

MINUTES
TERRELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING

Date: July 6, 2021

Time: 6:00 P.M.

Place: Terrell County Government Building

Commissioners and staff present: Chairman Wilbur T. Gamble, III, Lucius Holloway, Ernest Johnson, Larron Copeland, Brad Stafford, Davina Driver, Sandra O'Stean

Others present: Darlene Paul, Ezekiel Holley, Jeff Hanner, Bobby O'Stean, Linda Freeman, Lisa DeMott, Jeffrey DeMott, Richard Kilby, Janice Bryant, Ernest Kennedy, Tammie McGill, Gary McNeely, Christie Cooper, Victoria Freeman, Molly McManus

Call to order: Chairman Wilbur T. Gamble, III

Prayer: Commissioner Lucius Holloway

Approval of Agenda: *Ernest Johnson made the motion to approve the agenda after making amendments to add under new business two items: (1) Appointment of members to the Joint Development Authority (2) Bank of Dawson's request to forgive penalty and interest on property in delinquent tax sale. Brad Stafford gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Ernest Johnson, Brad Stafford, Lucius Holloway, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried.*

Approval Minutes of June 1, 2021 regular meeting: *- Ernest Johnson made the motion to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2021 meeting. Brad Stafford gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Ernest Johnson, Brad Stafford, Larron Copeland, and Lucius Holloway. The motion carried.*

Chairman's Report: Security Cameras at courthouse annex – A quote for nine (9) security cameras from Security Tech Solutions, LLC in the amount of \$ 5,710.00 was presented to the Board. The Administrator stated the cost could be paid from Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) funds. *Ernest Johnson made the motion to approve the purchase of 9 cameras from Security Tech Solutions, LLC at the cost of \$5,710 to be paid from SPLOST funds and to be installed at the Courthouse Annex location. Brad Stafford gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Ernest Johnson, Brad Stafford, Larron Copeland, and Lucius Holloway. The motion carried.*

Administrator's Report: Bank balances, Vendor Activity, CI bank accounts - Davina Driver read the bank balances and gave updates on the American Rescue Plan Grant that Terrell County recently received from the Federal Government. Ezekiel Holly questioned the use of the funds and presented documents that he said were directives from the President regarding access to funds by

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low-income communities. Mrs. Driver will be doing further research on the grant and guidelines of how the monies can be spent.

Clerk's Report: Fuel report, Jail Count - Sandra O'Stean presented the reports.

EMS/911/EMA Report: A written report was submitted.

Extension Service Report: A written report was submitted.

Road Department Report: A written report was submitted.

Warden's Report: Richard Kilby reported on the Correction Institution (CI) activities for June 2021. He gave the inmate count and reported that negotiations for two additional out of town inmate work details were in progress. He also stated that inmate exchanges were being made with other county prisons in order to get skilled laborers into the Terrell CI.

Fire Department: A written report was submitted.

Delinquent Garbage Report: Sandra O'Stean presented the summary for delinquent garbage.

Delinquent Tax Report: Christie Cooper reported on the July 6, 2021 delinquent ad valorem tax sale. Nineteen (19) properties were sold for the amount of approximately \$86,000. Twenty-two (22) parcels remained unsold. 1.5 million dollars in delinquent property taxes had been collected since October 2020.

Sheriff's Report: A written report was submitted.

Recreation Department Report: A written report was submitted. Several issues of concern were discussed with two of the Recreation Board members who were in attendance. ***Commissioner Johnson offered to have a talk with Director Wallace Price. The Recreation Board members were asked to bring recommendations for the recreation facility to the August agenda.***

OLD BUSINESS:

Purchasing/leasing trucks for road department – ***Brad Stafford made the motion to purchase four (4) service trucks with the fold down center consoles from Brannen Motor Company for a cost of \$131,100 for the Road Dept. Larron Copeland gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Larron Copeland, Lucius Holloway, and Ernest Johnson. The motion carried. The discussion regarding the purchase of a motor grader was tabled until the August meeting. Commissioner Copeland asked the Road Dept to established routes in order to better maintain the County roads.***

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Historical Courthouse - use of office space for Juvenile Justice System – Ernest Johnson made the motion to approve the Juvenile Justice renting space in the Historical Courthouse for offices and allow Juvenile Justice to make renovations pending the Board approving those renovation plans. Juvenile Justice is to pay the cost of building their offices. Larron Copeland gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Ernest Johnson, Larron Copeland, Lucius Holloway, and Brad Stafford. The motion carried. The discussion of the Historical Museum occupying space at the Courthouse also was tabled until the next agenda. The Clerk of Court questioned if the Clerk's office had to relocate to the Historical Courthouse. Chairman Gamble said he was confident that the Clerk's office would not have to move back to the Historic Courthouse and he would find the answer to her question.

NEW BUSINESS:

Forgiveness property tax – new owner Kelly Brim Hollowell – Chairman Gamble was contacted by new owner Kelly Brim Hollowell regarding properties (053-012 and 054-030) fronting Sasser Herod Road, Terrell County, Georgia. As new owner, she did not get the tax bill. Ernest Johnson made the motion to approve the refund of one year of interest and penalties which the new owner Kelly Brim Hollowell had paid on the property tax prior to the tax sale. Brad Stafford gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Ernest Johnson, Brad Stafford, Lucius Holloway, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried.

Forgiveness of penalty and interest on taxes on property of which the Bank of Dawson had interest – The Chairman had been approached by the Bank of Dawson regarding property (D15-031), Cinderella Lane, Dawson, Georgia of which they had previously financed. The Bank will pay the base taxes; but were asking for forgiveness of 2013 penalties and interest. The new owners Curtis L. and Cynthia A. Williams did not receive a tax bill. Larron Copeland made the motion to forgive penalties and interest for year 2013 on the mentioned property. Ernest Johnson gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Larron Copeland, Ernest Johnson, and Lucius Holloway. Brad Stafford asked that the record note that he abstained from the vote due to his relationship with the party involved. The motion carried.

Reappointment of members to Board of Elections and Registration – Brad Stafford made the motion to approve the reappointment of Nellie Parris, Frances Jett Jordan, and George Graham as members to the Board of Elections and Registration. Ernest Johnson gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Ernest Johnson, Lucius Holloway, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried.

Approve signing updated speed limit ordinance submitted by GDOT – A list of updated speed limits for certain routes in Terrell County was submitted from the Georgia Department of Transportation in the form of an ordinance. The signing of this ordinance is necessary in order to obtain an updated radar permit for the County. Brad Stafford made the motion to accept the speed limit ordinance submitted by GDOT and to have the Chairman to sign same document on behalf of the

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Board of commissioners. Ernest Johnson gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Ernest Johnson, Larron Copeland, and Lucius Holloway. The motion carried.

Request from City of Sasser for installation of overhead door at fire station – Lucius Holloway made the motion to deny payment toward the cost to replace the roll up door at the Sasser fire station unless a mentioned agreement between the City of Sasser and the Board of Commissioners can be produced by the City of Sasser. Brad Stafford gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Lucius Holloway, Brad Stafford, Larron Copeland, and Ernest Johnson. The motion carried.

American Rescue Plan Grant – This item was previously discussed during the Administrator’s report.

Web Page for Terrell County Board of Commissioners – Chairman Gamble stated this matter had been resolved. Some discussion followed as to improvements to the website such as links for businesses to post job opportunities and making available the option to pay property taxes on line from the website. Commissioner Copeland questioned the tax commissioner if the phone lines to her office were working. Mrs. Harnage stated her phone system does not work properly and a new system is needed. The administrator was instructed to get a new phone system for the Tax Commissioner office.

Review budget proposals and set date for budget meetings – The budget hearing was set for Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 10 a.m.

Discussion was held regarding improving Georgia Street in the Sasser area and whether Georgia Street was included in the 2021 LMIG project. This matter was tabled to the August Commissioners’ meeting.

Joint Development Authority – This item was added to the agenda. **Brad Stafford made the motion to approve the appointment of Tracy Hester, Sandra Rowe, and John Bowen as members to the Joint Development Authority of Baker, Dougherty, Lee, and Terrell Counties. Larron Copeland gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Larron Copeland, Ernest Johnson, and Lucius Holloway. The motion carried.**

Adjourn – 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, Lucius Holloway, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried.

Respectively submitted by: Sandra O'Stean
Sandra O'Stean County Clerk

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Approved by: Wilbur T. Gamble III
Wilbur T. Gamble, III Chairman Board of Commissioners

Date: August 3, 2021