

Minutes
Liberty County Board of commissioners
September 16, 2021
Midmonth Meeting

1. The meeting was opened by Chairman Lovette with Commissioners Stevens, Gilliard, and Jones in attendance.
2. The Chairman certified compliance with the Georgia Open Meetings Act.
3. Prayer was offered by Mr. Joseph Mosley, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Departmental reports were presented:

A. Mr. Trent Long presented the monthly engineering report and answered questions from the board.

Commissioners Thrift and Frasier joined the meeting.

The board reviewed bids received for renovations to the Miller Park recreation area. A motion was made by Commissioner Frasier to reject bids received, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, and approved by all commissioners in attendance.

5. The board considered new business:

A. Ms. Brynn Grant, Executive Director of United Way for the Coastal Empire, appeared before the board to highlight activities of the United Way in the coastal area. The board welcomed her back to Liberty County and thanked her for United Way's contributions to Liberty County citizens and organizations.

B. Mr. David Holton with Buckley and Associates appeared before the board to present final specifics associated with the Samuel B Harris Gym renovation project. Following the presentation, the board authorized Mr. Holton and the county administrator to proceed with final plans and advertisements.

C. Mr. Randy Branch, representing the Liberty County Historical Society, appeared before the board to discuss the possibility of leasing the property located at 135 S. Main Street. Mr. Branch informed the board that the society had studied possible grants associated with the facility's renovation and asked the board to consider being the recipient agency for planning and construction grants at the location. The board discussed recipient agency requirements and requested that Mr. Branch forward grant specifics to the county administrator for review.

D. The board considered a proposal submitted by MSW consultants to perform an analysis of possible poly cart service to the unincorporated areas not previously served and to the City of Riceboro. John Culbertson of MSW, discussed specifics of the proposal with the board and answered questions. A motion was made by Commissioner Thrift to proceed with the proposal, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, and approved by all commissioners in attendance.

E. The board considered architectural proposals associated with design and construction administration for a new Liberty County Health Department. The county administrator informed the board that the review committee had recommended the engagement of Buckley and Associates for these purposes. A motion was made by Commissioner Thrift to contract with Buckley & Associates, seconded by Commissioner Gilliard, and approved by all commissioners in attendance.

F. The board considered a joint occupancy request from WorkSource Coastal to be a joint tenant with The Liberty County Reentry Coalition. Therefore, the board asked the county administrator to ascertain the amount of space required by the group to consider possible rent associated with the request.

G. Commissioner Stevens brought to the board's attention the need to re-examine the subdivision infrastructure approval process currently in place. County engineer, Trent Long, reviewed the current policies with the board and advised that he was in the process of finalizing certain proposed changes to the subdivision ordinance and would incorporate the current board concerns into that language. The board asked Mr. Long to examine certain subdivision areas in the unincorporated area of Liberty County, not currently maintained by the road department, and perform a cost analysis with the county's assumption of those areas.

H. The board considered the renewal of the recreational lease agreement for the Riceboro Center with the City of Riceboro. A motion was made by Commissioner Stevens to approve the lease, seconded by Commissioner Frasier, and approved by all commissioners in attendance.

I. The board considered a resolution associated with a one-time cola for retirees as previously approved by the board to the ACCG defined benefit plan. A motion was made by Commissioner Stevens to approve the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Frasier, and approved by all commissioners in attendance.

J. The board considered the possible resumption of certain recreational activities offered through the Liberty County Recreation Department. It authorized the start of fall programs and activities, along with the use of outdoor pavilions.

K. A motion was made by Commissioner Frasier to adjourn to executive session for a land acquisition matter, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, and approved by all commissioners in attendance.

L. A motion was made by Commissioner Frasier to adjourn the executive session and return to a regular meeting, seconded by Commissioner Thrift, with all commissioners present voting in favor of the motion.

M. A motion was made by Commissioner Frasier to adjourn the regular meeting, seconded by Commissioner Stevens, 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