

**JEFF DAVIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**MARCH 12, 2019**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Chairman Ricky Crosby, Commissioners James Benjamin, Brad Crews, Hank Hobbs and Vann Wooten, Administrator Keith Carter and Clerk Sherri Lytle. Attorney Carla Powell was not present.

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

Elementary School Teacher Roxie Crosby was present with a few of her students to give a presentation on Teaching the 7 Mind Sets which is all about "Thinking Positively". There is 7 different mind sets and each month the teachers take a mind set and teach it to the students along with a project that's associated with the Mind Set.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Board of Assessor David DeSousa was present and stated that Attorney Carla Powell provided him a copy of the county's Timber Ordinance that he didn't know we had. He encourage the Board to enforce it. Secondly, he said the minutes of our joint meeting had many errors in it and requested to have them corrected. He requested a copy of minutes when the board voted that no one in the courthouse wouldn't get a raise, only the Road Department employees. He requested their budget to be amended as discussed in the joint meeting. He requested the Board to deny the Code of Conduct form that is on this agenda.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 12<sup>TH</sup> AND MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup> MEETINGS**

**Motion:** To approve minutes for February 12<sup>th</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup> meetings.

**Proposed:** Commissioner James Benjamin

**Second:** Commissioner Vann Wooten

**Motion Carried**

**APPROVAL TO PAY MONTHLY BILLS**

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

**Proposed:** Commissioner Brad Crews

**Second:** Commissioner Vann Wooten

**Motion Carried**

**RON NELSON, GDOT – UPDATE ON STATE LOT 135 ALTAMAHA RIVER PROJECT**

Mr. Ron Nelson with the Georgia Department of Transportation was present to discuss the bridge replacement through a design build process. Mr. Nelson stated he's here to try and gain an idea from the Board for a minimum profile with the elevation on the finished bridge that will be done through a design build contract. U.S. Army Core of Engineers has established the minimum elevation, meaning the water elevation will be 10 ft. Right now, the separation is somewhere around 24 ft. So they'll be a reduction of about 14 ft. 9 in. He asked if the Administrator could provide GDOT with a letter of no objections. Commissioner Brad Crews expressed his concerns referencing the bridges on Hwy 144 and

the Lumber City Bridge. Mr. Nelson assured him that this bridge will be engineered and hydrology will be taken into consideration. The letting will be May 11<sup>th</sup>. The commissioners had no objections.

#### **QUARTERLY UPDATES**

Andrea Taylor, Director of the Joint Development Authority, stated that we still have a couple of restaurant franchises interested and a couple of industries interested in expansion. Also, a prospect of building a hotel. She emphasized the 2020 census is coming up and how important it was to get everyone in the community counted. They're hiring people now for that. She informed the Board of several events coming up.

Fire Chief Charles Wasdin gave an update on where we stand with the additional county fire stations and ISO. All three stations are complete and equipped with trucks. He explained that ISO has a scale which has to do with equipment that has to go on these fire trucks. All stations are now operational and we're starting to move some people in these positions. There will be only two small areas in the county that will still be a Class 10 and the only way to change that is to build two more fire stations which would not be practical at this time. He went on explaining more of how ISO does the rating.

Recreation Department Director Bruce Johns gave an update on the fall and winter sports. He stated the goal posts were up at the facility on Hwy. 341. Baseball will be starting up March 23<sup>rd</sup> and he encouraged everyone to come and support the youth. In addition, swimming, tennis and golf will be starting soon.

EMS Director Ronnie Jowers presented the 2018 911 calls was 2249 and this year to date of 911 calls is 449. These numbers do not reflect the calls for patient assistance. He said they're running one truck per shift. He started in March keeping up with multiple calls they have when one ambulance is already on a call and have to send a rescue truck/first responders to assist until they can get there. In 11 days they've had 7 multiple calls where they were not able to respond within 15 minutes. There was some discussion of possibly putting a day truck back on and hiring two more paramedics. Commissioner Vann Wooten briefly discussed cross training EMS and the Fire Department as some counties do.

Barry Bloom, Jeff Davis Hospital, reminded everyone that our hospital is a 25 bed critical access hospital. Last year the emergency room saw 7, 947, 11,912 outpatient visits, 4,317 clinic visits and 1,799 in-patient days and provided \$3,513,000 of uncompensated care. He said "he was very appreciative of the SPLOST dollars the county has provided their way for capital improvements". He briefly discussed their audit that shows they had a very good year comparing to previous years due to being more efficient. They've focused on improvements getting the facility up-to-date. In 2019 they're really looking at a year of growth. Commissioner Hank Hobbs was very complimentary of how wells things have improved and shared an experience he recently had. He thanked Commissioner Brad Crews for serving as the ex-officio on their board stating he has great words and knowledge and serves them well.

Road Superintendent Robert Lewis wasn't able to be here but will give his update next month.

#### **EUGENE DYAL – OPEN SEALED BIDS FOR FENCING AT THE RECREATION DEPT.**

Eugene Dyal, Program Coordinator with the Seven Rivers RC&D Council was present to open sealed bids for the fencing at the Recreation Department. He explained that once the bids are opened he will have

to evaluate everything. After opening the bids he stated there was a significant difference in the bids. Commissioner Hobbs ask if he could assist in the evaluation due to him owning his own fencing business and he knows where to cut cost. Commissioner Crews suggested that if the lower bid meets our specs then we have no option but to go with the lower bid.

**Motion:** To accept the lower bid if it meets our specs.

**Proposed:** Chairman Ricky Crosby

Commissioner Crews then stated that he can't vote not knowing what the lowest bid is. After much discussion,

**Motion:** To accept the lowest bid if it meets our specs.

**Proposed:** Chairman Ricky Crosby

**Second:** Commissioner Brad Crews

**Motion Carried**

The Board requested to hear the bids. Bids read as follows:

Dixie Fence & Kennel	\$162,403
T & T Fencing	\$118,700

**Motion:** To accept the bid from T & T Fencing if they meet our bid specifications and after they have been reviewed by Keith/Sherri, Hank and Mr. Dyal. If not, we have to back up and punt.

**Proposed:** Commissioner Brad Crews

**Second:** Commissioner James Benjamin

**Motion Carried**

**APPROVAL TO PURCHASE A USED JOHN DEERE 5 GANG REEL MOWER FOR THE RECREATION DEPT.**

**Motion:** To purchase a used John Deere 5 Gang Reel Mower for the Recreation Department to be paid out of SPLOST funds as presented.

**Proposed:** Commissioner Hank Hobbs

**Second:** Commissioner Vann Wooten

**Motion Carried**

**APPROVAL TO HIRE A ROAD DEPT. EMPLOYEE**

**Motion:** To approve to hire a Road Department Employee to replace one that quit.

**Proposed:** Commissioner Brad Crews

**Second:** Commissioner Hank Hobbs

**Motion Carried**

**APPROVE/DENY CODE OF CONDUCT/SPEAKER REQUEST FORM**

**Motion:** Approve the Code of Conduct/Speaker Request Form.

**Proposed:** Commissioner Hank Hobbs

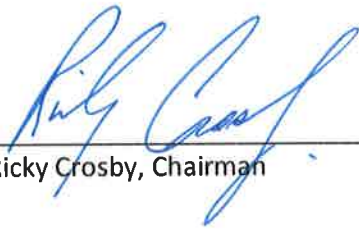
**Second:** Commissioner Brad Crews

**Motion Carried 4 – 1** (Commissioner James Benjamin opposed)

No further business.

ADJOURN – 7:27 P.M.

  
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Sherri Lytle, Clerk

  
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Ricky Crosby, Chairman