

Lanier County Board of Commissioners
Regular Session Minutes
March 12, 2018 at 5:30 P.M.
Annex Building (162 W. Thigpen Ave, Lakeland, Georgia 31635)

The Lanier County Board of Commissioners met for regular session on Monday, March 12, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the Lanier County Annex. Those present at the meeting were as follows: Commissioners Susan Bowling, Paul Brockington, Dennis Fender, and Harold Simpson; County Administrator, Neil Ginty; and Interim County Clerk, Jordan Kline. Chairman Alex Lee and Attorney Suzanne Mathis were not present.

Commissioner Brockington called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Reverend Hill gave the invocation and Shayla Riley-Dorsey sang the National Anthem.

The board reviewed the agenda. Commissioner Fender 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 February 12, 2018. Commissioner Fender made a motion to approve these minutes. Commissioner Bowling seconded the motion. All were in favor.

New Business:

Haynes Studstill with Studstill Firm, LLP gave a presentation presenting an Opioid Litigation Resolution. Studstill informed the board of a federal lawsuit against the manufacturers and distributors of prescription opioids responsible for the opioid epidemic in our country. This resolution would give Studstill Firm, LLP and Conley Griggs Partin, LLP permission to represent Lanier County in this lawsuit. Studstill stated there will likely be funding recovered from the lawsuit to which the firms would only receive one-third of the gross recovery. Commissioner Simpson made a motion to approve to this resolution. Commissioner Bowling seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Peggy Bennett was not present at the meeting.

Karen Abbott requested the board authorize the periodic and temporary closure of a portion of Lee Road so that she may move her cattle from one side of the road to the other. Commissioner Simpson notified Abbott that County Attorney Mathis would most likely need to review this proposal before the board could make a decision. Commissioner Simpson asked Abbott how many times she would need to move her cattle, to which she replied she was unsure. Administrator Ginty then asked how many cattle she has, to which Abbott responded two but she hopes to get more. Commissioner Brockington stated the board would discuss this proposal with Attorney Mathis.

Administrative Report:

Administrator Ginty presented four policies to the board: disciplinary policy, media protection policy, man-made natural disaster policy, and security awareness training policy. In a recent audit, the Georgia Crime Information Center informed the county that these policies must be implemented as part of the

Georgia Bureau of Investigation regulations. Commissioner Simpson made a motion to approve these policies. Commissioner Fender seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Administrator Ginty informed the board that Georgia House Representative Jason Shaw presented the South Georgia Military Affairs Council with a resolution honoring South Georgia region as one of the five Great American Defense Communities for 2018. The county also received a Great American Defense Community flag but it has not been determined where to hang this flag.

Administrator Ginty reminded the board of the Lanier County Public Library's 30th anniversary ceremony that will be held March 13th at 5 p.m.

Administrator Ginty announced the lions club will be having a meat sale fundraiser May 11th. Ginty also announced the lions club president, Jeff Hardy, will host a car and truck show at the Threatte Center on June 2nd; all proceeds will go the funding the new county ballpark.

Administrator Ginty reported the U.S. Army Special Operation Command notified the county they will be conducting training exercises with Moody April 4-6.

Financial Report:

Interim County Clerk, Jordan Kline, gave the financial report stating total revenue for Lanier County is at 58.53% and total expenses are at 68.83%.

Department Reports:

EMS Department:

District Commander Scott Fountain gave the SGMC EMS Department report for February 2018. There were 154 responses for the month with 101 of the calls being in the City of Lakeland. In addition, there were 88 transports to SGMC- Main Campus, 19 to SGMC - Lanier Campus, one to Clinch Memorial Campus, two to Tift Regional Medical Center, one to Behavioral Health Services, and five to Lakeland Villa.

Fire Department:

Fire Chief Gary Yeomans gave the fire department report for February 2018. There were 30 total fire calls, nine in the city and 21 in the county. Of the nine in the city, eight of those were payed for a total of \$1,040.00. Of the 21 in the county, 16 of those were payed for a total of \$1,800.00.

Road Department:

Road Superintendent Bob Moore was not present at the meeting.

EMA Department:

EMA Director Randy Patten reported that FEMA notified him the county will receive approximately \$10,000 for damages due to Hurricane Irma and \$500 for administrative costs.

Parks/Recreation Department:

Park Director Will Watson reported spring sport signups have ended and he hopes to have opening night February 26th and would like to honor board member Jimmy Benefield that night.

Family Connection:

Amy Lollis with Family Connections gave a report of their March 2018 schedule. The Raising Highly Capable Kids class is going well. A literacy team meets at the library the second Thursday of every month at 12 p.m. to promote school success and is open to the public. The Lanier County Family Connection Collaborative meeting is open to the public as well and meets at the Lakeland/Lanier Welcome Center every fourth Tuesday at 12 p.m.

Citizens Comments:

Lee Hutto spoke before the board on the issues with the limited number of park fields. Hutto will be hosting an adult softball tournament in Moultrie and will donate all proceeds to Lanier County Parks and Recreation.

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