**JEFF DAVIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**DATE: TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2021**

**TIME: 6:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Chairman Brad Crews, Vice Chairman Hank Hobbs, Ricky Crosby, James Benjamin and Vann Wooten, Attorney Andy Ramey, Administrator Oakley Perry and Clerk Heather Scott

Chairman Crews called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and Commissioner Wooten gave the invocation. Commissioner Crosby led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MAY 11TH 2021, MAY 18TH 2021 AND MAY 27TH 2021**

**Motion:** To approve minutes for May 11, 2021, May 18, 2021, and May 27, 2021

**Proposed:** Commissioner Ricky Crosby

**Second:** Commissioner Vann Wooten

**Motion Carried**

**APPROVAL TO PAY MONTHLY BILLS**

**Motion:** To approve to pay monthly bills

**Proposed:** Commissioner Vann Wooten

**Second:** Commissioner Hank Hobbs

**Motion Carried.**

**APPROVE/DENY JAIL CONTRACT**

Commissioner Crosby asked if we had the numbers for the Jail Contract. Commissioner Hank Hobbs read out loud the contract sums of $4,541,900.98 and completed in 350 days after 45 days when the contract is signed. County Attorney stated he read through the contract and contacted the architect assuring that the contractors would have workers compensation and other requirements for insurance purposes.

**Motion:** To approve Jail Contract

**Proposed:** Commissioner Vann Wooten

**Second:** Commissioner Ricky Crosby

**Motion Carried**

**APPROVE/DENY REAPPOINT ELECTION BOARD MEMBER**

County Clerk Heather Scott presented that Walter Swain would like to be reappointed on the Board of Elections and that his term ends the 30th.

**Motion:** To approve to reappoint Walter Swain on the Election Board

**Proposed:** Commissioner Hank Hobbs

**Second:** Commissioner Vann Wooten

**Motion Carried**

**APPROVE/DENY EXTENDING MEMBER TERM TIME FOR RECREATION BOARD**

Chairman Crews stated because of COVID the Recreation Board hasn’t had a meeting in over a year and the board is asking to extend their terms for the amount of time they missed.

**Motion:** To approve to extend Recreation Board Members term for nine months

**Proposed:** Commissioner Hank Hobbs

**Second:** Commissioner Vann Wooten

**Motion Carried**

**CHAMBER SUPPORT AGREEMENT**

Chairman Crews presented to the board that the county has always paid the Joint Development Authority since 1988 funds to be separated between JDA and the Chamber of Commerce however the Joint Development Authority doesn’t wish to receive funds for the Chamber of Commerce. Both the Development Authority and the Chamber of Commerce will still get the same amount just the funds for the Chamber will directly paid by the County. County Administrator asked what would the county get by directly paying both entities, Chairman Crews stated that the county as always paid both entities. County Administrator asked what about being a representing sponsor to all events. Chamber President Sonya Miller advised she didn’t have a problem with that, but that the City of Hazlehurst supports as well and if the county wanted to be representing sponsor that the funds are greatly appreciated. Commissioner Crosby stated if the Chamber has an event that is funded by the County and City that both should be representing sponsors and asked if the Chamber board members all approved of directly paying both departments.

**Motion:** To remove $12,000 from the Joint Development Authority Budget and create a line item for $12,000 and it come straight from the County.

**Proposed:** Commissioner Vann Wooten

**Second:** Commissioner Ricky Crosby

**Motion Carried**

**TO APPROVE/DENY TO BUY EQUIPMENT FOR ROAD DEPARTMENT**

Commissioner Wooten presented to by a sweeper for county roads. Chairman Crews asked Road Superintendent Robert Lewis to explain why we needed a sweeper. Superintendent Lewis stated to get the dirt off the roads. Superintendent Lewis advised that the sweeper would be able to completely remove the dirt from the white lines on the roadways. County Administrator Perry recommended to pay for the used sweeper out of Road SPLOST, Commissioner Hobbs agreed. Commissioner Wooten advised that there were 14 fires from a motor grader clipping the roads from the weather being so dry. County Administrator Perry stated that he witnessed the road department having a truck in front of the motor grader and behind it putting out fires and that he spoke to Appling County Administrator about the fires, Appling County Administrator advised that the best way to prevent fires is for the motor grader to fly while clipping.

**Motion:** To approve to buy equipment for Road Department

**Proposed:** Commissioner Vann Wooten

**Second:** Commissioner Hank Hobbs

**Motion Carried 4-1**

**DISCUSS TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS ON WIDENING PELLET MILL ROAD**

County Administrator stated that this is the road that goes to the Fram Pellet Mill, that there are two spots at the curve and at highway 341. Commissioner Hobbs asked if we were getting an architect involved. Administrator Perry answered we did and contacted Hofstadter and that his quote was high and Road Superintendent mentioned to Administrator Perry that we could do it cheaper. Commissioner Hobbs asked that the specs we put out for bid would be through Department of Transportation requirements.

**Motion:** To approve to advertise for bids on widening Pellet Mill Road

**Proposed:** Commissioner Ricky Crosby

**Second:** Commissioner Vann Wooten

**Motion Carried**

**DISCUSS PROPOSED BUDGET**

Chairman Crews stated that we have two proposed budgets with the difference of employees paying 85% and the other with employees paying 92% on insurance. Commissioner Hobbs asked if it balanced and within 4% of what it was last year, Chairman Crews and County Clerk Heather Scott answered yes.

**DISCUSS ADVERTISING FOR PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION HEARING**

County Clerk Heather Scott asked to have the budget public hearing for June 15, 2021 and the budget adoption hearing on June 29, 2021. Chairman Crews asked if they could go ahead and vote on the dates, County Clerk Scott advised yes.

**Motion:** To advertise for Public hearing on June 15, 2021 and Adoption Hearing on June 29, 2021

**Proposed:** Commissioner Vann Wooten

**Second:** Commissioner Ricky Crosby

**Motion Carried**

**TO APPROVE/DENY INSURANCE RENEWAL RATE**

Commissioner Hobbs asked if we have a standing committee for insurance, Chairman Crews advised yes Commissioner Vann and I. Chairman Crews advised the increase is in the budget and to go on a monthly basis with Cigna.

**Motion:** To accept the Cigna Renewal of 22% increase, on a month to month basis, effective July 1, 2021.

**Proposed:** Commissioner Vann Wooten

**Second:** Commissioner James Benjamin

**Motion Carried**

**FOURTH OF JULY UPDATE-SONYA MILLER**

Chamber President Sonya Miller stated that she has six vendors and asked Commissioners if they were interested in live music. Chairman Crews advised yes, and they want a bigger event than last year. Chairman Crews asked if we could get a flyer out to local businesses, Chamber President Miller advised yes that she had some flyers out.

**ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE-OAKLEY PERRY**

County Administrator Perry went over financial reports for the county. County Administrator stated that the Commissioners requested an EMS update that reported EMS responded to 364 calls total.

**ATTORNEY UPDATE-ANDY RAMEY**

County Attorney updated commissioners on Piney Church Road Closure as well as to plan a date for the public hearing of River Run Road.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS-TRASH PICKUP**

County Attorney stated that the EPD requires you to have a permit for handling or collecting trash for others and a certified truck and concealed trailer. Our ordinance states that only county residents can dump trash at county dumpsites, County Attorney Ramay recommended amending the ordinance to state that only county residents could dump and not allowing anyone collecting trash for residents to dump at county dumpsites. Chairman Crews requests that County Attorney add in the letter that Matt King needs to dispose of the trash that he’s collected and storing within two weeks after he receives the letter.

**Motion:** To give County Attorney the authority to write a letter to Matt King on trash pickup regulations and to move forward with drawing up an amendment to the current ordinance.

**Proposed:** Commissioner Hank Hobbs

**Second:** Commissioner James Benjamin

**Motion Carried**

**NEW/OLD BUSINESS**Commissioner Crosby stated he was interested in getting a plow to pull dirt beside the roadway to fill holes in. Road Superintendent Robert Lewis stated that is a gravel retainer. Chairman Crews requested that Road Superintendent Lewis and County Administrator Perry to look into the plow in Coffee County and to set up a demo for all Commissioners to see.

Commissioner Crosby discussed bringing dirt in to fix Check Station Road, where the roadway has been closed for over a year now and that a landowner on Mackey Road offered dirt to the county. County Attorney recommended getting with him before any dirt was pulled to know the landlines and an agreements between landowner and Commissioners. County Administrator stated that at one time Department of Natural Resources wanted to take over Check Station Road but the public doesn’t wish to let DNR take over the road. Road Superintendent requested that the county do a test hole before pulling dirt from someone’s property.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Jay Wooley presented that Matt King’s trash pickup business is an issue and concern to his neighborhood. Jay expressed that Mr. King has had two trailers loaded with trash for 4 ½ weeks now and he stated he’s hopeful that the letter will work from County Attorney.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion:** To enter into Executive Session at 7:02 p.m.

**Proposed:** Commissioner Hank Hobbs

**Second:** Commissioner Vann Wooten

**Motion carried**

**Motion:** To enter back into Regular session at 7:26 p.m.

**Proposed:** Commissioner Vann Wooten

**Second:** Commissioner Hank Hobbs

**Motion Carried**

Insurance for personnel was discussed in Executive Session:

**Motion:** Beginning July 1, 2021, all retirees of the County are eligible for the health insurance through the County, but are responsible for the full amount of health insurance premium.

**Proposed:** Commissioner Vann Wooten

**Second:** Commissioner James Benjamin

**Motion Carried**

**Motion:** To amend the Retirees paragraph of Page 27 to reflect the previous motion and to also remove Termination of Coverage verbiage altogether on Page 28 of the Employee Manual.

**Proposed:** Commissioner Vann Wooten

**Second:** Commissioner Ricky Crosby

**Motion Carried**

**Motion:** To implement a Shared Saving Incentive Program for eligible employees currently (6/8/2021) on the Health Insurance Plan, effective July 1, 2021. Eligible employees are employees that can verify Health Coverage that is not with the County.

**Proposed:** Commissioner Hank Hobbs

**Second:** Commissioner Vann Wooten

**Motion Carried**

**Motion:** To set the Shared Savings cost at $300 per month.

**Proposed:** Commissioner Ricky Crosby

**Second:** Commissioner Vann Wooten

**Motion Carried**

**Adjourn – 7:29 P.M.**

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Heather Scott, Clerk Brad Crews, Chairman

CLOSED MEETING AFFIDAVIT

State of Georgia

County of Jeff Davis

Brad Crews, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Jeff Davis County, Georgia, being duly sworn, and states under oath that the following is true and accurate to the best of his knowledge and belief.

1.

The Board of Commissioners of Jeff Davis County met in a regular scheduled and duly advertised meeting held on the 8th day of June, 2021.

2.

During said meeting, the Board voted to go into closed session.

3.

This executive session was called to order at 7:02 p.m. Motion by Commissioner Hank Hobbs and seconded by Commissioner Vann Wooten with all voting in favor.

4.

The subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting was devoted to the following matters within the exceptions provided in the open meetings law:

1) Consultation with the county attorney to discuss pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the Board of Commissioners or any officer or employee may be directly involved as provided in O.C.G.A. 50-14-1(1):

2) Discussion of the future acquisition of real estate as provided by O.C.G.A. 50-14-3(4):

 3) Discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a Board of Commissioners officer or employee as provided in O.C.G.A. 50-14-3-(6).

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Sworn to and subscribed before

Me this \_\_\_\_day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Brad Crews, Chairman

Board of Commissioners

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Jeff Davis County

Notary Public

My Commission Expires: