

**Jasper County Board of Commissioners**  
**May 3, 2021**  
**Regular 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, Sharon Robinson, Administrative Services Director, and David Ozburn, County Attorney.

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Invocation:** District 2- Commissioner Bruce Henry

**Agenda Approval:** Commissioner Stunkel motioned to remove the Public Hearing and Business Item #4 and add Right of Way Road Trimming quotes. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Commissioner Stunkel motioned to approve the agenda with the changes. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Consent Agenda:**

**Approval of Minutes:**

Commissioner Ledford motioned to approve the minutes for:

- April 5, 2021 Regular Meeting

Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Check Register:**

Commissioner Ledford motioned to approve the check register check numbers **61161-61439**. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Public Hearing: Cancelled**

**Presentations/Delegations-**

**The Foundations of American Law & Governmental Display Presented by Lynda Brown with Ten Commandments Georgia.**

Ms. Lynda Brown of Ten Commandments of Georgia stood before the board to present about the American Law & Governmental Display. She stated that there are 9 documents that they would like to place in the courthouses throughout Georgia that are educational and informational. The documents include the Ten Commandments, Mayflower Compact, Magna Carter, Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights, Preamble to the Georgia State Constitution, Star Spangled Banner, a picture of Lady Justice, and the national motto in God we Trust. She gave some history about how Jasper County got its name. The documents are 18x24 framed. It is \$1200 for the documents. She stated that they are in over 1/3 of the counties in Georgia.

**Damian Tripp, Director of JC Travel Sports, will give a presentation on the JDC Ducks Basketball Program.**

Clint Lavaughn one of the coaches for the JC Travel Sports Basketball team spoke to the board about the basketball team. He gave some history about the program. They have been in existence for over four years. They have 3<sup>rd</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade teams and is in the process of trying to create a girls team.

#### **Four County Development Authority Presentation- Presented by Steve Jordan**

Mr. Steve Jordan of the Four County Development Authority. He asked that Shane Short and Sarah Hall to make a presentation to the county. Mr. Short stated that the Authority just closed on another property. The JDA sent money back to the four counties that invested into Stanton Springs. The JDA presented a check to the Chairman for \$695,500.

Mr. Jordan stated that the initial investment from Jasper County was \$1,070,426. The total amount that has been paid back to the county is \$1,295,586.

#### **Citizens Comments:**

**Leo Schoenith-** Mr. Schoenith stated that he did not have anything to say at the moment. He was hoping to speak about the fiber optics for Jasper County.

**Janie Morris-** Ms. Morris stated that she and her husband were present in support of the documents from Ten Commandments GA to be placed in the courthouse.

**Susan Holmes-** Ms. Holmes stood before the board. She gave kudos to the Four county JDA. She gave some updates from the State Representative's office. The GDOT has announced that they plan to pave Hwy 83 from the Monroe County Line to the City of Monticello. The truck route is scheduled to start in early fall. She stated that she would like to see the county and City of Monticello work together. Ms. Holmes also spoke about broadband throughout the county. She encouraged the board to move forward with that project.

**Lee Jordan-** Mr. Jordan stated that he would like to see big no littering sign at the beginning of Goolsby Road.

**Denise Jordan-** Ms. Jordan stood before the board. She stated that she is standing in support of the documents being place in the courthouse.

**Gail Harrell (Mayor Pro-Tem- Monticello):** Ms. Harrell stood before the board. She thanked everyone who has come out to help with trash pick-up.

#### **Commissioner's Items:**

**Commissioner Ledford-**

**Commissioner Stunkel-** None

**Commissioner Jernigan-** None

**Commissioner Jones-** None

**Chairman Henry-** Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

#### **Regular Agenda:**

**Item 1: The Foundations of American Law & Governmental Display-** Representative Holmes agreed to pay the full amount of \$1200 for the documents to be placed at the courthouse.

Commissioner Jernigan stated if we choose to put the documents in the courthouse we may open ourselves up to other religious organizations that we may not like or agree with. He stated that this doesn't mean that he is against doing it but would like to make us aware of both sides.

Commissioner Ledford motioned to approve the offer from Rep. Susan Holmes to pay the \$1200 for the Foundations of American Law & Government Display. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 2: Older Americans Month Proclamation- Senior Center:** Tracy Norton (Senior Center Director) stood before the board to ask them to proclaim May as Older American Month. She read the proclamation to the board.

Commissioner Jernigan motioned to proclaim the Month of May 2021 as Older American Month. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 3: Jasper County Water and Sewer Authority Board Appointments:** Commissioner Stunkel motioned to table the board appointments until the next meeting. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 4: General Auction- Special Use Permit Application:** Removed

**Item 5: Tax Commissioner Tax Sale Property- 24 Short Street Monticello- Parcel M05A 028:** Ms. Walsh stood before the Board to request permission to lower the bid amount on the Old Methodist Church at 24 Short Street. The starting bid amount will be \$8,615.51. She stated that she has tried to sell the property before. The lowest bid would be \$2500. Commissioner Jernigan motioned to authorize the Jasper County Tax Commissioner to lower the bid amount and release the delinquent taxes if there are not any bids for the property at 24 Short Street, Monticello. Commissioner Stunkel seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 6: Central Georgia EMC Broadband Project:** Chairman Henry stated that amount that Central GA EMC is requesting to get started is \$900,000. We have some buy in from the Board of Education but do not know exactly how much they will be able to put in just yet.

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to invest \$900,000 and work with CGEMC on payment plan to move forward with the Broadband Initiative. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Commissioner Jernigan stated that he received some calls from some of his constituents in his district that are not on Central GA EMC that expressed they don't think the county should move forward with this since all of the residents will not be able to benefit from it. He ask why haven't the county went after grants for something similar. He stated that with that said, we have to look at the bigger picture.

Commissioner Ledford asked about there being funds in the American Rescue Plan.

Chairman Henry stated that there is funding in the plan that can be used for broadband.

**Item 7: Code Enforcement IGA- City of Monticello:** The City of Monticello is requesting the Jasper County BOC to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement for Building Inspection, Code Enforcement and Court Services. Chairman Henry stated that we are not spending any money.

Commissioner Jones motioned to authorize Chairman to sign the intergovernmental agreement for Building Inspection, Code Enforcement, and Court Services with the City of Monticello. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 8: Janitorial Services Bid Results:** Ms. Sharon Robinson stood before the board to present the bids for the Janitorial services for the courthouse. The sole bidder was our current provider Wildfire Industries. The bid was \$43,200 annually for a three year contract.

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to accept and authorize Chairman to sign a 3-year contract for Janitorial Services with Wildfire Industries in the amount of \$43,200 to be paid monthly at the rate of \$3600. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 9: Pest Control Services Bid Results:** Ms. Robinson presented the bids for the Pest Control Services for the County. There were three bidders. The lowest bid came from Prime Pest for \$305 per month which is \$57 less than our current rate with Terminix.

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to accept the low bid from Prime Pest and authorize Chairman to sign a 3-year contract for the monthly amount of \$305. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 10: 2021 LMIG Bid Award:** Mr. Robert Jordan presented the 2021 LMIG bids. We received bids from two companies. There will be two roads taken care of with this award. Pintail Drive in Turtle Cove and complete Post Road (1.67). The lowest bid came from Pittman Construction. That bid was \$657,275.27.

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to award 2021 LMIG Project consisting of 1.76 miles FDR on Post Road and .16 miles Patch, Levelling and Overlay on Pintail Drive to Pittman Construction in the amount of \$657,275.27. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 11: Right of Way Road Trimming Quotes:** Chairman Henry stated that we used Benton Tree Service last year for tree trimming for Jackson Lake Road, Turtle Cove Trailway, and Whip-poor-will. Commissioner Stunkel stated that there are a lot of people who can't take their boats to the water because of the tree limbs being out so far. The board asked the County Manager to get numbers to bring back to the board, they agreed what he did last year is fine

**Item 12: FY 2022 Budget Discussion:** Mr. Benton stated that the biggest change was to change the page to reflect just the operating money. The capital Expenditures has been removed. The proposed revenues is \$11,711,001. At this time the unfunded amount is \$185,718.

Chairman Henry stated that looks like the courts have the biggest increases. Mr. Benton stated that most of those are built in increases.

Mr. Benton stated that the total increase for the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit increase to \$60,366. This covers the judges' salaries, supplements, and some other costs.

Mr. Pate stated that there is not room to not fund the request. The request includes the Indigent Defense fund. The Clerk of Courts is requesting \$8,200 for indigent defense that goes through the Probate Court.

There is a requested increase of \$11,885 for the Magistrate Court. This is fixed cost. Mr. Benton stated that we have had issues in the past with what has been turned in. Commissioner Stunkel stated that we have to require that the Magistrate Judge come in before the board to justify his budget. He stated that the board has more power than he has. Office supplies are going from \$208 to \$2500. Mr. Benton stated that in the past the Clerk of Court is no longer sharing the cost of supplies.

The Publics Works Department's largest increase come from gravel. Mr. Benton asked if the Chip Seal will be SPLOST or operating funds.

The biggest increase with Planning and Zoning is the inspection line.

With the Agencies the two largest areas is the Health Department that is asking for \$21,000. The request is for a Vision screening machine. Chairman Henry stated that should be listed under capital.

The 911 Authority is asking for \$30,000. This should be a one-time cost. This would be used for the scrutinizing of the 911 finances.

Commissioner Jernigan asked how close we are to rotating out the county vehicles regularly. Mr. Benton stated that we are coming up with a plan.

The Coroner has identified a used vehicle that he would like to purchase to replace the 1986 Suburban that he is currently using.

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to go ahead and purchase 2013 Ford Van with lift for coroner from Jefferson Funeral Home in the amount of \$16,350 using Fund Balance.

Commissioner Stunkel is going to stop by Public Works to look at the Mack.

The Tanker should be reduced down to 260K.

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to go ahead and purchase a Snapper zero turn mower from Jasper County Small Engine in the amount of \$9,400 to come out of Fund Balance. Commissioner Jernigan seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Item 13: Schedule Work Sessions and Called Meetings:** There is a Work Session scheduled for May 10<sup>th</sup>. The FY 2020 Audit will be presented as well.

**County Attorney Items:** None

**County Manager Items:**

**Executive Session:** None

**Adjourn:**

Commissioner Stunkel motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m. Commissioner Ledford seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

---

Bruce Henry, Chairman

---

Sharon Robinson, Clerk