

**Twiggs County Board of Commissioners**  
**Minutes of the Regular Scheduled Meeting**  
**Commission Chambers**  
**December 4, 2018**  
**9:00 a.m.**

**Present:** Chairman Kenneth E. Fowler, Commissioners Brent DuBois, Lonnie Ford, Steve Birdsong, William Bond, and County Administrator, Kelvin C. Lewis.

**Call to Order:** Chairman Fowler called the meeting to order

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Chairman Fowler

**Invocation:** Commissioner Ford led in Prayer

**Approval of the Agenda:**

- a. DFCS Foster Care: Lisa Bakon
- b. DFCS Building Repairs
- c. First Solar Construction Prep-Rick Backus, Will Brown, & Vincent Curry
- d. Indigent Burial Support-Roslinda R. McTaggart
- e. Transit Resolution
- f. Extension Office Lease
- g. Compensation For 2017 Furloughed Employees
- h. Tax Assessor Board Appointment
- i. Employee only signs at Road Department
- j. TAN Payoff
- k. Road repair and alignment
- l. Storm damage

Commissioner DuBois made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Ford seconded. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

*DFCS-Foster Care*

Lisa Bakon from DFCS Foster Care appeared to petition for adoption assistance. She expressed a goal of attracting foster parents within Twiggs County for displaced children. Ms. Bakon was also seeking venues for idea and information sharing. There are 22 foster children in the county. Foster parents receive a monthly per diem of \$25/day, typically, a clothing allowance, and clothing support from Atlanta. Monitoring occurs via a DFCS case manager. The BOC pledged project support.

### *DFCS Building Repairs*

Administrator Lewis indicated a malfunctioning heating and air unit at DFCS. Requested \$3000.00 replacement of a 5-ton split unit. Commissioner DuBois made a motion to approve. Commissioner Ford seconded. Unanimous approval.

### *First Solar Construction Prep-Rick Backus, Will Brown, & Vincent Curry*

Will Brown, Civil Supervisor, First Solar, discussed rehabilitation of Greater New Hope Rd. The plans are to establish a detour to avoid road closure. Site will be secured consistent with commercial construction. Citizen notification is occurring with access requiring restriction when construction movement is in process. Road will be widened by 20-30ft. back to Adam Park Rd. Commissioner Bond stressed the need to have signage indicating “temporary closure for construction” as needed to avoid traffic misunderstandings. Commissioner DuBois made a motion to approve the road improvements at First Solar’s expense. Commissioner Bond seconded. Unanimous approval.

### *Indigent Burial Support-Roslinda R. McTaggart*

Administrator Lewis shared details regarding Coroner Reece’s request for indigent burial support for Mrs. Roslinda R. McTaggart. After deliberations, motion by Commissioner Bond to disapprove. Commissioner Ford seconded. Approval by unanimous vote.

### *Transit Resolution*

Charlie Cruze, et al from Middle GA Community Action Agency appeared to discuss incident reports of inappropriate customer handling. Administrator Lewis circulated copies of a Brian’s Place incident. Mr. Cruze indicated not receiving any complaints. Chairman Fowler requested the team visit with Ms. Joyce of Advanced Health and Rehabilitation. Commissioner DuBois recommended a discussion with drivers and the Advanced Health case managers. Commissioner DuBois asked for a follow-up at the December 18 Meeting. Tammy Sosa, MGCAA Director, reiterated that concerns are taken seriously. She indicated also managing the transit program for Senior Center. Mr. Thomas, a citizen, mentioned mistreatment. Charlie Cruze gave Mr. Thomas a card and advised him to call. Chairman Fowler asked the two parties deliberate outside the meeting.

### *Extension Office Lease*

Administrator Lewis addressed the need to decide about the Extension Office lease with the Development Authority. Sheriff Mitchum expressed interest in occupying the building if available. Director Sherling indicated the need for a signed agreement prior to year-end 2018. Commissioner DuBois asked Brandon Crumsey, County Agent, about desired location improvements. Walls/partitions were mentioned. Motion by Commissioner Ford to construct a

four-corner partition at the Developmental Authority Building Suite A. Commissioner DuBois seconded. Approved by unanimous vote.

#### *Compensation For 2017 Furloughed Employees*

Commissioner Ford made a motion to authorize Attorney W. Kerry Howell to explore options for compensating 2017 furloughed employees. Seconded by Commissioner Bond. Yes-4; 1 Abstain (Fowler).

#### *Tax Assessor Board Appointment*

Commissioner DuBois made a motion to appoint Judson Herrington to the Tax Assessor Board for District 2 beginning December 8, 2018. Commissioner Ford seconded. Unanimous approval. Commissioner Bond made motion to table vote on At Large Tax Assessor Board appointment to the December 18 Meeting. Commissioner Ford seconded. Unanimous approval. Chief Tax Assessor Romona Vaifale requested a resolution so Mr. Herrington could be sworn in and enrolled in classes in a timely manner.

#### *TAN Approval*

Commissioner Bond offered motion to payoff TAN balance of \$1.3m plus interest. Commissioner Ford seconded. Unanimous approval.

#### *Storm Damage*

Commissioner Bond reported several citizens experienced Hurricane Michael damage. He wants to insure damage filings occur prior to the deadline. Administrator Lewis provided the citizen support line number.

#### *Road Repair and Alignment*

Commissioner Bond sited a road development plan created to suggest that anyone interested in subdividing property of an acre or more be encouraged to grant the county a 40 ft. route of way deed to maintain the road. Should help property values. Commissioner Bond made motion to draft guidelines to establish a 40 ft. route of way deed to the county to maintain the road for parties interested in subdividing property of an acre or more land. Commissioner Bond seconded. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner DuBois indicated interest in the maintenance of Adams Park Rd. Commissioner DuBois made a motion to investigate the cost to gravel Adams Park Rd. Second by Commissioner Birdsong. Unanimous approval vote.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Commissioner Bond to approve November 20, 2018 minutes, with correction. Seconded by Commissioner Ford. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

## **Old Business**

### *Courthouse Clock Repair*

Administrator Lewis indicated Chuck White was on site for clock repair. Expected him to come to meeting with outcome update.

### *Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Bench*

Chairman Fowler recognized the installation of the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Bench. Chairman Fowler transferred meeting authority to Vice Chairman Ford in order to make a motion to place a plaque near the Vietnam Veterans Bench recognizing Twiggs County residents that lost their lives in the conflict. Commissioner Bond seconded. Unanimous approval.

### *Mobile Pantry Dates*

Commissioner Ford mentioned talking with Superintendent Dixon to change the Jeffersonville District 1 Mobile Pantry to the Board of Education building. Commissioner DuBois also indicated a relocation need for the District 2 Mobile Pantry. Likely Mt. Zion Baptist Church or Cool Springs Church.

### *GA Solar 4-Philanthropy*

Administrator Lewis advised the BOC of the identification of 2 entities for philanthropy support from Origis Energy. Origis Energy's goal is supporting projects related to education and children via groups with the 501(c)3 designation.

## **New Business**

Commissioner Ford presented the idea of establishing a Housing Authority and Recreation Department. Commissioner Ford offered a motion to begin exploring the prospects of establishing a Housing Authority and Parks/Recreation Authority. Second by Commissioner DuBois. Unanimous approval.

Fire Chief Jack Wood gave an update on the closure signs for the Convenience Centers beginning January 2, 2019. Also working with ADT for camera repair and repositioning. Chief Wood confirmed his handling of training Convenience Center personnel on new procedures.

Chief Wood gave an update on grant processes and solid waste lift station investigations. Spoke of an ordinance to govern what's pumped through the system. Chief Wood spoke of several fire department doors in need of repair. Commissioner Bond made a motion to approve \$4,000.00 to replace 2 Dry Branch Fire Department doors. Second by Chairman Fowler. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Ford expresses concern for citizens living in dilapidated housing. He feels an obligation to assist. The BOC concurred. Commissioner Ford made a motion to authorize BOC

staff to explore quality housing options with groups like Habitat for Humanity. Commissioner Bond seconded. Unanimous approval vote.

Commissioner DuBois raised the question about courthouse security. Feels it's important to manage courthouse traffic. Commissioner Fowler confirmed Sheriff Mitchum's interest in overseeing the matter. Commissioner DuBois requested a December 18 agenda revisit.

Commissioner Birdsong made a motion to increase Kathy Faulk's training consultant rate to \$21.00/per hour on an as needed basis going forward. She will be classified via 1099. Commissioner Ford seconded. Unanimous approval vote.

Sheriff Deputy Ezra Wyche spoke of the potential need to replace courthouse hallway cameras. Feels there could be recording irregularities. Motion by Commissioner Ford to purchase two replacement cameras at \$250.00 each for the courthouse hallway. Commissioner Bond second. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Bond motioned to approve purchase of video camera for use by Monte Bloodworth in Planning/Zoning in tandem with Road Supervisor Larry Thompson to record road conditions for pre and post inspections when logging or mining permits are issued. Second by Commissioner Birdsong. Unanimous approval.

**Public Comments:**

Mrs. Ethel Stanley expressed concern about the ability to maintain functional wells. She requested BOC assistance in establishing a county supported water source. Chairman Fowler and Commissioner Birdsong recommended water experts. Ms. Stanley indicated inability to get help based on area conditions.

**Executive Session**

Commissioner Birdsong made a motion to go into Executive Session for Personnel, Legal, and Real Estate. Motion second by Commissioner Bond. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Adjournment**

Commissioner Bond made a motion to adjourn. Motion second by Commissioner Birdsong. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Minutes approved \_\_\_\_\_, 2018

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Kenneth E. Fowler, Chairman

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Kelvin C. Lewis, Administrator