

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

**Date:** March 1, 2022

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

**Place:** Terrell County Government Building

**Commissioners and staff present:** Chairman Wilbur T. Gamble, III, Larron Copeland, Ernest Johnson, Brad Stafford, Jimmy Skipper, Sandra O'Stean, Mechelle Miller, Kenna Pate

**Others present:** Bo Hamby, Darlene Paul, Laura Copeland, Seth McAllister, Mrs. McAllister, Ezekiel Holley, Janice Bryant, Victoria Freeman, Linda Freeman, Jimmy Johnson, Jim Edge, Shawn O'Connor-Veazie, Nathan Outlaw, Caroline Chandler, Jason Webb, Jay Harrell, Gail Faust

**Call to order:** Chairman W. T. Gamble, III

**Prayer:** Commissioner Brad Stafford

**Approval of Agenda:** *Ernest Johnson made the motion to approve the March 1, 2022 agenda. Larron Copeland gave the second. Motion carried.*

**Approval Minutes of February 1, 2022 regular meeting** – *Brad Stafford made the motion to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2022 regular meeting. Ernest Johnson gave the second. Motion carried.*

**Chairman's Report:** Chairman Gamble reported that no applications for the position of County Administrator have been received and urged if anyone knew of someone to recommend for the position, have them submit a resume.

**Aspire – Proclamation of March as Developmental disabilities Awareness Month** – Caroline Chandler Chief Clinical Officer IDD Services of Aspire presented information and requested the Proclamation designating March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month be approved and signed by the Commissioners. *Brad Stafford made the motion to approve the proclamation and have the Chairman sign the same. Ernest Johnson gave the second. Motion carried.*

**Clerk's Report:** Bank statements, Fuel report, Jail Count - Sandra O'Stean presented the reports. No Jail report was available. She reported the notice of job posting for County Administrator had been placed on several websites and in the local newspaper.

**EMS/911/EMA Report:** Bo Hamby presented a written report. He requested the Board to give consideration for construction of a helicopter pad to be located at the airport. *The request was tabled until next month.* Mr. Hamby reported the need for chest compression devices. *This matter was tabled until next month.*

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**Extension Service Report:** Seth McAllister presented extension and ag reports.

**Chamber of Commerce:** Shawn O’Conner-Veazie presented the report.

**Road Department Report:** Jason Webb presented a written report. Residents in the audience asked for repairs to Fish Hatchery Rd and Jerry Dunn Rd.

**Warden’s Report:** Richard Kilby submitted a written report due to being out of town at training.

**Fire Department:** Chief Edward Harvey submitted a written report. Bo Hamby stated the Board should consider the fact that the County Fire Department only has four (4) firemen and there was the need for additional firemen.

**Delinquent Garbage Report:** Sandra O’stean presented the report.

**Delinquent Tax Report:** Not available

**Sheriff’s Report:** Not available

**Recreation Department Report:** A written report was submitted. Chairman Gamble reported repairs and improvements have been made by the Warden and inmate crews and are still being made at the facility and that games are currently going on.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Resolution to use 4-H Pavilion for court purpose** – *Brad Stafford made the motion to approve the Resolution authorizing the use of the 4-H Pavilion located at 2674 Albany Hwy for jury selection by the Superior Court of Terrell County and for other court purposes and to have the Chairman sign the Resolution on behalf of the Board. Ernest Johnson gave the second. Motion carried.*

**Resolution to amend employee manual regarding salaried county employees not to receive compensatory time** – Attorney Jimmy Skipper explained that the only change to the current rules in the manual were on page 76, second line, last paragraph. This change was voted into place at a meeting last year; but the manual was not actually amended. *Ernest Johnson made the motion to approve the Resolution to amend the Employee Manual regarding salaried County employees not to receive compensatory time. Brad Stafford gave the second. Motion carried.* Gail Faust asked questions regarding the previous Administrator receiving compensatory pay when she was dismissed. Chairman Gamble stated Mrs. Driver was paid compensatory time that she had earned prior to the date the change in the policy of compensatory time was made. This change date was March 2, 2021.

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**Access door to roof of Historical Courthouse:** Commissioner Copeland explained the need to have better access to the roof of the historical courthouse in order to make repairs. Engineer Nathan Outlaw of Onvico, Inc. presented a plan for constructing an access door to the roof next to the bell tower. The estimated cost is \$95,302.31. This cost also includes the materials and the labor to repair the roof of the gable where the door will be constructed. It was noted SPLOST funds could be used for the cost. ***Ernest Johnson made the motion to move forward with the access door and roof repair project at a cost of \$95,302.31. Larron Copeland gave the second. Motion carried.***

**Vehicle for Constable:** Constable Jimmy Johnson presented a request to obtain a better vehicle for use in performing his duties. ***After discussion the Board instructed the Clerk to search the Gov Deals website for surplus vehicles to see if a reasonable vehicle can be found.***

**Bonus from CARES Act funds:** Jimmy Johnson stated that the bonus of \$300 that he received in December 2021, which was distributed from the funds obtained through the CARES Act, be reconsidered. He explained that he should have received the same pay out as the employees of the Extension Department. Commissioner Stafford stated the distribution was fair and generous to include the part-time employees. Mr. Johnson falls into the part-time category. ***No action was taken by the Board.***

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Electronic payment of employees' retirement funds and Social Security reporting:** Linda Freeman asked the Board to check into the retirement payments being submitted electronically. She stated that out of 159 counties only 5 mails in the payments. Chairman Gamble stated one of the problems is that Terrell County has multiple retirement plans. He talked with representative of ACCG and was told it would be hard now to change to just one retirement plan. ***Larron Copeland made the motion to look into going electronic for submitting payment of retirement funds and if it is possible, do so. Ernest Johnson gave the second. Motion carried. Chairman Gamble presented a check for \$4.16 to be paid to Victoria Freeman for a shortage in her funds.*** Mrs. Freeman reported the income of employees was not reported correctly to Social Security last year. The previous Administrator and the Auditor had been working to correct the reporting. ***Chairman Gamble stated the Social Security issues will be checked on by the Commissioners.*** Commissioner Copeland explained that the Commissioners' office staff were in the process of obtaining access codes into many of the programs and web sites and asked everyone to be patient for this to take place.

**Increase in budget for employee pay:** Janice Bryant asked approval to increase the pay for the Chief Deputy Clerk in the Superior office to \$15.01 per hour. Mrs. Bryant announced that the Deputy Clerk, Nanci Ayers, had resigned. Mrs. Bryant asked that she be allowed to offer starting pay of

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\$9.00 per hour for a new hire to fill this position. Commissioners Stafford and Copeland were not in favor of changing the pay in mid-year. **Chairman Gamble instructed Mrs. Bryant that this matter needs to be addressed at the next budget session. Chairman Gamble reported that the Clerk of Superior Court budget is set this fiscal year for \$10.00 per hour; and if she pays the \$9.00 per hour, she will be under her budget.** She also inquired of the salary study that had been discussed at a previous Commissioners' meeting. Chairman Gamble stated that the Board is not in agreement to conducting a salary study. The department heads who are located in the Armory building, (with the exception of Probate), asked about reinstating the budget for the Armory. Chairman Gamble said this will be done and asked for time to reconstruct the budget and it will require a vote.

**Leave for employee who moved from Maintenance Shop to CI: Larron Copeland made the motion to reinstate earned tenure for employee Joshua Watzlowick who moved from Maintenance Shop to the Correction facility. Ernest Johnson gave the second. Motion carried.**

**Quotes from Flint Equipment for motor grader, backhoe, loader, axe tractor, dozier:** Jason Webb explained the need for heavy equipment for the Road Department. One motor grader will be coming out of lease. Jay Harrell presented purchase options and financing options for the equipment. The Board had voted at the August 2021 meeting to order the motor grader. **Ernest Johnson made the motion to purchase the motor grader and to approve 60 months financing at 3% APR after a 20% down payment for a John Deere motor grader and have the Chairman sign the documents. Larron Copeland made the second. Motion carried.** Jason Webb reported the 410 backhoe being used is currently on lease and the lease will be expiring in June 2022. **Brad Stafford made the motion to approve the purchase of the 410 backhoe with 36 months financing at 2.99% APR for the John Deere backhoe. Ernest Johnson gave the second. Motion carried.** The Board had voted on purchasing a wheeled loader at the June 1, 2021 meeting. The follow up was who to finance with. Bancorp is lower than John Deere on the financing and is easier to obtain paperwork from. The loader price includes grapple rake and bucket attachments. **Brad Stafford made the motion to approve leasing the John Deere loader for 36 months at 3% APR through Bancorp for the JD loader. Larron Copeland gave the second. Motion carried. Larron Copeland made the motion to approve leasing a new Alamo axe tractor for 36 months at 3% APR through Bancorp and to sell the old one that the County owns at a later time to cover the down payment. Ernest Johnson gave the second. Motion carried.** Mr. Webb reported the lease expires on the dozier that the County is using expires on March 18, 2022. **Brad Stafford made the motion to approve purchasing the John Deere dozier out of lease and financing it for 60 months with John Deere financial. Larron gave the second. Motion carried.**

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**Borrow pit lease renewal for 2022:** Chairman Gamble recused himself as this item was related to his family. Vice Chairman Larron Copeland chaired the meeting to present the item. ***Brad Stafford made the motion to approve the County leasing the Borrow Pit from Wilbur T. Gamble, Jr. Ernest Johnson gave the second. Motion carried.***

**Adjourn** – ***Brad Stafford made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Ernest Johnson gave the second. 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: *April 12, 2022*