

MINUTES
WORK SESSION OF THE
COLQUITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Tuesday, January 4, 2022
5:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Denver Braswell. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss upcoming agenda items and any other county business deemed necessary. The meeting was duly called and advertised.

PRESENT: Those present were Commissioners Barbara Jelks, Chris Hunnicutt, Marc DeMott, Mike Boyd, Paul Nagy, and Johnny Hardin. Also present were County Attorney Lester M. Castellow, County Administrator Chas Cannon, and County Clerk Melissa Lawson.

ALSO PRESENT: EDA President Barbara Grogan, Finance Director David Zeanah, and Kevin Hall, Reporter with the Moultrie Observer.

COVID UPDATE: Due to the slight uptick in COVID-19 cases, Mr. Cannon reminded everyone that although the latest variant seemed to produce mild symptoms to please continue to take all necessary precautions. Mr. Cannon noted that another weekly COVID coordination call between entities would be held the following week.

BUDGET REVIEW: Mr. Cannon briefly reviewed all major county financial funds, citing no issues or concerns.

Mr. Cannon also reviewed a list of financial indicators, inclusive of sales tax and various revenue comparisons, as well as SPLOST and T-SPLOST collections.

BOARD PREVIEW: County Administrator Chas Cannon presented an overview of upcoming agenda items to be previewed before the regular meeting of the board at 7:00 p.m.

- Presentation of Chairman's Annual Appointments – At this point in the meeting, Mr. Cannon stated that Chairman Braswell would present his annual committee appointments to the Board.
- Approval of Appointments – Mr. Cannon stated that the following appointments were due:
 - Professional Services – Annual appointments of County Attorney, County Physician / Medical Review Officer, and County Auditors;
 - Board of Assessors – Three Year appointment with current appointee Becky Dupree wishing to continue service;

Discussion briefly ensued regarding the respective appointments.

- Establishment of Qualifying Fees – Mr. Cannon presented a resolution that, upon adoption, would establish qualifying fees for 2022 elections.

- Approval of Resolution Regarding Annexation – ACCG – Mr. Cannon presented a request from the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) that the Board adopt a resolution supporting changes to Georgia’s annexation law, particularly the arbitration/dispute resolution process.

Discussion briefly ensued regarding the resolution presented.

- Approval of Renewal of Contract – Public Defender – Mr. Cannon presented a renewal of the contractual agreement with the Public Defender regarding services for calendar year 2022. Mr. Cannon noted no increase in fees or changes to the structure of the agreement.
- Approval of Payment of Invoices – Mr. Cannon presented the following invoices requiring Board approval:
 - ACCG \$275,828.00 Workers' Compensation Insurance CY 22
 - CRI \$25,749.00 FY 21 Audit Services

Discussion briefly ensued regarding the invoices presented.

- Approval to Update Signature Cards – Due to the annual rotation of Vice – Chairman, Mr. Cannon stated that county financial accounts would be updated to include the names of Charles H. Cannon, Johnny Hardin, and Denver F. Braswell. Upon Board approval, Mr. Cannon stated that staff would begin the administrative process to procure the necessary paperwork.
- Declaration of Surplus – Mr. Cannon presented an air compressor identified by Stacy Griffin as surplus to the county’s needs.
- Other County Business – At this time, Mr. Cannon presented agenda items received after the agenda deadline:
 - Approval of Payment of Invoice – County Attorney – Mr. Cannon presented an invoice, in the amount of \$6,046.64, submitted by County Attorney Lester M. Castellow regarding legal services rendered during December 2021. Mr. Cannon noted that funding was included in the FY 21 – 22 General Fund budget for this expenditure.
 - Approval of Contract for Timber Harvest – County Airport – Mr. Cannon presented a contract regarding the harvest and sale of timber at the county airport. Discussion ensued regarding the contract.

ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES: At this time, Mr. Cannon presented a list of discussion items for later in the month:

- Future CDBG Road Projects – Tompkins Road and Brandi Drive, Doc Lindsey Road;

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- Follow up discussion/questions on 2nd T-SPLOST Meeting – Consensus to allocate a total of 2 million to authorities;
- Retreat – Follow-up from Nancy Farage, CVIOG moderator, regarding topics to discuss at annual planning retreat;

Commissioner Jelks questioned what could be done to make residents on Brandi Drive clean up the area.

Commissioner Jelks also stated her belief that senior citizens should be given some sort of incentive or consideration from ARPA funding.

Discussion extensively ensued regarding law enforcement chase and/or pursuit policies. Commissioner Jelks voiced her concern regarding a recent police chase that killed two citizens.

Discussion briefly ensued regarding the Search and Rescue Team and certification from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency.

It was the consensus of the Board to extend sign on bonuses for new employees until June 30, 2022.

Unemployment numbers and the number of eligible workers in Colquitt County were briefly discussed.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Denver Braswell
Chairman



Melissa Lawson
County Clerk

Approved: _____

