**Jasper County Board of Commissioners**

**May 4, 2020**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**6:00 P.M.**

Comm. Henry called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Chairman, Carl Pennamon, Vice-Chairman, Bruce Henry, Don Jernigan, Gerald Stunkel, and Doug Luke.

Staff Present: Mike Benton, County Manager and County Attorney, David Ozburn.

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Invocation:** District 1- Commissioner Carl Pennamon

**Agenda Approval:** Commissioner Jernigan motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Luke seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Consent Agenda:**

**Approval of Minutes:**

Commissioner Pennamon made the motion to approve the Minutes of February 24, 2020 as presented. Commissioner Jernigan seconded; passed unanimously.

Commissioner Pennamon made the motion to approve the Minutes of March 2, 2020 as presented. Commissioner Jernigan seconded; passed unanimously.

Commissioner Pennamon made the motion to approve the Minutes of March 16, 2020 as presented. Commissioner Jernigan seconded; passed unanimously.

**Check Register:**

Commissioner Luke made motion to approve the check register which included Check #’s 57708-58235 for payment, Commissioner Stunkel seconded; passed unanimously.

Public Hearing: None

**Commissioner’s Items:**

**Commissioner Luke-** Commissioner Luke requested a State of the County regarding COVID-19, wanting to know if there are any employees on quarantine, etc. Mr. Benton noted that we have had 2 employees to test, both were negative. He stated that you have a chance to go out to Pitts Chapel Bridge and take a look, it’s looking nice.

**Commissioner Jernigan**-Commissioner Jernigan asked for an update on Sugarhill, Jones, Dumas, Fullerton Phillips Roads, and Cedar Creek Bridge some of these were done by contractors. Mr. Benton gave an update for these areas. Sugar Hill and Jones Roads are almost complete. There are two areas on Dumas Road that needs repair. The contractor for Fullerton Phillips Road said that he would guarantee the repair of the asphalt once the underlying issue is taken care of by the Public Works Department. Jordan Engineer took a look at it and said that the repairs will have to go deeper. The Cedar Creek Bridge will be a part of the State Bridge project and he expects an update in June. Mr. Benton stated that they are starting interviews for candidates for the Ag agent position.

**Commissioner Pennamon-** Commissioner Pennamon stated that trash service is not picking up anything on the outside of the cans due to Corona Virus. He would like to make citizens aware of this via the website and Facebook. He received a request from Monticello Kart Racing (MKR) for use of the Rubber Tire Roller packer equipment. He stated that he has also been asked why we having open meetings and the Board of Education is having open meetings.

**Commissioner Stunkel-** None

**Commissioner Henry-** Commissioner Henry stated that if nothing changes with State of Emergency mandates we will have open meetings after May 13th.

Presentations/Delegations:

Regular Agenda:

**Item 1: Board of Assessors Appointment:** Chairman Henry stated that we have one position to fill on the board and Mr. Taylor is the only person to apply. Commissioner Jernigan motioned to appoint Mr. Lioinel Taylor to position 3 for the unexpired term which ends May 30, 2021. Commissioner Luke seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 2: Development Authority of Jasper County Board Appointments:** Chairman Henry gave instructions how to choose the candidates for the open positions. Commissioner Pennamon motioned to appoint Jan Gaston, Jeff Greeson, Jon Parrish, and Sam Kelly to two year terms on the Development Authority of Jasper County Board. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Commissioner Pennamon motioned to appoint Steve Jordan, Pam Mayer, and Robby Kelly to a four-year terms on the Development Authority of Jasper County Board. Stunkel seconded to motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 3: Family Connection FY2020 Contract Budget Amendment**: Mr. Benton explained that the Family Connection budget was cut at the beginning of the year by $2,000. The State of Georgia has restored their budget. The director is asking Jasper County as the Fiscal agent to restore that budget. Commissioner Pennamon motioned to approve Budget Amendment #2020.05.04A. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 4: Senior Center Budget Amendments:** Mr. Benton explained that the Senior Center has received an increase in their budget by the NEGRC by $4,900. Commissioner Luke motioned to approve the Senior Center budget amendment for the AAA Revenue $4,900. Mr. Benton stated that there was an addition to the budget of $4,574 for transportation. Commissioner Pennamon seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Commissioner Luke motioned to approve the Senior Center budget amendment for Transportation for $4,574. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 5: UGA Cooperative Extension – Memorandum of Understanding:** Chairman Henry stated that we have always share the cost of the Extension Agent, UGA is now asking the county to help with the cost of the Coordinator. They have given us several options to move forward. Mr. Benton explained that the MOU is about who the personnel belongs to. It doesn’t really deal with the actual cost.

**Item 6: Jasper Memorial Hospital Request for Patient Transport Reimbursement**: Chairman Henry stated that Jan Gaston came before him to ask for reimbursement for transportation. He read her request to the board. Commissioner Luke stated that whatever we do we should come up with a plan for now and going forward. Mr. Benton stated that until last year we did not have a contract with anyone. Commissioner Pennamon motioned to table the discussion regarding the Jasper Memorial Hospital request for patient transport reimbursement. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 7: FY 2021 Budget Discussion:** Mr. Benton explained that we had two budget looks, one cutting the budget and the other keeping it the same as 2020. The 2020 is $11,184,435. The amount for the cut budget is $10,758,160. That is a 3.8% cut from the current budget. The revenue side deals with advalorem, millage rates, rollback, and rollback minus half mil, current rate -2 mil and current rate -1.5 mil. The 3.8% cut is across the board. We usually use 95% as our collection rate. Commissioner Stunkel stated that we have not seen this type situation in the past and we have to be more aggressive in our estimates of how our county will be affected. Commissioner Jernigan stated that he thinks we will see the biggest impact further down the road. He stated that he has been tracking the unemployment rate for Jasper County. The unemployment rate for Jasper County is at 242 currently. Commissioner Pennamon stated that if we cut money have to cut services. He stated that he would like for us to be able to use Fund Balance for any possible shortfall. Mr. Benton stated that on the budget cut layout he shows a collection reduction of 5%. Commissioner Luke stated that he is a big fan of freezing property taxes from last year. He stated that we could make budget cuts on paper but it never takes place.

**County Attorney Items:** Attorney Ozburn requested an executive session for potential future real estate acquisition.

**County Manager Items**: Mr. Benton gave an update on the courthouse renovation.

**Citizens Comments:** Commissioner Stunkel read a statement from the Facebook Live where the resident asked if there is an indigent care fund.

**Executive Session:**

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to go into Executive session at 7:36 p.m. to discuss potential real estate acquisition. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stunkel, passed unanimously.

Commissioner Pennamon motioned to exit the Executive session at 7:58 p.m. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Adjourn:

Commissioner Pennamon motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

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Bruce Henry, Chairman

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Sharon Robinson, Clerk