

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

DATE: DECEMBER 1, 2020

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

PLACE: TERRELL COUNTY GOVERNMENT BUILDING

COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF PRESENT: CHAIRMAN WILBUR T. GAMBLE, III, VICE CHAIRMAN LUCIUS HOLLOWAY, BRAD STAFFORD, ERNEST JOHNSON, LARRON COPELAND, ADMINISTRATOR DAVINA DRIVER, CLERK SANDRA O'STEAN, HR/PAYROLL CLERK KENNA PATE, ATTORNEY JIMMY SKIPPER

OTHERS PRESENT: SETH MCALLISTER DARLENE PAUL, VICTORIA FREEMAN, JANICE BRYANT, WILL BRYANT, AMISH PATEL, MARK FLETCHER, J. A. DRIVER, JEFF HANNER, LINDA FREEMAN, GWEN MERIWEATHER, CHRISTIE COOPER, MARGARET HALBROOK, SUE EWINGS, RIDGELEY MU'MIN, MIHIR PATEL, JOSHUA WATZLOWICK

CALL TO ORDER: CHAIRMAN WILBUR T. GAMBLE, III

PRAYER: COMMISSIONER LUCIUS HOLLOWAY

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: CHAIRMAN GAMBLE ASKED THAT THE AGENDA BE AMENDED TO INCLUDE TWO ITEMS: ADD APPOINTMENT TO THE TERRELL COUNTY HEALTH BOARD AND ADD CHANGE DATE FOR JANUARY 2021 COMMISSIONERS' REGULAR MEETING. ***ERNEST JOHNSON MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA OF DECEMBER 1, 2020 WITH THE TWO ADDITIONS. LUCIUS HOLLOWAY GAVE THE SECOND. ALL IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE ERNEST JOHNSON, LUCIUS HOLLOWAY, BRAD STAFFORD, AND LARRON COPELAND. THE MOTION CARRIED.***

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 10, 2020 REGULAR COMMISSIONERS' MEETING: ***BRAD STAFFORD MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 10, 2020 REGULAR COMMISSIONERS' MEETING. ERNEST JOHNSON GAVE THE SECOND. ALL IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE BRAD STAFFORD, ERNEST JOHNSON, LARRON COPELAND, AND LUCIUS HOLLOWAY. THE MOTION CARRIED.***

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: CHAIRMAN GAMBLE GAVE AN UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF THE HISTORICAL COURTHOUSE AS A PLACE IN PERIL AND RELATED SOME SUPPORT POSSIBILITIES.

COMMISSIONER HOLLOWAY AT THIS TIME ADDRESSED THE BOARD AND THE AUDIENCE AND EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE FOR THEIR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS OF HIS DAUGHTER'S DEATH.

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 1, 2020 COMMISSIONERS' MEETING CONTINUED.....

FINANCIAL REPORT: THE BANK BALANCES AND THE VENDOR ACTIVITY REPORTS WERE GIVEN BY DAVINA DRIVER. SHE MENTIONED PAY OUTS FOR SPLOST AND T-SPLOST ARE NOT THE SAME IN DOLLAR AMOUNTS. CHAIRMAN GAMBLE ASKED HER TO REACH OUT TO THE GEORGIA SALES TAX DIVISION AND FIND ANSWER AS TO WHY.

CLERK'S REPORT: THE FUEL REPORT AND THE JAIL COUNT WAS GIVEN BY SANDRA O'STEAN

EMS/911/EMA REPORT: A WRITTEN REPORT WAS SUBMITTED

EXTENSION REPORT: MARGARET HALBROOK GAVE A REPORT ON THE 4-H ARCHERY PROGRAM AND SETH MCALLISTER REPORTED ON THE CROP HARVESTING.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: A WRITTEN REPORT WAS SUBMITTED.

ROAD DEPARTMENT REPORT: A WRITTEN REPORT WAS SUBMITTED.

SURPLUS EQUIPMENT - JOSHUA WATZLOWICK SUBMITTED A LIST OF EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES TO BE APPROVED TO SELL AS JUNK. ***ERNEST JOHNSON MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE LISTED EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES FOR SELL AS JUNK. BRAD STAFFORD GAVE THE SECOND. THOSE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE ERNEST JOHNSON, BRAD STAFFORD, LUCIUS HOLLOWAY, AND LARRON COPELAND. THE MOTION CARRIED.***

IDLE ROAD - LARRON COPELAND PRESENTED THE SITUATION WITH IDLE ROAD. HE STATED THAT THE ROAD DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN GIVEN A COUPLE OF INSTRUCTIONS TO BLADE IDLE ROAD. THE ROAD SUPERVISOR REFUSED STATING THAT IDLE ROAD WAS NOT A PUBLIC ROAD. ***BRAD STAFFORD MADE THE MOTION FOR IDLE ROAD TO BE BLADED AND MAINTAINED BY THE COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT. LARRON COPELAND GAVE THE SECOND. ALL IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE BRAD STAFFORD, LARRON COPELAND, LUCIUS HOLLOWAY, AND ERNEST JOHNSON. THE MOTION CARRIED.***

WARDEN'S REPORT: A WRITTEN REPORT WAS SUBMITTED. ADMINISTRATOR DAVINA DRIVER QUESTIONED THE PERSONNEL MATTER REGARDING JASMINE BROWN ON THE REPORT. DEPUTY WARDEN MERIWEATHER GAVE ANSWER ON BEHALF OF THE WARDEN. THE BOARD INSTRUCTED MRS. DRIVER TO MEET WITH THE WARDEN TO DISCUSS THE MATTER.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: A WRITTEN REPORT WAS SUBMITTED.

DELINQUENT GARBAGE REPORT: SANDRA O'STEAN GAVE THE REPORT.

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 1, 2020 COMMISSIONERS' MEETING CONTINUED.....

DELINQUENT TAX REPORT: FORGIVENESS OF PENALTY AND INTEREST ON TAXES FOR 2019 FOR NEW PROPERTY OWNER NANCY FAUST – CHRISTIE COOPER REPRESENTED THE SHERIFF DEPARTMENT DELINQUENT TAX OFFICE AND EXPLAINED THE MATTER OF THE DEED NOT BEING PROPERLY AND TIMELY FILED AFTER THE TAX SALE FROM WHICH MRS. FAUST PURCHASED THE PROPERTY. ***BRAD STAFFORD MADE THE MOTION TO FORGIVE THE PENALTY, INTEREST, AND FIFA IN THE AMOUNT OF \$69.18 ON THE PROPERTY OF 032-13QQ. LUCIUS HOLLOWAY GAVE THE SECOND. THOSE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE BRAD STAFFORD, LUCIUS HOLLOWAY, LARRON COPELAND, AND ERNEST JOHNSON.***

SHERIFF'S REPORT: NO REPORT WAS AVAILABLE. DAVINA DRIVER PRESENTED A QUESTION ON BEHALF OF THE SHERIFF REGARDING WHY THE SHERIFF DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES DID NOT GET COVID-19 DUTY BONUS PAY SAME AS THE EMS DEPARTMENT. THE CHAIRMAN GAVE AN EXPLANATION AS TO THE DIFFERENCES IN DEPARTMENTS AND THE DUTIES THAT WERE PERFORMED.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT: A REPORT WAS NOT AVAILABLE.

DATE FOR JANUARY 2021 COMMISSIONERS' MEETING: ***ERNEST JOHNSON MADE THE MOTION TO SET THE DATE AND TIME FOR THE JANUARY 2021 COMMISSIONERS' MEETING FOR JANUARY 12, 2021 AT 3:30 P.M. LUCIUS HOLLOWAY GAVE THE SECOND. THOSE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE ERNEST JOHNSON, LUCIUS HOLLOWAY, BRAD STAFFORD, AND LARRON COPELAND. THE MOTION CARRIED.*** THE CLERK WAS INSTRUCTED TO NOTIFY THE NEWSPAPER WITH A PUBLIC NOTICE STATING THE CHANGES.

PUBLIC HEARING – 6:30 p.m.: THE REGULAR SESSION WAS PAUSED TO ENTER THE PUBLIC HEARING. ***BRAD STAFFORD MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE RENEWAL OF ALCOHOL LICENSE FOR BOOMERANG FOOD AND FUEL AT 1920 ALBANY HIGHWAY AND ERNEST JOHNSON GAVE THE SECOND. BRAD STAFFORD MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE RENEWAL OF ALCOHOL LICENSE FOR S K FOODS AT 1232 COLUMBUS HIGHWAY AND LUCIUS HOLLOWAY GAVE THE SECOND. BRAD STAFFORD MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE RENEWAL OF ALCOHOL LICENSE FOR ABC PACKAGE AT 1234 COLUMBUS HIGHWAY AND ERNEST JOHNSON GAVE THE SECOND. BRAD STAFFORD MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE RENEWAL OF ALCOHOL LICENSE FOR KOUNTRY CORNER AT 8123 ALBANY HIGHWAY AND LUCIUS HOLLOWAY GAVE THE SECOND. BRAD STAFFORD MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE RENEWAL OF ALCOHOL LICENSE FOR KOUNTRY LIQUOR AT 8127 ALBANY HIGHWAY AND ERNEST JOHNSON GAVE THE SECOND. THOSE IN FAVOR OF ALL THE MOTIONS ABOVE WERE BRAD STAFFORD, ERNEST JOHNSON, LUCIUS HOLLOWAY, AND LARRON COPELAND. THE MOTIONS CARRIED.***

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 1, 2020 COMMISSIONERS' MEETING CONTINUED.....

THE REGULAR SESSION RESUMED.

OLD BUSINESS:

RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTIONS/COUNTY MATCH ELECTED OFFICIALS: DAVINA DRIVER EXPLAINED THE ORIGINAL PLAN WAS TO BE FOR FULL TIME EMPLOYEES ONLY BUT SOME PART TIME EMPLOYEES ARE RECEIVING BENEFITS. ATTORNEY SKIPPER EXPLAINED THAT IN 2013 ACCG POLICY CHANGES WERE MADE TO INCLUDE ELECTED OFFICIALS; BUT WHEN THE PLAN WAS SIGNED, THE TERM EMPLOYEE WAS USED. HE NOTED THAT THE PLAN UNDER NATIONWIDE HAD NOT CHANGED. THE BOARD AGREED THE CURRENT RETIREMENT PLAN SHOULD BE CHANGED. THE MATTER WAS TURNED OVER TO THE COUNTY ATTORNEY TO REVIEW BY THE NEXT MEETING.

SPECIAL LEGISLATION REQUEST TO ALLOW TERRELL COUNTY TO MOVE TAX COLLECTION FROM SHERIFF OFFICE: CHAIRMAN GAMBLE STATED HE WOULD LIKE TO MOVE THE DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTIONS BACK TO THE TAX COMMISSIONER OFFICE. ***LARRON COPELAND MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT TO THE LEGISLATORS TO MOVE DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTIONS FROM THE SHERIFF DEPARTMENT TO THE TAX COMMISSIONER DEPARTMENT. BRAD STAFFORD GAVE THE SECOND. ALL IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE LARRON COPELAND, BRAD STAFFORD, ERNEST JOHNSON, AND LUCIUS HOLLOWAY. THE MOTION CARRIED.***

TIME CLOCK: DAVINA DRIVER PRESENTED PROBLEMS THAT CONTINUE TO EXIST WITH THE CURRENT TIME CLOCKS IN PLACE AT THE CORRECTION FACILITY AND THE ROAD DEPARTMENT. SHE GAVE COST FOR A NEW TIME CLOCK SYSTEM THAT CAN BE INTEGRATED WITH THE SOFTWARE USED AT THE COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE. SHE PRESENTED A REPORT SHOWING SAVINGS BY USING THE NEW SYSTEM. THE ESTIMATED COST WAS \$33,000. SPLOST FUNDS CAN BE USED TO PAY FOR THE TIME CLOCK SYSTEM. BRAD STAFFORD MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF THE TIME CLOCK SYSTEM THROUGH HARRIS SOLUTIONS FOR COST OF \$33,437.65. MR. STAFFORD STATED ALL DEPARTMENTS SHOULD USE THE NEW SYSTEM AND HAVE TIME CLOCKS. LUCIUS HOLLOWAY GAVE THE SECOND. ALL IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE BRAD STAFFORD, LUCIUS HOLLOWAY, ERNEST JOHNSON, AND LARRON COPELAND.

NEW BUSINESS:

APPOINTMENT TO TERRELL COUNTY HEALTH BOARD: ***BRAD STAFFORD MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF WILBUR T. GAMBLE, III TO FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF THREE YEARS, CREATED BY THE DEATH OF COMMISSIONER LARRY FAUST, TO THE TERRELL COUNTY HEALTH BOARD. ERNEST JOHNSON GAVE THE SECOND. THOSE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE BRAD STAFFORD, ERNEST JOHNSON, LARRON COPELAND, AND LUCIUS HOLLOWAY. THE MOTION CARRIED.***

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 1, 2020 COMMISSIONERS' MEETING CONTINUED.....

VOYA FINANCIAL PROGRAM OFFERS FOR EMPLOYEES: DAVID WARD, A REPRESENTATIVE OF VOYA FINANCIAL, ADDRESSED THE BOARD REGARDING PROGRAMS THAT HIS COMPANY OFFERS FOR EMPLOYEES. HE ASKED PERMISSION TO COME BACK WITH A PROPOSAL FOR THE COUNTY TO CONSIDER. CHAIRMAN GAMBLE ASKED MR. WARD TO CONTACT THE COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE AND POSSIBLY BE PLACED ON THE JANUARY 2021 AGENDA.

APPROVAL OF SIGNATURE TO MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN GEORGIA TRUST AND TERRELL BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS: CLERK SANDRA O'STEAN GAVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO THAT WHICH THE CHAIRMAN PRESENTED EARLIER. THE GEORGIA TRUST WILL APPOINT A LIASON TO WORK WITH THE COUNTY ON THE PRESERVATION OF THE HISTORIC COURTHOUSE AND THAT PERSON WILL MAKE CONTACT WITH THE COUNTY IN JANUARY 2021. ***ERNEST JOHNSON MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE SIGNATURE OF THE CHAIRMAN TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN GEORGIA TRUST AND THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS. LARRON COPELAND GAVE THE SECOND. ALL IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE ERNEST JOHNSON, LARRON COPELAND, LUCIUS HOLLOWAY, AND BRAD STAFFORD. THE MOTION CARRIED.***

APPOINTMENTS TO SOUTHWEST GEORGIA REGIONAL COUNCIL: - ***BRAD STAFFORD MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF JACK POWELL AS THE PRIVATE SECTOR MEMBER AND COMMISSIONER ERNEST JOHNSON AS THE ELECTED OFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE SOUTHWEST GEORGIA REGIONAL COUNCIL BOARD. LARRON COPELAND GAVE THE SECOND. THOSE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE BRAD STAFFORD, LARRON COPELAND, ERNEST JOHNSON, AND LUCIUS HOLLOWAY. THE MOTION CARRIED.***

REAPPOINTMENT OF LOUISE DARLEY TO TAX ASSESSOR BOARD FOR A 3-YEAR TERM: ***ERNEST JOHNSON MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF LOUISE DARLEY TO THE TAX ASSESSOR BOARD FOR A 3-YEAR TERM. LUCIUS HOLLOWAY GAVE THE SECOND. ALL IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE ERNEST JOHNSON, LUCIUS HOLLOWAY, LARRON COPELAND, AND BRAD STAFFORD. THE MOTION CARRIED.***

REAPPOINTMENT OF D. U. PULLUM, JR. TO ZONING BOARD FOR A 2-YEAR TERM: ***ERNEST JOHNSON MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF D.U. PULLUM, JR. TO THE ZONING BOARD FOR A 2-YEAR TERM. LUCIUS HOLLOWAY GAVE THE SECOND. THOSE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE ERNEST JOHNSON, LUCIUS HOLLOWAY, BRAD STAFFORD, AND LARRON COPELAND. THE MOTION CARRIED.***

REQUEST TO HIRE COUNTY ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT IN CASE FOR INSURANCE PREMIUM BACK PAY: THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT HAD SUBMITTED A NOTICE TO THE CHAIRMAN OF COMMISSIONERS THAT SHE INTENDED TO FILE A LAWSUIT AGAINST THE COUNTY. MRS. BRYANT ADDED THAT THE LAWSUIT WILL INCLUDE RETIREMENT PAYMENTS AS WELL AS THE

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 1, 2020 COMMISSIONERS' MEETING CONTINUED.....

INSURANCE PREMIUM STIPEND BACK PAY. STATE LAW STATES THE COUNTY HAS TO PAY AN ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT HER SINCE SHE IS CLERK OF COURT. COUNTY ATTORNEY SKIPPER RECUSED HIMSELF FROM THE CASE SINCE HE REPRESENTED THE COUNTY IN THIS MATTER. **LARRON COPELAND MADE THE MOTION TO DENY THE REQUEST FOR THE COUNTY ATTORNEY TO REPRESENT THE CLERK IN THE LAWSUIT AGAINST THE COUNTY. BRAD STAFFORD GAVE THE SECOND. ALL IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE LARRON COPELAND, BRAD STAFFORD, ERNEST JOHNSON, AND LUCIUS HOLLOWAY. THE MOTION CARRIED.** THE CHAIRMAN TOLD THE CLERK OF COURT HE WOULD GET A LETTER OUT TO HER TO THAT EFFECT.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - PERSONNEL: ERNEST JOHNSON MADE THE MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION. LARRON COPELAND GAVE THE SECOND. THOSE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE ERNEST JOHNSON, LARRON COPELAND, BRAD STAFFORD, AND LUCIUS HOLLOWAY. THE MOTION CARRIED. THE EXECUTIVE SESSION BEGAN AT 7:20 P.M.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION: ERNEST JOHNSON MADE THE MOTION TO END EXECUTIVE SESSION AND LARRON COPELAND GAVE THE SECOND. THOSE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE ERNEST JOHNSON, LARRON COPELAND, BRAD STAFFORD, AND LUCIUS HOLLOWAY. THE MOTION CARRIED. THE REGULAR SESSION RESUMED. **LARRON COPELAND MADE A MOTION TO SCHEDULE A SPECIAL CALLED MEETING ON DECEMBER 21 ST, 2020 AT 10:00 TO ADDRESS MATTERS AT THE CORRECTION FACILITY. BRAD STAFFORD GAVE A SECOND. ALL IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE LARRON COPELAND, BRAD STAFFORD, ERNEST JOHNSON, AND LUCIUS HOLLOWAY. THE MOTION CARRIED.**

ADJOURN: ERNEST JOHNSON MADE THE MOTION TO ADJOURN. LARRON COPELAND GAVE THE SECOND. THOSE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE ERNEST JOHNSON, LARRON COPELAND, LUCIUS HOLLOWAY, AND BRAD STAFFORD. THE MOTION CARRIED.

RESPECTIVELY SUBMITTED BY: Sandra O'Stean
SANDRA O'STEAN COUNTY CLERK

APPROVED BY: Wilbur T. Gamble III
WILBUR T. GAMBLE, III CHAIRMAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DATE: January 12, 2021