**Jasper County Board of Commissioners**

**June 1, 2020**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**6:00 P.M.**

Comm. 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, Administrative Services Director, and David Ozburn, County Attorney.

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Invocation:** District 3- Commissioner Don Jernigan

**Agenda Approval:**

Commissioner Pennamon motioned to approve the agenda with one change, move HR report to before DFCS Board appointment. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Consent Agenda:**

**Approval of Minutes:**

Commissioner Jernigan made the motion to approve the Minutes of April 20, 2020 as presented. Commissioner Stunkel seconded; passed unanimously.

Commissioner Jernigan made the motion to approve the Minutes of May 4, 2020 as presented. Commissioner Stunkel seconded; passed unanimously.

**Check Register:**

Commissioner Jernigan made motion to approve the check register which included Check #’s 58236-58658 for payment, Commissioner Pennamon seconded; passed unanimously.

Public Hearing: None

**Commissioner’s Items:**

**Commissioner Luke-** Commissioner Luke asked about the Yancey Road street situation.

**Commissioner Jernigan**- Commissioner Jernigan stated that he would like to have an update on the phone system, the work on New Hope Church Road, and the Public Works equipment that is in the shop. Mr. Benton asked if he could give these reports in the County Manager section of the meeting.

Presentations/Delegations:

Regular Agenda:

**Item 1: Beer and Wine Retail License Permit- Shane One Stop:**

Mr. Shane Sealy stated that he received an application for retail beer and wine at Shane’s One Stop (application 2020-A-008) at 8541 GA Hwy 142, Shady Dale. Mr. Himani’s background check came back clean. The convenience store has been there since the 1960s.

Commissioner Pennamon motioned to approve the application 2020-A-008 for a license for retail sales of beer and wine at 8541 GA Hwy 142, Shady Dale, GA. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 2: Department of Family and Children Services Board Appointment:**

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to appoint Dr. Talmadge to the DFCS board for a five year term. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Commissioner Luke motioned to appoint Ms. Latoya Johnson to the DFCS Board for a five year term. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Commissioner Luke motioned to appoint Ms. Joan Bell to the DFCS Board for five years. Commissioner Pennamon seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 3: Conservation Subdivision Development Ordinance Update**:

Chairman Henry stated that at the November 4, 2019 Board of Commissioners meeting, the BOC approved a motion that Planning and Zoning along with the County Attorney work to protect the 2008 zoning ordinance on conservation subdivision development.

Attorney Ozburn stated that he has a draft that he is sending over to P&Z Director Shane Sealy within the next few days. He also asked that a temporary moratorium be placed on conventional subdivisions applications until an ordinance is back in place. Any new applications would fall into the current ordinance. He stated that he is drafting the amendment to the ordinance. He stated that now would be the time to make any other additional changes to the ordinance as well.

Chairman Henry stated that the current ordinance requires 40% green space. He stated that he feels that will discourage development.

Mr. Sealy stated that the P&Z board will meet later in May. Commissioner Pennamon stated that if the board has an idea of how much green space they would like to set a green space requirement. He suggested 15-20%. Commissioner Stunkel suggested 20-25%.

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to change the green space requirement in the conservation ordinance to twenty percent. Commissioner Pennamon seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Commissioner Luke motioned to present a temporary moratorium until a proper vote can be taken and changes made with the suggested changes for the conservation subdivision not to exceed July 30, 2020. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed 4- 1 with Commissioner Pennamon opposing.

Commissioner Pennamon stated that with June 30th being the deadline will not allow enough time. Attorney Ozburn discussed the process for approving the change.

**Item 4: Human Resources and Board Appointment Report:**

HR Director Sharon Robinson gave the Human Resources report for February 2020-May 2020.

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to advertise for vacancies on all boards. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stunkel, passed unanimously.

**Item 5: FY 2020 3rd Quarter Financial Report:**

Finance Director Dennis Pate delivered the third quarter financial report. Total General Fund Revenue ended the third quarter with $10,557,756 in revenues and $8,168,295 in expenditures. He stated that many of the revenue lines are at the budgeted amounts. There are a couple shortfalls, Paytel from the Jail and Animal Control. The total General Fund Expenditures are trending at 73% overall. He stated that he will have to come back to the board for some budget amendments. LOST and SPLOST are trending up.

**Item 6: FY 2021 Budget Work**:

Mr. Benton stated that budget documents have been revised. We received the April actual collections of sales tax. The sales tax were not affected a lot by the pandemic. The newly revised revenue projection for 2021 is $10,949,636. It is greater than our current budgeted revenue but less than our actual revenue. There were five different millage rates for the board to choose. We eliminated 3 of those scenarios. He stated that the Tax Commissioner is comfortable at 94% collection rate. During the last meeting we were asked to project the FY 2020 change in Fund Balance. That projected change is $236,053. We were also asked to show the reflection of the .5 mil on tax bills.

Commissioner Jernigan requested that Mr. Benton obtain the information that shows the average assessed taxable value of home sites.

Commissioner Stunkel stated that we are looking at how much less money we will have but yet we have over $500,000 request for budget increases across the board.

Commissioners questioned the Sheriff about debt services related to his cars. Sheriff Pope stated that it would be an estimated $8,000.

Commissioner Pennamon stated that we need to have departments work their budgets into the numbers for the current budget.

Commissioner Jernigan stated that we need to get more information from the department heads. He asked if it would be misleading the public if we pass a budget of $11,184,435 and then come back and amend the whole budget. The responses was that we do this every year. We use fund balance to cover amendments all the time.

Commissioner Luke stated that this will not cost the tax payers any more. He stated that the board needs to ask department heads to come back with revised requests within one week.

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to have a called meeting to discuss the budget on June 8, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Luke seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**County Attorney Items:** None

**County Manager Items**:

Mr. Benton stated that Peach Stated Truck Centers have the exact Dump truck that was wrecked on their lot ready for sale. The extended warranty will be refunded. He stated that he would like to take the insurance proceeds of $133,777 and the warranty refund of $3,150 to purchase a brand new Dump truck that is available. He would like for $3,865 to come from SPLOST.

Commissioner Pennamon motioned to authorize the purchase of the replacement for the wrecked dump truck. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Mr. Benton stated that the bridge on Pitts Chapel Road has been completed by the DOT. Newton County is looking at what it will take to pave their side of the bridge. He would like for the board to give permission to reach out to Newton County to see what they will charge to come on the Jasper County side of the bridge and pave.

Commissioner Pennamon motioned to authorize staff to check with Newton County for an IGA proposal for paving. Commissioner Luke seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Mr. Benton stated that the courthouse exterior process is 75% complete and will be done at some point in July. He stated that the contractor noted that once he gets the steeple on, the crew will be able to bring down some of the scaffolding so that they can get the shingle roofing.

The existing phone system (Nortel) is an old system. Nortel has discontinued most of their items. We have identified some water damage to the system. For right now it is working. Mr. Benton stated that we are also looking into a new system but not ready to bring it before the board just yet. This system will be based on the fact that we now have fiber available in the courthouse.

Mr. Benton stated that the bush cutter is still in the shop at Hays Tractor. He stated that New Hope Church Road has had a lot of progress. The road should be done this week.

**Citizens Comments:**

Commissioner Stunkel read a statement from the Facebook Live where the resident stated that James Benton Road needs work.

**Executive Session:** None

Adjourn:

Commissioner Luke motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

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Bruce Henry, Chairman

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Sharon Robinson, Clerk