

Minutes
Liberty County Board of Commissioners
February 18, 2021
Midmonth Meeting

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lovette with Commissioners Stevens, Thrift, Jones, Gilliard, and Walden in attendance.
2. The county administrator certified compliance with the Georgia Open Meetings Act.
3. Prayer was offered by Commissioner Thrift with a special note toward prayer for employees that were lost as a result of Covid 19. The prayer was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. The board considered a proclamation in support of Arbor Day in Liberty County. Keep Liberty Beautiful director Dr. Karen Bell appeared before the board to highlight activities associated with the day. The proclamation was accepted.

Commissioner Frasier joined the meeting.

5. Departmental reports were presented:

(A) Ms. Kim McGlothlin presented the monthly finance report which included an overview of the status of finances through January. Ms. McGlothlin presented a PowerPoint that demonstrated amounts needed to cover known large-item expenditures including a request for additional appropriations by the Sheriff's Department. Ms. McGlothlin presented anticipated revenue through year-end and additional expenditures anticipated. The Board entered into a discussion concerning the additional appropriation request by the Sheriff's department and specifics associated with that request. The board also expressed concern over the lack of time associated with receipt of material related to the matter. Sheriff Will Bowman and staff appeared before the board to answer questions related to the request for additional personnel and presented a general review of departmental operations since taking office. Ms. McGlothlin explained that processing of any additional personnel for the Sheriff's office had been halted pending a decision by the board on additional appropriations. Following further discussion a motion was made by Commissioner Stevens, and seconded by Commissioner Walden, to move forward with the processing of the new personnel, payment of pension funds due, and continuing to allow the elections division to operate pending preparation of a formal budget amendment to cover necessary expenditures, with commissioners Gilliard, Frasier, Stevens, Thrift, Lovette, and Walden voting in favor of the motion, Commissioner Jones opposed.

B. County engineer Mr. Trent Long presented the monthly report on the status of activities of the engineering division and answered questions from the board.

C. EMA director Mr. Robert Dodd appeared before the board to introduce the new EMA specialist, Mr. Tripp Duke. Mr. Duke thanked the board for the opportunity to be part of the team at EMA.

6. The board considered new business.

(A) State Representative Mr. Al Williams appeared before the board to offer a presentation associated with resort destinations. Mr. Williams presented facts and figures associated with potential community growth and explained the process that would be involved with final approval. Board members expressed support for having Mr. Williams appear before the board to present the matter and answer questions.

(B) Mr. Paul Zechman appeared before the board to discuss the release of bonds associated with sidewalks and trees from The Colonies at Habersham for lots 50, 70, and 71. A motion was made by Commissioner Jones to approve the release of the bonds for those purposes, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, and approved unanimously.

Commissioner Frasier was excused from the meeting.

(C) The board considered a contract with the Liberty County Elections Board and the Liberty County Board of Education to conduct the educational special-purpose local option sales tax referendum. The county administrator pointed out that the board of education and County would each fund 50% of the cost. The board briefly discussed the rise in the total cost of running elections and the need to consider a possible renegotiation of future percentages for

governmental agencies. A motion was made by Commissioner Walden to approve the agreement, seconded by Commissioner Gilliard, and approved by all commissioners in attendance.

(D) The board considered a contract with McCall Associates to offer design services related to the Miller Park fire station. A motion was made by Commissioner Stevens to accept the contract, seconded by Commissioner Thrift, and approved all commissioners in attendance.

(E) The administrative report was presented. The board was updated as to the status of planning for the Road department building expansion. The Board also authorized the administrator to proceed with obtaining a contract for services related to EMS facility construction.

7. A motion was made by Commissioner Stevens to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Gilliard, and approved by all commissioners in attendance.

Liberty County Board of Commissioners

SIGNED:

Donald L. Lovette, Chairman

Justin Frasier, Vice-Chairman

Marion Stevens, Sr., Commissioner

Connie Thrift, Commissioner

Maxie R. Jones, IV, Commissioner

Gary Gilliard, Commissioner

Eddie J. Walden, Commissioner

Attest:

Joseph W. Brown, County Administrator