

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

DATE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

TIME: 9:30 A.M.

PLACE: TERRELL COUNTY GOVERNMENT BUILDING

COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF PRESENT: CHAIRMAN WILBUR T. GAMBLE, III, COMMISSIONERS BRAD STAFFORD AND ERNEST JOHNSON, CLERK SANDRA O'STEAN, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DAVINA DRIVER, PAYROLL CLERK KENNA PATE (COMMISSIONER LUCIUS HOLLOWAY WAS NOT PRESENT DUE TO MEDICAL APPOINTMENT – HE ASKED THAT IT BE NOTED IN THE RECORDS THAT HE APPROVED THE AGENDA)

OTHERS PRESENT: BO HAMBY, LARRON COPELAND, DARLENE PAUL, GREGORY MCLAUGHLIN, JANICE S. BRYANT, LINDA FREEMAN, GARY FREEMAN, ANNIE MU'MIN, MARGARET HALBROOK, SANDRA WALKER, JOHN BOWENS, EZEKIAL HOLLEY, RIDGELY MU'MIN

CALL TO ORDER – CHAIRMAN WILBUR T. GAMBLE, III

PRAYER - CHAIRMAN GAMBLE

APPROVE AGENDA – ERNEST JOHNSON MADE THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2020 AGENDA. BRAD STAFFORD GAVE THE SECOND. ALL IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE ERNEST JOHNSON, BRAD STAFFORD, AND T. GAMBLE. THE MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC HEARING: 9:30 A.M. - PUBLIC COMMENT ON PUBLISHED TAX DIGEST AND FIVE-YEAR TAX LEVY HISTORY – CITIZEN RIDGELY MU'MIN QUESTIONED PROPERTY TAXES IN REGARDS TO SOLAR FARMS IN THE COUNTY. THERE WERE NO FURTHER QUESTIONS REGARDING THE TAX DIGEST AND 5-YEAR HISTORY. THE PUBLIC MEETING WAS CLOSED.

SET THE MILLAGE RATE FOR TAX COLLECTION FOR 2020 ADVALOREM TAXES, TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION TO SET TAX LEVY FOR 2020, AND TO AUTHORIZE CHAIRMAN GAMBLE TO SIGN RESOLUTION AND SANDRA O'STEAN, COUNTY CLERK AND DAVINA DRIVER, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO ATTEST THE CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE – BRAD STAFFORD MADE THE MOTION TO SET THE COUNTY MILL RATE AS 13.5 MILLS (THE SAME AS LAST YEAR), THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MILL RATE AS 17.484 MILLS FOR A TOTAL OF 30.984 AND TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION TO SET THE TAX LEVY FOR 2020 AND TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE RESOLUTION AND HAVE THE CLERK AND THE ADMINISTRATOR TO ATTEST THE CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE. ERNEST JOHNSON GAVE THE SECOND. THOSE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE BRAD STAFFORD, ERNEST JOHNSON, AND T. GAMBLE. THE MOTION CARRIED.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE – COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR DAVINA DRIVER STATED THIS ITEM WAS PLACED ON THE AGENDA BECAUSE SOME EMPLOYEES ASKED IF THERE WOULD BE A TIME FOR ENROLLMENT INTO THE COUNTY INSURANCE PLAN SINCE THE DECISION WAS MADE AT THE LAST MEETING TO REMOVE THE INSURANCE STIPENDS. SHE VERIFIED WITH THE COUNTY’S INSURANCE PLAN BROKER MIKE PEARSON THAT THERE WAS NO OPEN ENROLLMENT UNTIL JULY OF 2021. CLERK OF COURT JANICE BRYANT ASKED THE BOARD FOR REIMBURSEMENT FOR HER HUSBAND’S INSURANCE. SHE PRESENTED A COPY OF THE JUNE 9, 2016 MINUTES WHICH CHANGED THE EMPLOYEES’ HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN FOR THOSE WHO COULD BE ON MEDICARE AND ESTABLISHED THE STIPEND FOR THEM. SHE PRESENTED A DOLLAR AMOUNT OF \$21,590.92 FOR WHAT SHE BELIEVES THE COUNTY SHOULD PAY FOR HER HUSBAND’S HEALTH INSURANCE. CHAIRMAN GAMBLE STATED THIS MATTER WILL BE PLACED ON THE OCTOBER AGENDA AFTER THE BOARD LOOKED OVER THE PRESENTED INFORMATION. SANDRA WALKER ASKED IF SHE COULD GET A COPY OF THE CHANGES IN EMPLOYEES’ HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS THAT WERE MADE IN THE AUGUST MEETING. HER CONCERN WAS FOR GRANDFATHERED EMPLOYEES. WARDEN MCLAUGHLIN ASKED WHAT WILL BE DONE FOR EMPLOYEES WHO NOW WANT TO GO ON COUNTY INSURANCE BUT CANNOT BECAUSE THE ENROLLMENT IS NOW JULY 2021. THEY WERE NOT GIVEN AN OPTION WHEN THE STIPEND WAS REMOVED. COMMISSIONER JOHNSON STATED EMPLOYEES WHO NOW WANT TO GO BACK ON COUNTY INSURANCE AND WERE NOT GIVEN AN OPTION BEFORE STIPEND WAS STOPPED WILL HAVE THEIR PARTICULAR SITUATION LOOKED AT BY THE COMMISSIONERS. DISCUSSION FOLLOWED AS TO HOW TERMINATED EMPLOYEES ARE REMOVED FROM THE INSURANCE PLAN.

RESOLVE RETIREMENT ISSUE – THIS MATTER WAS TABLED TO THE OCTOBER MEETING IN ORDER TO REVIEW THE COUNTY ATTORNEY’S RESEARCH AND FOR THE BOARD TO CHECK INTO RETIREMENT ON ALL THE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS IN THE COUNTY. MRS. BRYANT PRESENTED COPY OF THE FEBRUARY 28, 2017 MINUTES WHICH STATED THE BOARD VOTED TO PAY 8% RETIREMENT WITH NO MATCH. MRS. BRYANT ASKED FOR COPIES OF THE RESEARCH THE ATTORNEY IS PUTTING TOGETHER. DISCUSSION FOLLOWED AS TO THE STAFF OF THE CLERK OF COURT FALLING UNDER THE RULES AND POLICIES OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WHEN THEY SIGNED THE STATEMENT THAT THEY HAD READ THE EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK AND AGREED TO IT.

ARMORY MATTER –THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS STATED THE DOOR TO THE ARMORY BUILDING WILL BE OPENED IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE PUBLIC TO ACCESS THE TWO COUNTY OFFICES WHICH ARE LOCATED IN THE BACK OF THE BUILDING. BRAD STAFFORD MADE THE MOTION TO KEEP THE DOOR OPEN TO THE ARMORY. ERNEST JOHNSON GAVE A SECOND. ALL IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE BRAD STAFFORD, ERNEST JOHNSON, AND T. GAMBLE. THE MOTION CARRIED. DISCUSSION FOLLOWED AS TO SECURITY AND SAFETY MEASURES TO BE TAKEN IN ALLOWING THE PUBLIC TO ACCESS THE ARMORY. JUDGE LINDA FREEMAN REPORTED THE MANDATES FROM THE GEORGIA SUPREME COURT WHICH IS IN EFFECT UNTIL OCTOBER 10, 2020. THE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS REQUESTED THAT A DEPUTY BE PLACED AT THE ENTRANCE AND TO HAVE TEMPERATURE CHECKS BE DONE. SHERIFF BOWENS SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO CHECK WITH HOMELAND SECURITY AS TO GUIDELINES FOR OPENING THE COURTHOUSE ANNEX. LARRON COPELAND ASKED WHY A DEPUTY IS NOT PRESENT AT THE COMMISSIONERS’ MEETINGS. SHERIFF JOHN BOWENS ANSWERED THAT THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE. ERNEST JOHNSON MADE THE MOTION TO ALLOW THE SHERIFF TO PROVIDE AN OFFICER FOR SECURITY AND HAVE ADMINISTRATOR DAVINA DRIVER OVERSEE THE BUSINESS OF THE ARMORY AND HAVE THE SCANNER FROM THE HISTORIC COURTHOUSE MOVED TO THE ARMORY BUILDING. BRAD STAFFORD GAVE THE SECOND. THOSE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE ERNEST JOHNSON, BRAD STAFFORD, AND T. GAMBLE. THE MOTION CARRIED.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: PERSONNEL ISSUE – BRAD STAFFORD MADE THE MOTION TO LEAVE REGULAR MEETING AND TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION. ERNEST JOHNSON GAVE THE SECOND. ALL IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE BRAD STAFFORD, ERNEST JOHNSON, AND T. GAMBLE. THE MOTION CARRIED. THE RECORDER WAS TURNED OFF.

RETURN TO THE REGULAR COMMISSIONERS PUBLIC MEETING - ERNEST JOHNSON MADE THE MOTION TO CLOSE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION AND TO RETURN TO THE REGULAR MEETING. BRAD STAFFORD GAVE THE SECOND. THOSE IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE ERNEST JOHNSON, BRAD STAFFORD, AND T. GAMBLE. THE MOTION CARRIED. ERNEST JOHNSON MADE THE MOTION FOR ALL COUNTY EMPLOYEES AND EMPLOYEES UNDER COUNTY POLICY MUST REPORT TO WORK IN ORDER TO RECEIVE PAY. REMOTE WORK WILL NOT BE PAID. IF EMPLOYEE IS SICK AND OUT OF WORK, DOCUMENTATION MUST BE PRESENTED IN ORDER TO BE PAID FOR SICK TIME. BRAD STAFFORD GAVE A SECOND. ALL IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE ERNEST JOHNSON, BRAD STAFFORD, AND T. GAMBLE. THE MOTION CARRIED.

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2020 SPECIAL CALLED MEETING CONTINUED.....

ADJOURNED – ERNEST JOHNSON MADE THE MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. BRAD STAFFORD GAVE THE SECOND. ALL IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION WERE ERNEST JOHNSON, BRAD STAFFORD, AND T. GAMBLE. 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: October 6, 2020