

**Jasper County Board of Commissioners**

**May 27, 2021**

**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, Don Jernigan, Sheila Jones and Steven Ledford

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

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Invocation:** District 4- Commissioner Gerald Stunkel

**Agenda Approval:** Chairman Henry stated that we need to add a presentation from Lynn Bentley as item #1 on the agenda. Commissioner Ledford motioned to approve the agenda with the addition. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Consent Agenda:** None

**Public Hearing:** None

**Presentations/Delegations-** None

**Citizens Comments:** None

**County Commissioner's Items:**

**Commissioner Ledford-** None

**Commissioner Stunkel-** None

**Commissioner Jernigan-** Commissioner Jernigan stated that he has heard from some of the Department heads about vehicles that have been approved to purchase. He would like for us to move forward with these purchases as soon as we can.

**Commissioner Jones-** None

**Chairman Henry-** None

**Regular Agenda:**

**Item 1: Tax Assessor's Office Vehicle:** Ms. Lynn Bentley, Tax Assessor stood before the board to present option for the tax assessor vehicle. She stated that she test drove some of the options. The Blazer and Durango were closer to the \$40,000 range, but neither were 4-wheel drives. She drove the Subaru which was cheaper but drove better. She stated that the salesman in Macon has been persistent. Mr. Benton stated that the insurance company had offer \$7,319 for the vehicle that was damaged.

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to approve the purchase of the Subaru from Subaru of Macon for a total of \$28,775 using the insurance payment and the rest coming from Fund Balance. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 2: FY 2022 Budget Discussion:** Mr. Mike Benton stated during the last budget discussion there was a difference of \$106,888 in the presented budget and the revenues. In an effort to get close to a balanced budget with some scrubbing we are at a difference of \$25,388. We reduced expenditures by \$26,500. The revenue was revised up by \$55,000.

Commissioner Stunkel asked if the Chief Magistrate ever got back to them about his office supplies. Mr. Benton stated that he did revise his request earlier.

Mr. Benton stated that the proposed budget is \$11,724,289. The projected revenue is \$11,906,585. With those numbers there was a surplus of \$182,396. There is consideration for a 3% COLA across the board. That total is \$134,809, the County Finance position \$65,224, and the Recreation part-time \$7,751.

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to approve the Finance Senior Accountant position and the Recreation seasonal part-time position. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Chairman Henry stated that he would like to see these positions advertised right away.

Commissioner Jernigan stated that he likes the idea of the 3% across the board but he feels the department heads should work with HR to make sure that it is merit based.

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to approve a 3% COLA to be distributed across the board to employees based on performance evaluations. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Chairman Henry stated that there is a request for \$3 raise for the Magistrate Admin. He stated that anyone asking for more than the 3% raise is off the table.

Commissioner Stunkel stated that under the Agencies the Public Facilities Authority is not listed with any type of funding. He would like to see some type of funding. He stated that they are working on figuring out what they will need.

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to add \$10,000 for the Public Facilities Authority to the list of Agencies. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Mr. Benton stated that the current millage is 14.533 and the rollback rate keeping the taxes the same is 13.826. The current for the hospital is .811 the rollback is .772 with no tax increase.

Mr. Benton stated that later we will be presenting for adoption a special district fire protection fee. This is recouping funds that the county paid. The fee has been \$28.63 for years.

Mr. Benton stated that we will have to adopt a curbside fee. The current fee is 151.31. Advance Disposal presented an increase of 1.7%.

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to allow immediate purchase of vehicles as long as they do not exceed the originally approved amount without going through the bid process. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**County Attorney Items: None**

**County Manager Items:**

**Executive Session:** Commissioner Stunkel motioned to go into Executive Session for potential litigation and possible land purchase. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to come out of Executive Session. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Adjourn:**

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

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Bruce Henry, Chairman

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Sheila Belcher, Administrative Specialist