

Lanier County Board of Commissioners
Regular Session Minutes
February 12, 2018 at 9:00 A.M.
Annex Building (162 W. Thigpen Ave, Lakeland, Georgia 31635)

The Lanier County Board of Commissioners met for regular session on Monday, February 12, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. in the Lanier County annex building. Those present at the meeting were as follows: Commissioners Paul Brockington, Susan Bowling, Dennis Fender, and Harold Simpson; County Administrator, Neil Ginty; County Attorney, Suzanne Mathis; Chairman, Alex Lee; and Interim County Clerk, Jordan Kline.

Chairman Lee called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Scott Fountain gave the invocation.

The board reviewed the agenda. Commissioner Simpson made a motion to accept the agenda. Commissioner Bowling seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The board reviewed the minutes from the regular session meeting held January 8, 2018. Commissioner Bowling made a motion to approve these minutes. Commissioner Fender seconded the motion. All were in favor.

New Business:

Larry Moore reported to the board that his conservation had expired without his knowledge, causing his taxes to almost double in cost. Moore requested that he receive a refund since he was not aware of the expiration. Chief Appraiser Jessica Holbrook spoke before the board stating the Tax Assessors' office mailed notices of expiration to all 264 conservation owners in October 2017; they also ran a public notice in the newspaper. The board denied the refund but asked Holbrook to look into other ways of sending notices in the future.

Cindy Pullen with South Georgia Military Affairs Council (SGMAC) notified the board that SGMAC was one of five in the nation to win the Great American Defense Community Award.

Aubrey Sweeney presented before the board open records she had requested from the commissioners' office in reference to Lanier County's animal control that states domesticated dogs be held for a minimum of five days. Sweeney stated Alapaha Animal Control obtained a stray dog on Smith Dairy Road on January 16, 2018. This dog was then taken to Douglas-Coffee Animal Shelter where an error was made and the dog was given away to a rescue in Connecticut after less than two days. Sweeney notified the board the dog was returned to its rightful owner within a week of this error. Stacey Jones with Alapaha Animal Control stated the dog was in their custody the entire time and there was not any official paperwork done giving this dog to the out of state rescue.

Tom Dorywalski with Taylor Insurance gave an update on the county health insurance. Taylor Insurance has implemented a new plan allowing employees to choose between different deductibles, potentially saving the county approximately \$50,000 in annual premiums.

Administrative Report:

Administrator Neil Ginty notified the board of Jimmy Benefield's resignation from the Park Board. Administrator Ginty also notified the board of Sandy Sander's resignation from the Regional Council with John Fitton being his replacement.

Bob Roquemore with the Boy Scouts of America spoke to the board about the importance of the Boy Scouts and encouraged citizens and the county to donate.

Administrator Ginty presented a resolution to the board for the CBDG grant for a new senior center building. Commissioner Brockington made a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Simpson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Administrator Ginty also notified the board the senior center project must have a name in order to proceed. Commissioner Bowling suggested Lanier Senior Project. All were in favor.

Financial Report:

Interim County Clerk, Jordan Kline, gave the financial report stating total revenue for Lanier County is at 19.64% and total expenses are at 59.59%.

Department Reports:

Fire Department:

EMA Director Randy Patten gave the fire department report for January 2018. The fire department had 31 calls for the month. There were 23 calls in the county with 14 of them being paid calls; the pay amount for the county was \$2,160.00. There were five calls in the city with eight of them being paid calls, the pay amount for the city was \$920.00.

EMA Department:

EMA Director Randy Patten reported that all FEMA reports for the county to apply for reimbursements from the recent storms have been submitted. Patten also notified the board that he has applied for a new vehicle through the Assistance to Firefighter Grants Program.

EMS Department:

District Commander Scott Fountain gave the SGMC EMS Department report for January 2018. There were 184 responses for the month with 137 of the calls being in the City of Lakeland. In addition, there were 90 transports to SGMC- Main Campus, 40 to SGMC - Lanier Campus, one to Clinch Memorial Campus, one to John D. Archbold Medical Center, two to Tift Regional Medical Center, one to Behavioral Health Services, and two to Berrien Campus.

Road Department:

Road Superintendent Bob Moore reported the county is currently in the process of correcting the issues on Glenn Pascal Road; however, the weather is causing some delay.

Parks/Recreation Department:

Park Director Will Watson reported all spring sports are in the sign up stage at this time.

Family Connection:

Amy Lollis with Family Connections was not present at the meeting.

Citizens Comments:

Mr. JC Riley asked the board about repairing the roads to cemeteries. Road Superintendent Moore stated the county is currently trying to get milling that would repair these roads; however, it must wait until the weather is warm.

Executive Session:

Commissioner Fender made a motion to go into executive session. Commissioner Simpson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Commissioner Bowling made a motion to exit executive session. Commissioner Brockington seconded the motion. All were in favor.

With no further business brought before the board, Commissioner Brockington made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Fender seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Lanier County Board of Commissioners



Alex Lee, Chairman



Jordan Kline, Interim County Clerk