

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

Date: April 6, 2021
Time: 6:00 P.M.
Place: Terrell County Government Building

Commissioners and staff present: Chairman Wilbur T. Gamble, III, Brad Stafford, Ernest Johnson, Larron Copeland, Davina Driver, Sandra O'Stean, Jimmy Skipper, Kenna Pate
(Commissioner Lucius Holloway was absent due to illness)

Others present: Bo Hamby, Seth McAllister, Bobby O'Stean, Christie Cooper, Linda Freeman, Mark Fletcher, Victoria Freeman, Nanci Ayers, Lisa DeMott, Jeff DeMott, Janice Bryant, Darlene Paul, Paul Rakel, Freddy Grimsley, Sondra Walker

Call to order: Chairman Wilbur T. Gamble, III

Prayer: Chairman Wilbur T. Gamble, III

Approval of Agenda: *Ernest Johnson made the motion to approve the April 6, 2021 agenda. Brad Stafford gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Ernest Johnson, Brad Stafford, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried.*

Approval Minutes of March 2, 2021 regular meeting and March 18, 2021 special called meeting: - *Ernest Johnson made the motion to approve the March 2, 2021 regular meeting minutes and the March 18, 2021 special called meeting minutes. Larron Copeland gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Ernest Johnson, Larron Copeland, and Brad Stafford. The motion carried.*

Chairman's Report: Chairman Gamble reported a letter had been submitted to the District Attorney of the Pataula Judicial Circuit concerning the previous Warden outlining questionable expenditures. The letter was sent at the request of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI).

Administrator's Report: The bank balances, the vendor activity, and the CI bank accounts reports were read by Davina Driver.

Clerk's Report: The fuel report and the jail count for March was given by Sandra O'Stean.

EMS/911/EMA Report: A written report was submitted by Bo Hamby. Mr. Hamby reported that he had obtained two (2) quotes for a truck for the EMS Director. This matter was tabled to the May meeting. EMS employee pay was also tabled to the May meeting. A security system proposal was given to the Administrator for review and presentation at a later meeting.

Minutes of regular Commissioners' meeting of April 6, 2021 continued.....

Extension Service Report: A written report was submitted. Seth McAllister gave agriculture updates from the Extension Service Department.

Chamber of Commerce: A written report was submitted by Savannah Hughes.

Road Department Report: A written report was submitted. Bobby O'Stean reported one person had been hired part time in the Road Department to operate a motor grader.

Warden's Report: Interim Warden Freddy Grimsley reported the correction facility had a State inspection April 6, 2021, visitation for the inmates had resumed, and COVID vaccines will be offered to inmates.

Fire Department: A written report was submitted by Edward Harvey.

Delinquent Garbage Report: Sandra O'Stean read the report. She stated the contract with Advanced Disposal ends September 2021. The Board asked that request for proposals be an item on the May 2021 agenda.

Delinquent Tax Report: Christie Cooper reported that a property tax sale is scheduled for July 6, 2021. She stated that the delinquent tax office has been set up to take credit card payments.

Sheriff's Report: A written report was submitted by John Bowens. Included in his report was the former request for the purchase of twelve (12) tasers which would be paid for over a three (3) year period. Administrator Davina Driver recommended special purpose local option sales tax (SPLOST) be used for the purchases. ***Brad Stafford made the motion to accept the quote from Axon of \$31,152.00 for the purchase of 12 tasers. Ernest Johnson gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Ernest Johnson, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried.*** Also included in the Sheriff's report was the former request to purchase three (3) vehicles to be paid over a three (3) year period from monies allowed in his yearly budgets. ***Brad Stafford made the motion to approve the lease option for three (3) 2021 Ford F-150 SSV trucks from Brannen Motor Company for \$42,386.00 annual payments for three (3) years to be paid from the Sheriff's budget for 3 years. Ernest Johnson gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Ernest Johnson, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried.***

Recreation Department Report: The report was not available. The Chairman stated he would check with Recreation Board members on the situation and activities of the recreation department. Commissioner Stafford reminded the Board that the subsidy check to the Recreation Department is to be held until the financial reports are presented to the Commissioners' Office.

Minutes of regular Commissioners' meeting of April 6, 2021 continued.....

Sign resolution to begin process to close Richard Fletcher Road – *Ernest Johnson made the motion to approve the Chairman to sign the resolution to begin the process to close Richard Fletcher Road. Larron Copeland gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Ernest Johnson, Larron Copeland, and Brad Stafford. The motion carried.* The clerk was instructed to place the required advertisements in the local newspaper for two (2) consecutive weeks.

Relocation of Sumter EMC's facilities on Tammy Lane – A quote of \$79,522.47 was received from Sumter Electric Membership Corporation (EMC) to relocate EMC facilities on Tammy Lane. Engineer Paul Rakel gave the Commissioners an explanation for the high cost. He noted that Windstream would move their pedestals at no charge. Since the EMC cost was so high and was good for ninety (90) days, Commissioners Stafford and Copeland agreed to contact Sumter EMC Board members to negotiate for a lower cost. This matter was tabled to the May meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Re-appoint members to Terrell County DFACS – *Brad Stafford made the motion to re-appoint Charlotte Law, Mary Tina Ivey, and Tommy Poupard to another term on the Board of the Terrell County Department of Family and Children Services. Ernest Johnson gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Ernest Johnson, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried.*

Approve allowances of over/short in collection of delinquent taxes – Delinquent Tax Collection Clerk, Christie Cooper asked the Board to approve her to write off over/short delinquent taxes up to \$5.00. *Brad Stafford made the motion to approve allowances of overages/shortages up to \$5.00 by the delinquent tax collections clerk. Ernest Johnson gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Ernest Johnson, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried.*

Mrs. Cooper asked the Board for forgiveness of interest in the amount of \$10.00 on property purchased in 2020 by Danny Secor. The tax bill had been mailed out to the previous property owner. *Larron Copeland made the motion to approve the forgiveness of interest of \$10.00 on the property (027-009 & 010) purchased by Danny Secor. Ernest Johnson gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Larron Copeland, Ernest Johnson, and Brad Stafford. The motion carried.*

Mrs. Cooper also requested that she be allowed to remove property owner Linda Marcus from the tax sale list due to error in bookkeeping by previous clerk and due to Mrs. Marcus making recent efforts to pay delinquent taxes. *Ernest Johnson made the motion to remove Linda Marcus from the tax sale list. Larron Copeland gave a second. Those in favor of the motion were Ernest Johnson, Larron Copeland, and Brad Stafford. The motion carried.*

Minutes of regular Commissioners' meeting of April 6, 2021 continued.....

Budget adjustment – Administrator Davina Driver presented the matter that an employee had submitted request for payment to attend in-person training classes for required credit hours. She pointed out that the classes were offered on-line and in-person and that there were not enough monies remaining in the budget of the department from which the employee works for the costs of attending in-person. The Chairman explained that the issue is should a policy be put in place that would state that if there is an option to do required classes on-line for free or to attend in-person classes at costs; then the employees should take the on-line class option. Chairman Gamble stated that from a financial standpoint, the on-line option is the best choice. There was much discussion regarding on-line versus in-person training. Several situations and requirements were presented. This agenda item was tabled in order for the Board to obtain more information. Next discussion was held concerning changes shown on recent department budget reports. After much discussion regarding certain expenditures, the item was tabled. ***Brad Stafford made the motion to table this item until further information can be obtained. Larron Copeland gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Larron Copeland, and Ernest Johnson. The motion carried.*** Next adjustments to the EMA budget for salary and EMS secretary additional pay was discussed. Bo Hamby gave explanation of the duties performed by the secretary. ***Ernest Johnson made the motion to raise the pay of the secretary at EMS \$2.50 per hour. Larron Copeland gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Ernest Johnson, Larron Copeland, and Brad Stafford. The motion carried.***

Renewal of borrow pit agreement – Chairman Gamble recused himself due to his relation to the property owner. Commissioner Stafford conducted this business matter. ***Brad Stafford made the motion to approve renewal of the lease agreement between Wilbur T. Gamble, Jr. and Terrell County Board of Commissioners for use of the borrow pit located on his property. Ernest Johnson gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Ernest Johnson, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried.*** Chairman Gamble resumed chairing the remainder of the meeting.

Buck Jones Road conditions – Chairman Gamble gave a description of the conditions of the end of Buck Jones Road where it meets Scrap Israel Road. Commissioner Copeland recommended that the old paving be removed, road be built up, and gravel be placed on the end mentioned. ***Brad Stafford made a motion to approve the actions proposed to repair the road and to use T-SPLOST funds. Ernest Johnson gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Ernest Johnson, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried.***

Memorandum of understanding (MOU) for mobile health services for Terrell County Government – Commissioner Stafford abstained from discussion and decision due to his relation to Albany Area Primary Health Care (AAPHC). ***Ernest Johnson made the motion to approve the Chairman signing the MOU between AAPHC and the County for mobile health service to Terrell County government employees. Larron Copeland gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Ernest Johnson, Larron Copeland, and Wilbur T. Gamble, III. The motion carried.***

Minutes of regular Commissioners' meeting of April 6, 2021 continued.....

Estimates for gravel at the 4-H Pavilion – Seth McAllister presented quotes for gravel which were obtained by Margaret Halbrook. Tri County Ready Mix quoted cost at \$7,570 and this included gravel, dirt and labor. Concrete Enterprises quoted cost at \$4,676 and was for gravel and sand only. *Larron Copeland made the motion to accept the quote from Tri County at \$7,570 and to use T-SPLOST funds for paying. Brad Stafford gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Larron Copeland, Brad Stafford, and Ernest Johnson. The motion carried.*

Approve signatures for CDBG Grant documents – *Larron Copeland made the motion to approve the Chairman to sign the documents necessary for submission for the CDBG Grant. Ernest Johnson gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Larron Copeland, Ernest Johnson, and Brad Stafford. The motion carried.*

Change employee pay to salaried versus hourly – Clerk of Court Janice Bryant requested the pay of her Deputy Clerk be changed from hourly to salary. Discussion followed concerning what the Federal Wage and Hourly laws are and the legality of changing the employee from hourly to salary. *Larron Copeland made the motion to table this item in order for the county attorney to check legality of changing Deputy Clerk from hourly pay to salary pay. Ernest Johnson gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Larron Copeland, Ernest Johnson, and Brad Stafford. The motion carried.*

Department heads requested to get notifications from the Commissioners' Office when they make changes that affect their departments. The Board agreed communication should be made between all departments.

Adjourn – *Ernest Johnson made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Larron Copeland gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Ernest Johnson, Larron Copeland, 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 Terrell County Board of Commissioners

Date: May 4, 2021