

GRADY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING MINUTES

May 04, 2021 Meeting

The Grady County Board of Commissioners met on May 04, 2021 at 9:00 am for a regular meeting. Commissioners LaFaye Copeland, Keith Moyer, June Knight, Phillip Drew, Ray Prince, County Administrator Buddy Johnson, County Finance Director Holly Murkerson, County Clerk John White, County EMS Director Rodney Gordon and County Attorney Gabe Ridley were present.

After amending the agenda by removing FA021-21 to Approve/Disapprove Ordinance Variance Change, motion by Mrs. Knight, second by Mr. Prince to approve the agenda. The motion was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Betty Godwin, 369 Pine Park Rd

Mrs. Godwin spoke on the potential change to the Land Use Ordinance Variance. Mrs. Godwin asked that the ordinance change not be voted on today. Mrs. Godwin stated that the public does not know what the changes to the ordinance are. Mrs. Godwin stated the Ordinance is not complete as there were blanks in the ordinance. Mrs. Godwin stated that in her opinion, Motocross is a "Redneck" activity. Mrs. Godwin stated that she has been overseas and has experienced embarrassment with derogatory comments about Georgia and "Rednecks". Mrs. Godwin stated she considers "Redneck" a derogatory term. Mrs. Godwin stated the citizens should be able to provide input into the change.

Mr. Drew stated that the public will be able to have input into the ordinance change.

PRESENTATIONS

None

CORRESPONDENCE

The Calendar of Events was reviewed.

Regular Board Meeting, 05/18/2021, 6:00 pm.

CONSENT ITEMS

Motion by Mr. Moyer, second by Mrs. Copeland to approve

C026-21 Approval Regular Meeting Minutes from 04/20/2021

The motion was approved.

FORMAL ACTIONS

FA019-21 Motion by Mrs. Copeland, second by Mr. Prince to approve the Quitclaim Deed of Gift from Mr. William West and Mr. Robert Holden for a new fire station on Harrell Rd. The motion was approved.

FA020-21 Motion by Mr. Moyer, second by Mr. Prince to approve the purchase of 4 Chest Compression devices from Striker Lucas for \$65,182.88. Mr. Gordon stated that the Lucas machines were cheaper to operate and the life expectancy for the machine is 8 years, but the company will continue to service the machines after the eight years. The money will be taken from contingency. The motion was approved.

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Workshop

Mr. Johnson discussed the Sick Leave Bank policy and reviewed the proposed changes to the policy. The main component of the change is to limit the Sick Leave Bank amount to 750 hours as we must budget the money to cover this liability. The board supported the changes so it will be voted on at the next commissioners meeting.

Mr. Johnson reviewed with the board the prospect of having raises and bonuses for all county employees related to their performance evaluation and the completion of required training. Evaluations will be completed twice a year. This does not include any "Cost of Living Increases" approved by the board. The board was in favor of this action and whole heartedly supported the action.

Paving Projects

Mr. Johnson reviewed a list of roads to consider paving.

Pine Park Rd – Phase 1 (will probably be three phases)

Open Pond Rd which is underway

Mizpah Rd

Sunset Lane which Mr. Johnson states is an absolute disaster

Ridge Road

Hadley Ferry

Old Thomasville

Perry Rd to Wight Rd.

Mr. Johnson will send the list of roads for consideration to Mr. Drew and Mr. Drew will send it to the commissioners for their input and so they will be prepared to discuss at the next meeting.

Mrs. Knight asked about the hot patch machine. Mr. Johnson stated the machine is in and they will start using it next week.

Mr. Prince stated the Recreation Department is ready with the memorial for Commissioner Ronnie Hall. Mr. Prince stated his granddaughter is currently playing softball at the college level and should be finished around the first of June. Hopefully, the event will be held in June.

Mrs. Knight stated the new manned dump sites and hours need to be put in the paper along with what can be dumped. Mrs. Knight stated that she has constituents who live in Decatur County but own property and pay taxes in Grady County. Mr. Johnson stated they would only have to show their tax bill. Renters will need proof of residence as well.

Mr. Prince stated that the Lake Authority met yesterday and will leave Mr. Binion's hours at 40 hours per week. Mr. Prince stated that Mr. Binion will still be on call for the weekends, and someone will cover for him if he is out of town. Mr. Prince stated that people will need to let Mr. Binion know if they plan to have a tournament at the lake as traffic on the lake is increasing.

Mrs. Copeland asked how the Lake Authority was moving with the RV Park. Mr. Johnson stated that was part of the ABM plan.

County Administrator's Report

- ABM continues to roll in the right direction. The Engineer and others visited the lake last week and toured the three landings to gather ideas and options. Mr. Binion, Chairman Drew, and I joined them. July is still on target for Mr. Han's suggestions and recommendations to the Lake Authority and ABM.
- Paving of Open Pond Road is moving along. Most of the roadway has been stripped and the base is down. Asphalt will be coming soon.
- I toured the county looking at several roads throughout. No shock that most need moderate repair and several as we know, need serious attention. We will continue to hit these systematically based on immediate needs and funding allocations. Both are lining up well at this point. Patience please as this will take time, but it will happen.
- Whigham trash site is open. All outlying unmanned sites are closed. Stanley is still having to pick up litter at the old sites. We have notified the sheriff's office to patrol these areas. We will also look at fencing options over time for the old sites. We remind folks that curbside pick-up is available if desired in Grady County. There are 5 manned sites available otherwise.
- o Also want to remind everyone that we are still taking white and brown goods at our manned sites. Most counties without landfills are moving away from that option. We want to continue this service as long as possible.
- We are approaching budget prep time. We urge all County Offices and Directors to begin looking at their 2022 needs and wants. The Commissioners, Holly, and I have been very accommodating with unexpected expenses this year as it was a new process last year for everyone to learn and the Finance Department as a whole, has done a great job with working the few bugs out in that process. That said, we will need everyone to get their crystal ball shined up and look for the pitfalls and expenses ahead of time. Non-emergency expenses and projects will likely be denied in 2022 if not budgeted ahead of time. Just a fair, heads up to all.

o Budget requests will be considered and the Board, myself and Mrs. Murkerson will determine what needs are paramount and affordable. We highly recommend that any project or items brought to us for consideration have a budgetary plan of action proposition with them. In other words, give us your ideas on how to adjust your budget to pay for your wants and needs.

- Finally. Fishing is great right now at Tired Creek Lake. In last two months- 13+ lbs. bass caught! 14.6 lbs. bass caught! 27 lbs. win in a three bass max tournament (catch and release), two 9+ plus lbs. bass in last weekend’s tournament. Bream and specs everywhere. This is what we know of.

Let’s get to fishing folks!

Tax Assessors met with all local government representatives to discuss several needs they have coming up in the next year. It was very informative and a good collaborative conversation with all the stakeholders they service. More to come.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mr. Prince, second by Mrs. Knight to enter Executive Session to discuss property and litigation. The motion was approved.

Motion by Mrs. Knight, second by Mr. Moye to exit Executive Session. The motion was approved.

FA021-21 Motion by Mr. Moye, second by Mr. Prince to authorize Attorney Ridley to prepare the documents necessary to reconvey the right of way that the county acquired back to Tirrell Investments, Guy Johnson, Lynn Johnson, and Dennard Campbell as improvements to this stretch of road will not be made with this project. The motion was approved.

Mr. Johnson made the statement that “red neck” is a derogatory term, and this board does not think Motocross are “rednecks”. Mr. Johnson stated as a matter of fact that the people associated with the Motocross are some of the nicest people he has met. Mrs. Godwin’s opinion is her opinion and is not reflective of how this board feels. All Commissioners agreed with Mr. Johnson’s comments and denounced Mrs. Godwin’s remarks regarding “rednecks”.

REPORTS

- A. Attorney’s Report – None
- B. Recreation

RESOLUTIONS, PROCLOMATIONS, AND AGREEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

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

ATTEST:

JOHN WHITE, COUNTY CLERK

PHILLIP DREW, CHAIR

KEITH MOYE, VICE-CHAIR

RAY PRINCE, COMMISSIONER

JUNE KNIGHT, COMMISSIONER

LAFAYE COPELAND, COMMISSIONER

