

**EFFINGHAM COUNTY**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**  
*January 3, 2017*

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The Board of Commissioners of Effingham County, Georgia, Mr. Wesley Corbitt, Chairman, Mr. Forrest Floyd, Mrs. Vera Jones, Mr. Jamie Deloach Vice-Chair, Mr. Reginald Loper and Mr. Phil Kieffer met in regular meeting 5:00 pm on Tuesday, January 3, 2017 in the Commissioners Meeting Room at the Effingham County Administrative Complex.

**PERSONS ATTENDING THE MEETING**

Mr. Toss Allen, County Administrator, Mr. Edward Newberry, County Attorney, Mrs. Stephanie Johnson – County Clerk, Mrs. Joanna Wright – Finance Director, Mrs. Fiona Charleton-Purchasing Agent, Mr. Clint Hodges – Fire Chief/EMA Director, Mr. Jack Garvin, Dr. Franklin Goldwire, Dr. Randy Shearouse and Mr. Tony Chiariello

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Corbitt called the meeting to order.

**INVOCATION**

Chairman Corbitt gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG**

Chairman Corbitt led the Pledge.

**ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON**

Chairman Corbitt thanked the Commissioners for their service and expressed appreciation for their professionalism. Chairman Corbitt stated he is looking forward to working with the Board.

Chairman Corbitt stated the Board needs to elect a vice chairperson. County Clerk Johnson passed out the voting ballot to each Commissioner to cast a vote and sign the ballot. The vote of each Commissioner was sounded by Count Clerk Johnson. The voted proved a unanimous vote for Commissioner Jamie Deloach for vice chairperson. Commissioner Floyd made a motion to appoint Commissioner Deloach as Vice Chair. Commissioner Kieffer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

Chairman Corbitt called for a motion to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Vice Chairperson Deloach seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**MINUTES**

County Clerk Johnson explained there were two changes to be made to the minutes: to add under the Appearance by Sheriff McDuffie the names of the deputies injured in the line of duty, James Wilkinson and Danny Harrington and under Old Business Item# 1 to clarify that Stillwell Road is to be added to, not removed from to the LMIG project list.

Commissioner Kieffer made a motion to approve the motion with the changes noted.

Commissioner Deloach seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairman Corbitt stated public comment should be limited to agenda items only.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Chairman Corbitt explained all correspondence and documents from the meeting are located in the Clerk's office and on the Board of Commissioner's website.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION FOR THE ISSUANCE OF SCHOOL BONDS FOR THE EFFINGHAM COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT (01):**

County Administrator Allen noted representatives of the School are present and explained the Board of Education is seeking issuance of a bond for the construction of schools \$15,000,000 in aggregate. This bond is to fulfill the law which states the Board of Education (BOE) has enough proceeds in the ESPLOST to repay the loan and debt services, however, in the event the BOE is unable to fulfill the obligation the Board of Commissioners as a levying authority will levy a bill sufficient to cover the debt.

Commissioner Loper made a motion to approve to adopt the Resolution to assure compliance with the Constitution of The State of Georgia by assessing and providing for the collection of a direct annual tax sufficient to pay the principal and interest on General Obligation Sales Tax Bonds issued by the Effingham County School District. Commissioner Floyd seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE TO AMEND FEMA CONTRACT 14-02-002 WITH SOUTHERN DISASTER RECOVERY FOR DISASTER DEBRIS REMOVAL SERVICES (02):**

Purchasing Agent Charleton explained when the MOU was approved for Rincon to "Opt-In" to the debris removal and debris removal monitoring contracts FEMA asked to see everything associated with the contracts (Bidding, award, contract, etc.). The proposed amendment came from a review of those documents.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve all six (6) Commissioners to be authorized signers with only two (2) signers being necessary. Commissioner Loper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF POOLER FOR THE USE OF INMATES (05):**

County Administrator Allen explained the City of Pooler expressed interest in obtaining an Agreement for the use of an inmate work crew similar to the agreement with Bryan County and the City of Rincon. This agreement is the same as the agreements for those entities. The Agreement calls for Effingham County to hire a Correctional Supervisor to supervise the work crew.

The City of Pooler supplies the ride vehicle and tools required to perform the maintenance activities. The City of Pooler pays for the fuel to run the vehicle and equipment and maintenance of the vehicle and equipment. The Agreement would begin on March 1, 2017. The Board can approve subsequent twelve (12) month renewals.

There was a discussion about the new hire of the correctional officer who would be dedicated to Bryan County. Bryan County will reimburse the County for the correctional officer salary. Discussion continued on recouping the cost for injury and other incidents.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to table the request until the February 7, 2017 commission meeting. Commissioner Kieffer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION OF SURPLUS (06):**

Purchasing Agent Charleton explained from time to time the County has broken, unused, damaged or extra inventory. This resolution consists of various pieces of broken, unusable equipment. As the equipment is unusable, it will be scrapped.

Commissioner Loper made a motion to approve the Resolution of Surplus and approval to scrap the items listed on the resolution. Commissioner Kieffer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE CLERK TRAVEL FOR THE GEORGIA CLERK EDUCATION INSTITUTE AT JEKYLL ISLAND (07):**

County Clerk Johnson explained Clerk travel is not required to be approved by the Board however, bringing before the Board is good communication. Certification will be received at this conference.

Commissioner Floyd made a motion to approve travel cost. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE TO APPOINT SLADE F. HELMLY TO THE IDA BOARD FOR THE FIFTH DISTRICT (08):**

County Clerk Johnson explained Mr. Slade Helmly will fulfill the remaining term of office for Chap Bennett. This term is set to expire December 31, 2018. This appointment is recommended by Commissioner Kieffer for the 9<sup>th</sup> militia district.

Commissioner Loper made a motion to approve to appoint Slade Helmly to fulfil the remaining term of office for the 9th GMD. Commissioner Kieffer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

County Administrator Allen discussed the following:

#### **1. Monthly Animal Shelter Report**

- The monthly Animal Shelter Report for the month of December 2016 has been provided.

#### **2. EMA Director Appointment**

- The recommendation of the Board of Commissioners to appoint Mr. Clinton Hodges as the Effingham County Emergency Management Director has been accepted by the Georgia Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security effective December 20, 2016.

#### **3. Debris Removal Update**

- The Effingham County Public Works Department has removed 6,500 CY of debris from October 8<sup>th</sup> until November 30<sup>th</sup>.
- SDR has removed 6,400 CY of debris from November 15<sup>th</sup> until December 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Effingham County Fire Rescue has removed 3,750 CY of Debris from December 3<sup>rd</sup> until December 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Citizens have brought 13,500 CY of debris.
- Total debris removed to date is 30,150 CY
- Debris is still being removed by SDR and Effingham County Fire Rescue crews. SDR normally has no more than two crews a day. Additionally, on multiple occasions, they have stated that all debris has been removed and they would like to cease operations. Effingham Fire Rescue runs two crews on the weekends but is normally limited to one crew during the week because they are utilizing dump trucks from the Public Works Department and can only obtain enough trucks to support one crew. We are in the process of hiring trucks with drivers to support continued operations.
- Burning of the debris began on November 29<sup>th</sup>. The operation had to be suspended on December 3<sup>rd</sup> because a hydraulic cylinder on the excavator being used to load the debris into the burn pit began leaking. Burning operation resumed on December 21, 2016. As of December 31, 2016 all of the debris collected by the public and approximately half of the debris collected by Effingham County crews and taken to the convenience center has been burned. The burner will be moved to the Old Augusta Road site during the first week of January 2017 to begin burning the debris that was taken there. Once complete

As described by FEMA, the County contract for disaster debris removal was awarded in August of 2014 and their procurement procedures changed in December of that same year. Per FEMA, the 2 year grace period to opt out of the new requirements isn't valid because GEMA is the sub-recipient not Effingham County, therefore, they would have to choose the provision for the State of Georgia, thus effecting everyone else's contracts. Although FEMA believe that the County complied with the procedures in place at the time, they suggested the Amendments be signed to cover the County in the event that an auditor chooses to raise concerns over the County's procurement process. The FEMA Amendment was provided by the County's FEMA delivery program manager and has been reviewed and approved by the county attorney.

Commissioner Floyd made a motion to approve execution of the FEMA amendment to contract 14-02-002 with Southern Disaster Recovery for Disaster Debris Removal Services.

Commissioner Kieffer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE TO AMEND FEMA CONTRACT 14-02-001 WITH THOMPSON CONSULTING SERVICES DISASTER DEBRIS MONITORING AND FINANCIAL RECOVERY SERVICES (03):**

There was no further discussion based on the previous agenda item presentation.

Vice Chairperson Deloach made a motion to approve execution of the FEMA amendment to contract 14-02-001 with Thompson Consulting Services for Disaster Debris Monitoring and Financial Recovery services. Commissioner Loper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE AUTHORIZED SIGNERS FOR SIGNATURE CARD FOR GEFA LOANS (04):**

County Administrator Allen explained on June 7, 2016 the Board voted to authorize the Chairman to execute Loan Agreements associated with GEFA loan 2015L13WJ. This loan is to fund the Old Augusta Road water and sewer improvements currently under construction. At the time of the approval there were two signatures required on the card, the previous Chairman and Vice Chairperson.

Since the previous Chairman is no longer in office, Staff thought there is a need to revise the signature cards. There are two choices on new authorization cards to allow for only one signature or to allow for two signatures with up to four signers. Staff recommends that two signatures are required but to allow for any of four signers.

at Old Augusta, the burner will return to the convenience center to finish burning any additionally brought in debris.

- It is estimated that debris is 60-70% picked up.

County Clerk Johnson discussed the following:

**1. MLK Day Programs**

- Breakfast will begin at 7:30 AM at the Recreation Department, followed by the parade at 10:00 AM, youth day services at 12:00 pm and evening program at 6:00 PM.

Commissioner Loper discussed the following:

**1. Health Insurance Coverage**

- What is the status of the coverage? Discussed employees possibly not having coverage and insurance cards not get received. Interim HR Director Dunn confirmed coverage to be effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, however, BlueCross BlueShield does not have information in their system as of yet.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 5:49 pm, Commissioner Kieffer made a motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel, property and pending litigation. Vice Chairperson Deloach seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**RECOVENE**

Commissioner Jones made a motion to reconvene the meeting. Commissioner Floyd seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES**


There were no executive session minutes to be approved.


**PLANNING BOARD**

The Planning Board presentments to be heard at this meeting have been postponed until the January 17, 2017 meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:17 pm, Commissioner Loper made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chairperson Deloach seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

  
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WESLEY CORBITT, CHAIRMAN

  
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STEPHANIE JOHNSON, COUNTY CLERK