

**MINUTES
TERRELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING**

DATE: December 7, 2021

Time: 6:00 P.M

Place: Terrell County Government Building

Commissioners and staff present: Chairman Wilbur T. Gamble, III, Ernest Johnson, Lucius Holloway, Larron Copeland, Brad Stafford, Davina Driver, Sandra O'Stean, Kenna Pate, Attorney Jimmy Skipper

Others present: Bo Hamby, Amrish Patel, Christie Cooper, Darlene Paul, Janice Bryant, Seth McAllister, Linda Freeman, Eddie Owens, Mihir Patel, Himrushmi Patel, Shawn O'Connor-Veazie, Joe Durham, David Peeler, Brad Hinson, Erwin Thomas, Hapil Angira

Call to order: Chairman Wilbur T. Gamble, III

Prayer: Commissioner Lucius Holloway

Approval of Agenda: *Brad Stafford made the motion to amend the agenda to add an EMA issue for discussion and to approve the agenda. Ernest Johnson gave the second. All in favor of amending the agenda and approving the same were Brad Stafford, Ernest Johnson, Lucius Holloway, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried.*

Approval Minutes of November 2, 2021 regular meeting: - *Brad Stafford made the motion to approve the November 2, 2021 minutes. Ernest Johnson gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Ernest Johnson, Lucius Holloway, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried.*

Chairman's Report: - Chairman Gamble reported a settlement with the insurance company in the amount of \$100,000 had been agreed upon for repairs to the historical courthouse. The monies will be used for roof repair and inside improvements.

Recognition of D. U. Pullum, Jr for years of service to Zoning & Planning Board – Zoning Director Martha Ann Coe expressed words of gratitude to D. U. Pullum, Jr. for his 31 years of service to Terrell County Zoning and Planning Board. Chairman Gamble presented Mr. Pullum with a plaque. Mr. Pullum addressed the Board and the audience regarding his service and resignation.

Administrator's Report: Bank balances, Vendor Activity, CI bank accounts, CDBG Funds, Update on Courthouse were presented by Davina Driver.

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Chairman Gamble read a proposal for using CARES funds to reward employees with one-time bonus with amount based on years of service. - ***Brad Stafford made the motion to approve the proposed employee one-time bonus to be paid from the CARES funds. Ernest Johnson gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Ernest Johnson, Lucius Holloway, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried.***

Administrator Davina Driver presented a proposal for allocating funds of the American Relief Program (ARP) – ***Ernest Johnson made the motion to approve the proposal for ARP fund allocations. Lucius Holloway gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Ernest Johnson, Lucius Holloway, Brad Stafford, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried.*** Mrs. Driver gave a time line for the Community Development and Building Grant (CDBG) awarded to the County.

Clerk's Report: The fuel report was presented by Sandra O'Stean. There was no jail report available.

EMS/911/EMA Report: Bo Hamby expressed appreciation for the new truck for his department. He requested approval of Air E-vac to teach CPR classes to courthouse employees at a cost of \$150 for the instructor fee and card fee at \$25 each. ***Brad Stafford made the motion to approve Air E-vac to teach CPR class and pay the associated fees. Larron Copeland gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Larron Copeland, Lucius Holloway, and Ernest Johnson. The motion carried.*** Mr. Hamby reported that an employee in the 911 department tested positive for COVID and had to be in quarantine fourteen (14) days. This employee has no insurance, no benefits, and no other income. He asked the Board to give consideration to pay for the time that the employee is required to be in quarantine. ***Ernest Johnson made the motion to approve fourteen (14) days' pay for this employee based on the number of hours she normally works and that each future case that is COVID related has to come before the Board for decision. Larron Copeland gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Ernest Johnson, Larron Copeland, Lucius Holloway, and Brad Stafford. The motion carried.*** The EMA grant issue was presented by Ernest Johnson. Mr. Johnson stated the recent EMA grant had been presented to the Board as one to be used to pay the director's salary and this was found not to be the case. The grant expired June 30, 2021. Discussion followed as to how the grant was obtained and what the purpose of the grant was for. ***Ernest Johnson made the motion to pay the EMA Director ten (10) months' pay due to a previous decision by the Board to pay the director salary from this grant. Lucius Holloway gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Ernest Johnson, Lucius Holloway, Brad Stafford, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried.***

Extension Service Report: Seth McAllister gave the crop report and a written extension report was submitted.

Road Department Report: Jason Webb gave the road activity report and led discussion of roads being damaged by logging crews and the need to increase logging bonds. County attorney Jimmy Skipper stated that the State limits certain requirements placed on timber harvesting. ***Attorney***

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Skipper was asked by the Chairman to follow up with the recent laws and report back next month the findings.

Warden's Report: - Richard Kilby reported that a mobile crew is available now through February and can assist with repairs to the inside of the historical courthouse.

Fire Department: A written report was submitted.

Delinquent Garbage Report: Sandra O'Stean gave the garbage report.

Delinquent Tax Report and forgiveness of penalty and interest on tax bill: Christie Cooper reported that intent to levy letters had been sent out. She informed the Board that a tax bill for 2020 was not sent out to new owner Ryan Martin and he was asking for forgiveness of penalty and interest in the amount of \$ 173.74. ***Brad Stafford made the motion to approve forgiveness of penalty and interest in the amount of \$173.74 on property purchased by Ryan Martin. Ernest Johnson gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Ernest Johnson, Larron Copeland, and Lucius Holloway. The motion carried.***

Sheriff's Report: A written report was submitted.

Recreation Department Report: A written report was submitted. Discussion followed regarding the poor conditions of the facility and the need for a director. ***Larron Copeland made the motion to approve hiring Ryan Richardson as Director at \$1,000 a month salary. Ernest Johnson gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Larron Copeland, Ernest Johnson, Lucius Holloway, and Brad Stafford. The motion carried.***

Chamber of Commerce – A written report was submitted. New director Sean O'Connor-Veazie introduced himself to the Board and the audience.

OLD BUSINESS:

2022 Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG) road list and Professional assistance proposals – A discussion was heard regarding surface treatment versus asphalt paving. Chairman Gamble read the current ongoing list of roads for improvements. ***Larron Copeland made a motion to approve the addition of George Jennings Rd and West Lee St to the LMIG and to submit entire living road list to GDOT for grant consideration. Brad Stafford gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Larron Copeland, Brad Stafford, Lucius Holloway, and Ernest Johnson. The motion carried.*** The Commissioners reviewed two (2) proposals received for professional services to assist with the LMIG

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process. SOWEGA Engineering of Dawson proposal was for a fee not to exceed 6.75% of the construction cost and Still Waters of Lee County proposal was for 6% of the project cost. **Larron Copeland made the motion to hire professional services at an hourly rate and to approve Still Waters as the project engineering firm. Ernest Johnson gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Larron Copeland, Ernest Johnson, Lucius Holloway, and Brad Stafford. The motion carried.**

Quote for AC change out at Chamber of Commerce- Three (3) proposals were received and reviewed. Gill Heating and Cooling of Dawson proposal was for \$6,825, Leesburg Air of Leesburg proposal was \$6,500, and Dougherty County Heating and Cooling of Albany proposal was \$7,599.51. **Ernest Johnson made the motion to approve the Gill Heating & Cooling quote of \$6,825 to change out the unit at the Chamber of Commerce. Larron Copeland gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Ernest Johnson, Larron Copeland, Lucius Holloway, and Brad Stafford. The motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS:

Reappointment of David Peeler to Tax Assessor Board – Ernest Johnson made the motion to approve the Tax Assessor Board’s recommendation to appoint David Peeler as member. Larron Copeland gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Ernest Johnson, Larron Copeland, Lucius Holloway, and Brad Stafford. The motion carried.

Reappointment and new appointment to Zoning Board – Ernest Johnson made the motion to approve the Zoning Board’s recommendation to reappoint Al Breedlove to their Board and to appoint Van Phillips to fill the unexpired term of D. U. Pullum, Jr. (one year) on their Board. Lucius Holloway gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Ernest Johnson, Lucius Holloway, Larron Copeland, and Brad Stafford. The motion carried.

Approve alcohol licenses – Brad Stafford made the motion to approve the off-premise beer and wine retail sales for S K Food located at 1232 Columbus Hwy. Ernest Johnson gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Ernest Johnson, Larron Copeland, and Lucius Holloway. The motion carried. Brad Stafford made the motion to approve off-premise beer and wine retail sales for ABC Package located at 1234 Columbus Hwy. Ernest Johnson gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Ernest Johnson, Lucius Holloway, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried. Brad Stafford made the motion to approve off-premise beer and wine retail sales for Boomerang Food & Fuel located at 1920 Albany Hwy. Ernest Johnson gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Ernest Johnson, Lucius Holloway, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried. Brad Stafford made the motion to approve off-premise beer and

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wine retail sales for Kountry Corner Convenience Store located at 8125 Albany Hwy. Ernest Johnson gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Ernest Johnson, Larron Copeland, and Lucius Holloway. The motion carried. Brad Stafford made the motion to approve off-premise distilled spirits for Kountry Corner Liquor Store located at 8127 Albany Hwy. Ernest Johnson gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Ernest Johnson, Larron Copeland, and Lucius Holloway. The motion carried.

Approve appointment of Clerk as County Legislative Coordinator with ACCG- *Brad Stafford made the motion to reappoint Sandra O'Stean to serve as the County's legislative coordinator with ACCG. Larron Copeland gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Brad Stafford, Larron Copeland, Lucius Holloway, and Ernest Johnson. The motion carried.*

Appointments to Southwest Georgia Regional Council Board (SWGRC) - *Ernest Johnson made the motion to approve submitting to the municipalities for their approval Douglas Powell as the County's private sector member to serve on the SWGRC Board. Brad Stafford gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Ernest Johnson, Brad Stafford, Lucius Holloway, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried.*

At this time, Chairman Gamble amended the agenda to allow discussion of reimbursement of mileage to Judge Linda Freeman for travel to first appearance hearings at the County Jail. She will turn in a report with date and time in order to get reimbursements. *Ernest Johnson made the motion to reimburse Judge Freeman for mileage based on the report that she will turn in. Lucius Holloway gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Ernest Johnson, Lucius Holloway, Brad Stafford, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried.*

Judge Freeman asked to speak to the Board of Commissioners about retirement. *Chairman Gamble stated he will discuss the matter further with Judge Freeman at a later time.*

Old Field Road issues – Erwin Thomas requested crowning and ditching on Old Field Road and agreed to meet with Jason Webb on the matter at a later time. Mr. Thomas reported that a 50 ft. ravine is being used as dump site on Schoolhouse Road. Discussion followed regarding monitoring the area by code enforcement.

Holt Road issues – Larron Copeland and Martha Ann Coe reported the need to remove Holt Road from the list of County roads. Holt Road is nonexistent and is actually a private driveway off of Goodman Road. The resident affected by this change has been notified of the correct Goodman Road address. *Ernest Johnson made the motion to delete Holt Road from the list of County maintained roads and report this to Georgia Department of Transportation. Larron Copeland gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Ernest Johnson, Larron Copeland, Lucius Holloway, and Brad Stafford. The motion carried.*

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Sale of County property 693 Pat Whatley Rd – Ernest Johnson made the motion to approve the filing of the deed, closing the bar right of redemption, and advertising the said property for sale. Lucius Holloway gave the second. Those in favor of the motion were Ernest Johnson, Lucius Holloway, Larron Copeland, and Brad Stafford. The motion carried.

Bo Hamby announced he had hired new EMTs and asked everyone to introduce themselves when they see the new employees.

Adjourn- Ernest Johnson gave the motion to adjourn the meeting. Brad Stafford gave the second. All in favor of the motion were Ernest Johnson, Brad Stafford, Lucius Holloway, and Larron Copeland. The motion carried.

Respectively submitted by: *Sandra O'Stean*, *County Administrator*
Sandra O'Stean County Clerk

Approved by: *Wilbur T. Gamble, III*
Wilbur T. Gamble, III Chairman

Date: *January 4, 2022*