

Twiggs County Board of Commissioners
Regular Scheduled Meeting
March 6, 2018
9:00 am

Present: Chairman Ken Fowler, Commissioners Brent DuBois, Steve Birdsong, William Bond, and Lonnie Ford

Also, present: County Administrator, Kelvin C. Lewis

Call to Order: Chairman Fowler called the meeting to order

Pledge of Allegiance: Chairman Fowler led the Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: Commissioner Ford led in Prayer

Public Comments:

Administrator Lewis introduced Mr. Mark Imbrigiotta from Southeastern Carpenters Regional Council. Mr. Imbrigiotta spoke to the Board advising he was here to represent the Southeastern Carpenters Regional Council and his involvement with the First Solar Project. His company has had a lot of success in Florida working with the energy companies to supply workforce. They have 3 training facilities in Georgia; Atlanta, Augusta and Savannah. "We actually set-up the panels and the racking and train local people and members. I met with Monte Bloodworth last week and he gave me the contact names of Steve Crump. That led me to Casey Stroud who is the preconstruction bid developer for the project and we have given him 6 local contractors who are capable of bidding on this job. We are looking forward to working with the community and putting local people to work. We do have a website, if you want to look at it. We are not a subcontractor but supply the labor. We have a collaboration with these companies. We are offering this training to the people of this community. There are 6 different levels in the training from apprentice to journeyman. You don't have to be a member to go through the training." Mr. Imbrigiotta is asking to work directly with any workforce program the county has.

Chairman Fowler advised the work on the Kaolin Heights Water System should be wrapping up soon.

Commissioner Ford states he wants to do a District 1 clean up and could potentially need the Road Department to pick up the collection trash bags. Commissioner Bond stated this was a County wide problem. Administrator Lewis will reach out to Attorney Howell to make sure we have all the bases covered as far as liability is concerned.

Approval of the Agenda:

Commissioner DuBois made a motion to approve the Agenda as stated. Motion was second by Chairman Fowler. Commissioner Bond made a motion to add River Edge Project and Solar Farm Tax, also the Operation of the 129 Collection Center, and Road Paving.

Commissioner Birdsong added \$25.00 fee for filing a Complaint for Compliance.

Commissioner DuBois made a motion to approve the Agenda with stated additions. Chairman Fowler second the motion. Motion passed by vote 5 yes (Fowler, Bond, DuBois, Ford, Birdsong)

New Business:

Employee Recognition

Commissioner Bond made a motion that we put this item on the next meeting agenda since Mr. Ezra was not able to attend.

Cell Tower Re-Evaluation

Administrator Lewis has been working with the Tax Assessor's office and we believe we have vendors on our towers who are not paying their fair share for valuation in the county. In conjunction with the Tax Assessor's Board they have put out a bid for vendors and have landed on a company to come in and do that revaluation for us here in the county with the goal being to identify all of the towers, any co-locators, and determine what proceeds should be coming into the county. We have reached an agreement with a vendor and I have that contract in place. The fees will be based on what they find. There is a flat fee with the maximum being around \$46,000.00. What would happen is once we have all those re-assessments into the digest and we have created what a valuation is. They can do this work for us in 2018 and we will see those results in 2018. They have a 90% plus track record of adding value. If they don't find any additional value then the county will have no pay out. We need direction from the Board to proceed with this work and get a more accurate digest of the reflection of what is happening in the county. Co-locaters don't report this information to the county. Administrator Lewis has consulted with Attorney Howell and he feels we are set from a legal standpoint. This company has a very high degree of success. Commissioner DuBois wanted to know if the taxes will increase for the land owner and Ms. Waters replied no, only the cell tower owners.

Commissioner Ford made a motion to approve the contract. Chairman Fowler second the motion. Commissioner DuBois asked to consult with Attorney Howell. Administrator Lewis stated Attorney Howell has already approved the contract. Commissioner Ford withdrew his motion until further discussion with Attorney Howell could take place. Ms. Waters explained the time sensitivity of this as it relates to the date the assessments will be mailed out in May. The company needs time to conduct their work and we will need time to input their findings. Administrator Lewis advised we would get Attorney Howell on the phone during Executive Session to answer any questions anyone might have.

After returning from Executive Session Commissioner DuBois to accept the contract presented with amendments. Administrator Lewis updated the Board on the amendments as follows: 50% will be paid when the data is put into the Appraisal System and the other 50% will be paid at the time of payment being rendered to the county by the impacted party. Under no circumstances should the county's expense exceed \$45,900.00. The evaluation of all cell towers is expected. I will make the amendments as stated and get the attorney's approval and then submit the contract. Commissioner DuBois made a motion to approve with the stated amendments. Motion second by Commissioner Birdsong. Motion carried by vote of 5 yes (Ford, Bond, Fowler, Birdsong, DuBois)

Drives Resolution

Administrator Lewis asked the Board to adopt a Resolution to send to Representative Epps and Senator Lucas asking them to support state budgeting to fund the new Driver Record and Integrated Vehicle Enterprise System in lieu of the county supporting this expense.

Commissioner Bond made a motion to discuss in Executive Session. Commissioner Ford second the motion. Vote is 5 yes votes (Bond, Ford, Birdsong, DuBois, Fowler)

Internet Re-Seller Sales Tax Resolution

Administrator Lewis submitted a Resolution to the Board supporting the Sales Tax Fairness legislation that will be sent to Representative Epps and Senator Lucas asking them to pass it this legislative session. This will require the internet sales companies to collect sales tax.

Commissioner Ford made a motion to approve the Resolution supporting the Sales Tax Fairness legislation, motion second by Chairman Fowler. Motion passed by vote of 4 Yes (Fowler, Birdsong, Ford, DuBois) 1 No (Bond).

Cherokee Heights Subdivision Resolution

Administrator Lewis presented a Resolution to the Board for adoption concerning the Cherokee Heights Subdivision. This Resolution will begin the process of the county acquiring the roads in the Cherokee Heights Subdivision.

Commissioner Birdsong requested that this be tabled until the March 20, 2018 meeting when Attorney Howell is present.

After Executive Session:

Commissioner Ford made a motion to adopt the Resolution to begin the process of acquiring the roads in Cherokee Heights Subdivision, motion second by Commissioner DuBois. Motion passed by unanimous vote (Ford, Bond, Fowler, Birdsong, DuBois).

Ambulance Service Update

Administrator Lewis advised the Board that the License Application has been mailed and the process has begun for Twiggs County to have its own ambulance service. It will be supported by MedPro out of Forsyth.

Board of Commissioners hires in last 24 months

Administrator Lewis presented information to the Board listing the hires that have occurred over the last 24 months and what the votes were. There is no action required at this time.

Commissioner Bond stated he had reviewed the list and stated there were some other things he wanted to put together but had no further discussion at this time.

Taxes Relating to Solar Farm

Commissioner Bond asked that this be taken up in Executive Session

OPIOD Crisis

A representative from the Clark and Smith Law Firm spoke to the Board concerning the future implications of the OPIOD impact on the people who need education surrounding the problem. These settlements will go toward treatment and preventative education. The funds will contain directions surrounding the usage of the funds received.

Commissioner Ford made a motion to adopt the Resolution to enter into a contract with the Clark and Smith Law Firm to represent Twiggs County in potential litigation against contributors of OPIOD addiction crisis. Motion second by Chairman Fowler. Motion passed by 5 yes votes (Ford, Bond, Fowler, Birdsong, DuBois)

Hwy 129 Convenience Center

Road Repair

Commissioner Bond stated he would like for the Board to invite Representative Epps to come to the meeting to speak with us on the upcoming roads to be paved. Chairman Fowler stated he would speak with Rep. Epps. Commissioner Birdsong asked how many roads were on the 2018 LMIG and how much money was approved. Chairman Fowler advised 7 and \$384,000.00.

River Edge Behavioral Center

Commissioner Bond asked the Board to consider contributing to the River Edge Program in the form of \$500.00 per year. Commissioner DuBois recommended that the county get in a current status.

Commissioner Ford made a motion that the county contribute \$500.00 to River Edge Program, motion second by Commissioner DuBois. Motion carried by unanimous vote (Bond, Ford, Fowler, Birdsong, DuBois)

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\$25.00 Collection Fee

Administrator Lewis presented the history behind the need for a fee schedule for different areas supported by the county personnel such as the Compliance Officer, filing a plat with Planning and Zoning etc. Administrator Lewis expressed the need and reasoning behind the need to justify legitimate complaints from the public. This will ultimately protect the county and the citizens.

Commissioner Bond and Chairman Fowler stated they would like to take this under consideration in a future meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from the Feb 20, 2018 meeting were presented for approval.

Commissioner DuBois made a motion to accept the minutes for Feb 20, 2018, motion second by Commissioner Bond.

Motion passed by unanimous yes vote (Ford, Bond, Fowler, Birdsong, DuBois)

Old Business:

DFACS Board Appointment

Administrator Lewis will follow up on the DFACS Board appointment.

DFACS Building

Chairman Fowler asked where we were on the testing at the DFACS building. Administrator Lewis reported that one of the pieces has come back in and that piece came back negative. It has been pushed out to the DFACS Board and everybody there so they can review it. I have asked for comments and feedback from them around the testing and I have heard nothing. That indicates to me we are good to go with that testing. We are probably 3 to 5 weeks out from getting the second report back. At that time, we can determine where we are. Just waiting on time to pass to get the data back.

Gas Pumps and Key Cards

Commissioner DuBois asked how the gas pumps and key cards were working and were we able to retrieve data on usage. Administrator Lewis gave an update to the Board that all systems were working as expected. Chairman Fowler had asked for information on a particular day and time and we were able to give him accurate real time information. Sheriff Mitchum advised his department has not had any problems.

Executive Session

Commissioner DuBois made a motion to go into Executive Session for legal, personnel, and real estate. Motion second by Commissioner Bond. Motion passed by unanimous vote (Ford, Bond, Fowler, Birdsong, DuBois).

Commissioner Ford made a motion to return to Regular Session, motion second by Commissioner DuBois. Motion passed by unanimous vote (Ford, Bond, Fowler, Birdsong, DuBois).

Oak Hill Cemetery Road

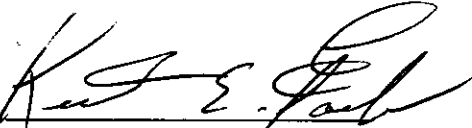
Administrator Lewis stated to the Board that the agreement was to have Attorney Howell write a letter requesting that one of the residents that has an entitlement in the road sign the Quit Claim deed and if we don't get that signature we want to authorize Attorney Howell to proceed with Eminent Domain proceedings.


Commissioner Ford made a motion to authorize Attorney Howell to proceed with Eminent Domain in the event the required signature is not obtained. Motion second by Commissioner DuBois. Motion passed by unanimous vote (Ford, Bond, Fowler, Birdsong, DuBois).

Adjourn:

Motion was made by Commissioner Ford to adjourn with second by Commissioner DuBois. Motion passed with unanimous vote (Ford, Bond, Fowler, Birdsong, DuBois).

Minutes approved March 20, 2018


Kenneth E. Fowler, Chairman


Kelvin C. Lewis, Administrator