

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

Date: April 12, 2022
Time: 6:00 P.M
Place: Terrell County Government Building

Commissioners and staff present: Wilbur T. Gamble, III, Larron Copeland, Ernest Johnson, Brad Stafford, Sandra O'Stean, Kenna Pate, Mechelle Miller

Others present: Bo Hamby, Seth McAllister, Jeff Hanner, Ezekiel Holley, Eddie Owens, Elaine Nealy, Albert Crumbley, Margaret Halbrook, Pat Bessey, Ed Wade, Shawn O'Connor, Ridgely Mu'Min, Amanda Pickin, Wayne Melton, John L. Gardner, Lolita Davis

Call to order: Chairman W. T. Gamble, III

Prayer: Chairman Gamble

Approval of Agenda: *Ernest Johnson made the motion to approve the April 12, 2022 agenda. Larron Copeland gave the second. Motion carried.*

Approval Minutes of March 1, 2022 regular meeting and Executive meeting February 1, 2022 – Ernest Johnson made the motion to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2022 regular meeting and the minutes of the February 1, 2022 Executive session. Brad Stafford gave the second. Motion carried.

Chairman's Report: Martha Ann Coe was recognized for her 25 years of service.

Land bank – Chairman asked the Board to consider establishment of a land bank for properties that are bought or can be bought from the delinquent tax sales that no one else will buy. The City of Dawson is in agreement to partner and pay fifty percent (50%) of the costs. The Land Bank will consist of a group of selected citizens who will manage these properties. *Brad Stafford made the motion for Attorney Skipper to begin preparing the documents to create a Land Bank. Ernest Johnson gave the second. Motion carried.*

Clerk's Report: **Bank statements, Vendor activity, Fuel report, Jail Count. Audit status** - Sandra O'Stean presented the monthly reports.

EMS/911/EMA Report: Bo Hamby submitted a written report. Mr. Hamby asked if he could go ahead at this time and discuss the two (2) items tabled from the March 1, 2022 meeting which are listed on the agenda as old business. The Board allowed the request. He presented a quote from Stryker for two (2) LUCAS chest compression systems at a cost of \$ 25,420.36. This will be paid from C.A.R.E.S funding. *Brad Stafford made the motion to purchase the two LUCAS devices for EMS at the cost of \$25,420.36. Ernest Johnson gave the second. Motion carried.* Mr. Hamby also gave the regulations and specifications for the helicopter pad to be established at the airport which was discussed at the February 1, 2022 meeting. The only cost involved, if the Correctional Institution inmate detail is used, will be the cost of the paint. *Ernest Johnson made the motion to proceed with the establishment of the helicopter pad using the inmate work detail as much as possible and hiring other resource if they cannot do the job. Larron Copeland gave the second. Motion carried.*

Extension Service Report: Seth McAllister gave crop report and extension and 4-H activities for February.

Chamber of Commerce: Shawn O'Conner-Veazie

Minutes of April 12, 2022 regular Commissioners' meeting continued

Road Department Report: Jason Webb submitted a written report. *The Board requested more assistance in filling positions for equipment operators.*

Warden's Report: Richard Kilby submitted a written report. He was absent due to attending training. The clerk presented information regarding a CI transport van that was recently damaged. A claim had been submitted to the ACCG insurance management. An adjuster submitted a repair estimate for \$7,065.75. The deductible is \$5,000. *Ernest Johnson made the motion to check the Government website for possible vehicle replacement and also check with the insurance company and negotiate the repairs if the Warden wants the van fixed.*

Fire Department: Edward Harvey submitted a written report. Chief Harvey reported on the annual pump test recently performed on the County fire trucks. Two fire trucks failed the tests, two trucks are out of service, and there is a need for a replacement truck. Mr. Overby, truck technician, gave information on a 3,000 gallon tanker fire truck that is available in Valdosta, Georgia for a cost of approximately \$ 350,000. Paul Fryer, field representative from Congressman Sanford Bishop's office, gave information on available grants that would help with the costs of fire trucks if application is approved. *Ernest Johnson made the motion to table the matter in order to check on possible grant funds and to look into the matter a little more in detail. Brad Stafford gave the second. Motion carried.*

Delinquent Garbage Report: Sandra O'stean presented the report.

Delinquent Tax Report: Mandy Cooper submitted a written report.

Sheriff's Report: John Bowens submitted written report.

Recreation Department Report: A written report was submitted.

OLD BUSINESS:

Helicopter pad at airport: Moved up on the agenda under EMS/911/EMA report.

LUCAS equipment for EMS: Moved up on the agenda under EMS/911/EMA report.

Closing Ernie Kennedy Road: Martha Ann Coe requested closing the section of Ernie Kennedy Road where the illegal dumping continues to be a problem. *Larron Copeland made the motion to begin the process of closing the portion of Ernie Kennedy Road, from first curve off of Hwy 118 up to next residence (Linda Mills property). Ernest Johnson gave the second. The clerk was asked to contact the county attorney to follow the legal process. Motion carried. The clean up process in order to close the road will be scheduled after legal steps are followed.*

NEW BUSINESS:

Road issues/concerns: King and Waddell Roads - Mellean Davis – *Rock is to be placed on road.*

Airstrip Road – Patricia Bessey – *Commissioners Copeland and Stafford to make a Site visit.*

Jones Mill and Pool Roads – Commissioner Copeland – *Ernest Johnson made the motion to work with the City of Dawson while they are paving Pool Road and add a couple of 100 yards of Jones Mill Road to be paved. Brad Stafford gave the second. Motion Carried.*

Minutes of April 12, 2022 regular Commissioners’ meeting continued

Closing portions of Jimmy Raines Road: Chairman Gamble – *Brad Stafford made the motion to begin process of closing section of Jimmy Raines Rd from below Waller Rd out to Hood Store Rd and section from Hwy 520 back to Hwy 45. Larron Copeland gave the second. Motion carried. The county attorney will be notified to draw up the documents and ads will be placed in the newspaper.*

Ratification of participation in National Opioids Settlement and the J&J Opioids Settlement and approve Chairman’s execution of Memorandum of Understanding between Attorney General’s Office and Terrell County: *Ernest Johnson made the motion to ratify the Chairman having signed various documents in order to participate in the opioid settlement. Larron Copeland gave the second. Motion carried.*

Resolution – Signature of Chairman – Intergovernmental Agreement with Southwest Georgia Regional Council for Grant Administration (ARPA – Broadband) – *Ernest Johnson made the motion to approve the resolution presented by the SWGRC pending review of Windstream resolution by Attorney Jimmy Skipper. Larron Copeland gave the second. Motion carried.*

Grant availability information – Golden Triangle: Rhonda Gordon- *Mrs. Gordon cancelled this item until May meeting.*

Repairs to County fire truck: Chief Edward Harvey – *Moved up on the agenda under Fire Dept report.*

Landscaping grounds around Government Building: Commissioner Copeland stated the need for gutters and drain pipes to be placed around the building to draw water from the building and also landscaping the grounds. He stated the Warden had related to him that he could do this with inmate labor. *Brad made the motion to proceed with correcting the drainage and landscaping issues. Ernest Johnson gave the second. Motion carried.*

Sale of County property – 693 Pat Whatley Rd – *Ernest Johnson made the motion to do what is necessary by law to sell the property. Brad Stafford gave the second. Motion carried.*

Executive Session – Personnel: Commissioner Johnson and Chairman Gamble – Chairman Gamble asked the Board to go into executive session at 7:30 p.m. *Ernest Johnson made the motion to enter executive session. Larron Copeland gave the second. Motion carried.*

Chairman Gamble called the regular meeting back to order. *Brad Stafford made the motion to approve the hiring of Bill Sawyer on an interim basis as County Administrator with his employment to begin Monday, April 18, 2022. Ernest Johnson gave the second. Motion carried.*

Adjourn- Meeting was adjourned.

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

Approved by: *Wilbur T. Gamble III*
Wilbur T. Gamble, III Chairman Board of Commissioners

Date: *5-3-2022*