

GRADY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING MINUTES

March 2, 2021 Meeting

The Grady County Board of Commissioners met on March 2, 2021 at 9:00 am for a regular meeting. Commissioners Keith Moyer, June Knight, Phillip Drew, Ray Prince, County Administrator Buddy Johnson, County Finance Director Holly Murkerson, County Clerk John White, County Attorney Gabe Ridley, and Roads Superintendent Stanley Elkins were present. Commissioner LaFaye Copeland participated by phone.

Mr. Drew gave the invocation and pledge to the flag.

Motion by Mr. Moyer, second by Mr. Prince to approve the agenda after it was amended to add C017-21 to the agenda as recommended by the Lake Authority. The motion was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

PRESENTATIONS

None

CORRESPONDENCE

The Calendar of Events was reviewed.

Regular Board meeting, 03/16/2021, 6:00 pm

CONSENT ITEMS

Motion by Mr. Prince, second by Mr. Moyer to approve

C015-21 Approval Regular Meeting Minutes from 02/16/2021

C016-21 Approve Judicial Alternatives of Georgia agreement

C017-21 Approve recommendation of the Lake Authority to appoint Steven Childs and Eric Cohen to serve a new term on the Grady County Lake Authority.

The motion was approved.

FORMAL ACTIONS

FA009-21 Motion by Mr. Moyer, second by Mrs. Copeland to approve awarding the Johnson Road bid to The Scruggs Company at a cost of \$553,829.96 pending the approval of the Scruggs Company by the Department of Community Affairs. Other bids were received from Oxford Construction Company for \$597,768.10 and HTS Construction, Inc. for \$740,084.36. The motion was approved.

FA010-21 Motion by Mr. Moyer, second by Mr. Prince to approve the bid for base and surface material for the Bunn Lane Manned Garbage Site from CMI for \$65,250.00. This was the only bid received as Southern Contractors did not respond to the bid request. The motion was approved.

FA011-21 Motion by Mr. Prince, second by Mr. Moyer to approve to engage Perry L. Henry, LLC to conduct the county audit at a price not to exceed \$44,095.00. The motion was approved.

FA012-21 Motion by Mrs. Knight, second by Mr. Moyer to approve the culvert repair on Pine Park Road by Southern Concrete Construction Co., Inc. for \$68,875.00. The motion was approved.

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

County Administrator's Report

GC VFD EOY 2020 Report Summary

- **Total Call for 2020** – 513 averaging 1.4 calls per day.
 - Highest Month for calls was May at 54 calls
 - Lowest month for calls was April at 34 calls
- **Calls per station-**
 - Highest 3 -

- Cairo/County @ 20%
 - Whigham @ 16%
 - Pine Level @ 15%
- Lowest 2 –
 - Calvary and Reno @ 5%
- **Call types –**
 - Highest
 - Accident with injury @ 137
 - Brush Fire @ 93
 - EMS Assist @ 76
 - Lowest
 - Equipment fires @ 6
 - Tree Down @ 8
 - Dumpster fires @ 11
 - Structure Fires Total – 21
 - Property Saved Values based on 7 structure fires assessed
 - 160,040.00
 - Property Loss Values
 - 23,713.00
 - Average Response time to calls – 6:12
- **Goals for 2021**
 - More reporting organization on training and incident report recording.
 - Lower the ISO
 - Finishing and Updating the new EMA Website
- Estimated volunteer hours savings cost at 12.00 per hour.
 - 221,616.00 down 11,232.00 from 2019

Continuing the Certified Public Manager (CPM) course through UGA.

- Courses are generally on the 3rd week each month and will be the first and third week in May. These usually require my physical absence from the Tuesday meetings. I will continue to participate by phone or virtual.

ABM update for energy efficiency agreement

- Courthouse Clerks office renovation moving along well.
- Other sites are being taken care of as far as lighting and HVAC replacements.

ABM Tired Creek proposal

- Water quality testing will take place next to ensure the overall project parameters will be doable.
 - Mr. Han, the Engineer, and lead consultant for ABM on this is visiting regularly and continues to prepare his proposal for the company to review and decide if they are in a position to make an offer to the Lake Authority and the County Commissioners. Based on our last conversations, all looks very good and we should see an official proposal by August that will be available for the governing entities to decide the next step. ABM has been very good to keep us informed as they move forward with this process.

On a personal/professional note...

While potholes, trash, roads, the lake, and other issues certainly matter to me - they are not my passion and calling in life – they are tasks that must be addressed, and they will be. My concern and what I pray about constantly, is the professionals of public safety and our soldiers that sacrifice their own safety and lives daily to protect us all from the wolves of the world. While certainly I have felt this way for years and have lived and voiced it time and again, it could not have hit home more than this week as I know how real this became to the

Bedwell family in Decatur County and all the LEOs that had the pleasure of working with such a truly dedicated officer...Decatur County Deputy Justin Bedwell. Late Saturday evening I heard about the incident as it was going on and that Deputy Bedwell had suffered a serious shooting injury. On Monday, I received the news that Justin had passed away and my heart sunk. I quickly focused on the tragedy that his entire family has suffered and the fact that their entire world was now turned upside down and would never be the same again. True tragedy comes in many forms and we as humans often fail to recognize the magnitude of it on the families, friends and co-workers affected by it. The Death of loved ones is always tragic, especially when its unexpected or worse at the hand of a senseless criminal act. My prayers go out to the Bedwell family and all the millions of families who have suffered these type losses in their lives. Nothing can prepare us for that type of shock, and nothing can be said that will ever put it to rest. True public safety heroes never go to work, but rather follow the calling to protect and serve at all costs. Deputy Justin Bedwell followed his calling daily and will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

I remember a wise man telling me (after I finished a long rant over some mundane, personal, insignificant complaint I had at the time); “Buddy; there are people who would love to live your worst day”. He could not have been more on target, and I came to understand the fact that there are a lot of little problems out there that make us ill or cause us stress, but situations like this tragedy and so many others that have occurred override those little inconvenient issues and help remind me that we are far more blessed than we realize from day to day and being thankful is much more positive than being miserable, for we never know what true tragedy may await us around the next bend.

My request is that we continue to support our public safety hero’s as they continue to support and protect us every day without hesitation. The money will never be enough, and the hours will always run long, but as any true public safety hero will tell you... “It’s not a job, it’s a calling”. They deserve our respect and our moral support--- always.

Mrs. Copeland requested prayers for Chris Dix.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mrs. Knight, second by Mr. Moye to enter executive session to discuss personnel and litigation. The motion was approved.

Motion by Mr. Moye, second by Mrs. Knight to exit executive session. The motion was approved.

FA013-21 Motion by Mrs. Knight, second by Mr. Moye to hire Jeff Ezell as Animal Control Director effective April 1, 2021. The motion was approved with Mr. Prince abstaining from the vote.

REPORTS

- A. Attorney’s Report – None
- B.
- C.
- D.
- E.

RESOLUTIONS, PROCLOMATIONS, AND AGREEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Knight and second by Mr. Moye. The motion was approved.

PHILLIP DREW, CHAIR

KEITH MOYE, VICE-CHAIR

ATTEST:

JOHN WHITE, COUNTY CLERK

RAY PRINCE, COMMISSIONER

JUNE KNIGHT, COMMISSIONER

LAFAYE COPELAND, COMMISSIONER