**Jasper County Board of Commissioners**

**June 8, 2020**

**Called Meeting Minutes**

**6:00 P.M.**

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

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

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

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Invocation:** Reverend Jimmy Horton, Springfield Missionary Baptist Church

**Agenda Approval:**

Commissioner Pennamon motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Luke seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Commissioner’s Items:**

**Commissioner Luke-** Commissioner Luke asked County Manager about the letter to Newton County regarding the bridge.

**Commissioner Pennamon-** Commissioner Pennamon stated that he is concerned about the number of EMTs that we have.

Regular Agenda:

**Item 1: FY 2021 Employee Health Insurance Program:**

Mr. Kelly Fox stood before the board to present updated quotes of options for the Employee Health Insurance. He explained the option of National General which has a TLO (Terminal Liability Option). This is a fee that you would pay when you leave them as a carrier.

Commissioner Pennamon motioned to keep the ABA insurance for county employees and use the Medicare option for the employees that are eligible. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 2: FY 2021 Budget Work:**

Chairman Henry explained the information that is being presented to the board.

Mr. Benton stated that the revenue is trending in the right direction.

Chairman Henry presented the information that the Tax Commissioner previously presented for an increase in her budget. She is asking for IT services and a funds to fund an additional full-time staff.

Mr. Benton stated that within the past week HR Director found out that the State of GA has reworked Constitutional Officers pay scales.

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to increase the Tax Commissioner’s budget to $251,202. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Commissioner Pennamon motioned to approve the Magistrate budget of $134,747. No second on the motion, so it failed.

Commissioner Stunkel stated that some of the numbers need to be revised. Commissioner Pennamon offered another motion to approve the Magistrate budget of $127,241. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed 4-1 with Commissioner Luke opposing.

Mr. Benton stated that the revised increased request from Fire Rescue is $67,275. This will allow for $1 increase for hourly employees. Commissioner Pennamon ask if we want to disturb our workforce by giving only one department a raise.

Commissioner Luke motioned to increase the Fire Rescue budget by $67,275 for a total of $1,2069,045. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed 4-1 with Commissioner Pennamon opposing.

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to increase the Sheriff’s budget by $56,521.87. This breaks down to Sheriff Dept. - $38,977.66, Jail- $14,441.01, and Courthouse security- $3,103.20 which is a 3% pay increase for the employees of these departments. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed 4-1. Pennamon opposed.

The board discussed the County Extension Service. Chairman Henry read highlights from the email from Mr. Smith. They are asking that we pay $10,000 and next year it will be $15,000.

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to approve the County Extension budget of $106,721 and to be revisited after we hear from Butts County about the possible Ag agent and from the BOE on whether they will help with the costs. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jernigan, passed 3-2. Luke and Pennamon opposed.

The board discussed the request for the Planning and Zoning department. Director Shane Sealy’s main goal is to have an increase to cover an Admin Specialist for his office. His revised request is for $37,732 for the position and insurance.

Commissioner Pennamon motioned to approve the Planning and Zoning budget for $235,719. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

The board discussed the Jasper Memorial Hospital request. Chairman Henry stated that in the past they have been given an amount based on the millage rate. This year they are asking for a specific dollar amount of $436,000.

Commissioner Luke motioned to approve the hospital rollback rate of .808. Commissioner Pennamon seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Jasper Memorial is also asking for $14,000 for patient transport for patients that do not have insurance or ability to pay. This is an estimate for future patients. They also asked for $15,886.13 for the past year Feb 2019-April 2020.

Commissioner Luke motioned that we pay the transport bills as they come in for the amount of up to $14,000 from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 from Fund Balance. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Commissioner Pennamon motioned to pay the $15,886.13 for the Jasper Memorial transport from the current Fund Balance. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed 3-2. Henry and Luke opposed.

Chairman Henry spoke about the request from the Chamber of Commerce. There are brochures to be printed and an invoice that is almost 20 years old.

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to approve the Chamber of Commerce budget of $44,000. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

The board discussed the Debt Services which will have an increase of $42,882.

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to approve the Debt Services. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

The total budget for the 2021 Fiscal Year is $11,362,180. Chairman Henry stated that we expect an addition to fund balance of $236,053.

Commissioner Pennamon motioned to approve the FY2021 budget for $11,362,180. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Commissioner Pennamon offered another motion that we enter the revenue at 94% collection rate and any difference up to $500,000 comes from Fund Balance. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**County Attorney Items:**

**County Manager Items**: None

**Citizens Comments:**

Commissioner Stunkel read the comments from citizens on Facebook. One commented about the sound. The other commented about the Board of Education paying part of the Extension Office salary.

**Executive Session:** None

Adjourn:

Commissioner Pennamon motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

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Bruce Henry, Chairman

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Sharon Robinson, Clerk