gave comments on the incident with the person from Georgia Transparency who came into the Courthouse filming and recording. She asked the Board for advice on what can be done in regards to the threats and annoying comments, by phone and email, that continue to come in because of that issue. Attorney Skipper advised departments to save all the messages and preserve them in case they can be used later; but the best thing to do is to simply ignore them and that he was presenting further into the meeting an ordinance addressing this.

Recreation Dept: Bobbie Kendrick presented the report.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Report on pay increase allocated in budget for Magistrate Clerk** – Sandra O'Stean reported that the Magistrate Clerk was in the budget FYE24 to receive an increase in hourly pay. Her new rate of pay is \$16.00 per hour.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Annual Report from Georgia Forestry** – Lee Wright, Chief Ranger with the Georgia Forestry Commission, Terrell County Unit, gave an annual report of the forestry activities and services in Terrell County.
2. **Facilities Patron Code of Conduct** – Jimmy Skipper explained the Ordinance which will provide a code of conduct in connection with the public use of County facilities. The Ordinance states the distinction between portions of the County facilities which are open to the public and portions which are not. He offered advice, along with the Board of Commissioners, on how to handle situations when members of the public enter County facilities and film and record while in the public areas. Officers and managers in each County facility were advised to post signs and notices indicating restricted access to private areas. The ordinance is to be placed in public view in each facility. This was considered the first reading of the ordinance and attorney Skipper present the ordinance to the Board for approval. ***Larron Copeland made the motion to adopt the ordinance and to waive the second reading of the ordinance. Ernest Johnson gave the second. All Commissioners voted in favor and the motion carried.***
3. **Approve vehicle for surplus and advertise for bids** – ***Brad Stafford made the motion to approve the 2009 Ford Crown Victoria that was unserviceable by the Road Department being placed in surplus and an ad be placed in the local paper to seek bids on the vehicle. Eddie Owens gave the second. All Commissioners voted in favor and the motion carried.***
4. **Recommendation to approve proposed FYE24 American Rescue Plan (ARPA) budget** – County Administrator Mike McCoy explained the proposal to transfer the amount of \$610,000 from the ARPA special fund into the General Operating fund. \$300,000 will be used to cover expenditures in regards to the Fire, Jail, and EMS Departments, and \$310,000 will be used for an employee retention payout. The employee payout would occur with the November 17, 2023 payroll. ***Ernest Johnson made the motion to approve the proposal and to amend the budget in regards to the transfer of funds. Brad Stafford gave the second. All Commissioners voted in favor and the motion carried.***

Minutes of October 3, 2023 regular Commissioners' meeting continued.....

- 5. **Recommendation to approve the proposed FYE24 General Fund budget amendment –** Mike McCoy gave explanation of the proposed amendment and asked the Commissioners to approve amendment of the FYE24 budget totals to reflect the change in funds. Mr. McCoy presented a resolution that outlined the breakdown of the lump sum \$310,000 employee retention bonus. \$3,000 for each full-time employee and \$1,000 for part-time employees who were employed by October 1, 2023. Elected officials are excluded from the payout. ***Brad Stafford made the motion to approve the proposal to amend the General Fund FYE24 budget to reflect the monies coming in and out. Eddie Owens gave the second. All Commissioners voted in favor and the motion carried. Ernest Johnson made the motion to approve the resolution outlining the distribution of the employee payout. Brad Stafford gave the second. All Commissioners voted in favor and the motion carried.***

- 6. **Approve appointment of Lynda Hammond to fill vacancy on Heath Department Board due to resignation of Milton Foster –** ***Brad Stafford made the motion to approve the appointment of Lynda Hammond to fill the vacancy on the Terrell County Board of Health. Ernest Johnson gave the second. All Commissioners voted in favor and the motion carried.***

Adjourn – ***Brad Stafford made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Ernest Johnson gave the second. All Commissioners voted in favor and the motion carried.***

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

Wilbur T. Gamble III
Wilbur T. Gamble, III

Brad Stafford
Brad Stafford

Ernest Johnson
Ernest Johnson

Larron Copeland
Larron Copeland

Eddie Owens
Eddie Owens

