

THE SCREVEN COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

APRIL 11, 2023

The Board of Commissioners of Screven County, Georgia, Mr. Will Boyd, Chairman, Mr. J.C. Warren, Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Allison Willis, Mr. Ben Thompson, Ms. Rosa Romeo, Mr. Edwin Lovett and Mr. Mike Dixon met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on April 11, 2023, at the Screven County Courthouse.

PERSONS ATTENDING THE MEETING

Ms. Lori Burke, County Manager, Mr. Aaron Meyer, County Attorney (via zoom), Mrs. Sonya Gordon, Administrative Clerk, Sheriff Kile, Ben Deen, Thomas Griffin, Uley Robbins, Ruthie Robbins, Ben Counts, Kathryn Counts, Paul Keller Newton, Kathryn Youles, Patti Boddiford, Mary Felton, David Pedersen, Rita Junco, Heather Smith, Ricky Smith, Bill Arthur, James Gay, Stuart Stuart, Terry Roberts, Rose Roberts and Vaughn Michaud

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Boyd called the meeting to order. Commissioner Warren gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Willis made a motion to approve the agenda with an addition to New Business. Commissioner Romeo seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

Due to a time sensitive matter, Commissioner Willis made a motion to amend the agenda with another addition to New Business. Commissioner Romeo seconded this motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

MINUTES

Commissioner Romeo made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2023 Commissioners' meeting. Commissioner Willis seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Thomas Griffin stated that he visited Allgreen and noticed that they have several brand-new dumpsters. Mr. Griffin is curious as to why these dumpsters have not been used to replace the damaged cans throughout the County.

Mr. David Pederson returned voicing his concerns about the 2nd Amendment Resolution. Although the original version has been amended, Mr. Pederson still feels as if it's unconstitutional. Mr. Pederson remains opposed to this Resolution and would like the Board to make a decision using good judgement and faith.

Mr. William Arthur, who presented the original 2nd Amendment Resolution, is not in favor of the amended version. Mr. Arthur feels as though some key points were cut from what he originally submitted. Mr. Arthur stated that his version was more aligned with Bulloch County. Mr. Arthur feels as though law-abiding citizens have the right to bear arms, so he would like to continue to encourage the Board to vote in favor of the original version of the Resolution.

Mrs. Mary Felton stated that every week the President makes statements regarding the removal or banning of certain weapons. Mrs. Felton feels that there is no guarantee that in the future the Federal Government will have reason to confiscate our weapons. Mrs. Felton is in favor of passing this Resolution.

Mrs. Patti Boddiford stated that although some of her concerns were lifted after reading the amended Resolution, she still has questions and concerns about becoming a Sanctuary County. Mrs. Boddiford feels that this Resolution is not in the best interest of the County. Mrs. Boddiford stated that the Board should do what's best for our County and not follow the actions of surrounding counties. Mrs. Boddiford would still like to encourage the Board to vote "no" on this matter.

Mr. Ben Counts returned with more concerns over becoming a Sanctuary County. Mr. Counts does not agree with the wording "by our Creator", because the Bible mentions nothing about

guns. Mr. Counts continued to express to the Board that this Resolution is unlawful and unnecessary because the State Law cannot trump Federal Law.

Mrs. Pamela Arthur stated that she is a single mother who wants nothing more than to protect her kids. Mrs. Arthur feels that passing this Resolution will help her feel better protected when traveling. Mrs. Arthur would like to encourage the Board to vote in favor of this Resolution.

Mr. Ricky Smith stated that the County should allow the citizens to review the 2nd Amendment Resolution. Mr. Smith wondered if this could be put on a ballot for the community to decide.

Mrs. Kathryn Counts who is Ex-Marine shared her concern with the Board about becoming a Sanctuary County. Mrs. Counts thinks it is ridiculous to think that the Feds will come into our homes and gather all of our weapons. Mrs. Counts would like to encourage the Board to table this discussion until they can gather more information on this matter.

Mr. Vaughn Michaud stated that Plantation Road and Friendship Road needs patching. Mr. Michaud says the roads are in terrible condition. Mr. Michaud would also like to encourage the Board to vote against the 2nd Amendment Resolution.

Mrs. Bobbie Sowell agrees with Mr. Michaud that the county roads are in terrible condition. Mrs. Sowell stated that she has traveled several county roads that are awful due to potholes.

APPEARANCE(S)

(1) **Tabatha Roberson** of Fox Hunter Road appeared before the Board to discuss putting a trailer on her mother's property. Mr. Randy Hagan, Planning & Zoning Director stated that the property Mrs. Roberson is referring to is a nonconforming lot. Due to ordinances, there is just not enough room to place another home on the property. The Board recommended Mrs. Roberson speak with the adjacent land owner to see if they can come to some sort of an agreement.

(2) **Terry/Rose Roberts** of Wood Lane appeared before the Board to discuss the issues they have

been experiencing with their next door neighbor. Mr. Roberts stated that the neighbors have several dogs that constantly come into their yard being aggressive. Mr. Roberts and his wife have tried to talk to their neighbor about the situation but the conversation always seems to get heated. Mr. & Mrs. Roberts are not able to enjoy their family visits because they have a fear of being outside. The neighbor also allegedly works on vehicles and have several unoccupied vehicles on his property. Sheriff Kile told the Roberts to come to the Sheriff's Department to file an official complaint.

(3) **Bobbie Sowell** appeared before the Board to discuss the situation with animals in Screven County. Mrs. Sowell stated that she sometimes rides throughout the County looking for animals in distress, and finds plenty. Mrs. Sowell would like for the County to look into changing some of their ordinances to include a leash law for the County. Commissioner Willis stated that updating the ordinances are something to look into. Commissioner Thompson informed Mrs. Sowell that the county employees are all doing their jobs to the best of their ability. Mr. Thompson stated that the citations are being written, but there is nothing further we can do without reinforcement. Mr. Thompson also encouraged Mrs. Sowell to help put the word out that the Animal Shelter is still currently in need of a second Animal Control Officer.

PUBLIC HEARING

(1) **Planning & Zoning Board** Chairman Boyd opened the meeting to public comment on a Conditional Use from Stuart & Jerri Stuart for the purpose of a Water Bottling Operation located at 714 Hiltonia Creek Road, in Commissioner District 1. Chairman Boyd closed the meeting to public comment. Commissioner Lovett made a motion to approve the recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Board for the Conditional Use. Commissioner Warren seconded this motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

NEW BUSINESS

(1) **Contract Renewal** Commissioner Warren made a motion to approve the renewal contract

with Traylor Business Services. Commissioner Willis seconded this motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

(2) **Resolution** Commissioner Willis made a motion to adopt the Resolution to participate in the National Prescription Opiate Litigation. Commissioner Romeo seconded this motion and it carried by unanimous vote. County Attorney Aaron Meyer asked the Board to amend the motion to include County Manager Burke as authorized signee for documents related to this matter. Commissioner Willis made a motion to amend prior motion to approve Resolution with County Manager Burke as authorized signee. Commissioner Romeo seconded this motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

(3) **RAVE Contract** RAVE Mobile Safety has bought out Swift Reach, which is the County's mass notification system used by EMA for severe weather alerts. Commissioner Thompson made a motion to approve the three-year contract with RAVE Mobile Safety. Commissioner Dixon seconded this motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

(4) **RFP/Library** Commissioner Willis made a motion to approve the RFP for repairs for the Library. Commissioner Romeo seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

(5) **Resolution** The Board is still in discussion about the 2nd Amendment Resolution. Commissioner Willis, Commissioner Romeo, Commissioner Dixon, Commissioner Boyd, Commissioner Lovett and Commissioner Thompson are in favor of tabling this discussion until next month's meeting. Commissioner Warren is opposed to the Resolution entirely. Commissioner Willis made a motion to table this discussion until next month. Commissioner Romeo seconded this motion and it carried by majority vote.

(6) **Discussion** Commissioner Thompson provided the Board with a few diagrams that represents his vision for the Ag Building. Mr. Thompson stated that if all things go as planned, the building will have a new roof, HVAC system and lighting in the front and back of the building. Commissioner Thompson will continue to keep the Board informed on his progress.

(7) **Resolution** Commissioner Romeo made a motion to approve the Resolution to amend FY 2021-2022 budget for general and special funds. Commissioner Dixon seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote. (See copy of Resolution in Minute Book page_____).

(8) **RFP Award** Commissioner Dixon made a motion to approve the RFP for tree trimming and debris removal presented to L&B Land Improvements in the amount of \$93,929.00. Commissioner Willis seconded this motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

COMMISSION/STAFF COMMENTS

Commissioner Warren announced that the agreement for the Ditch Pond Dumpsite has fell through. The land owner for that property has changed her mind about leasing to the County. Commissioner Warren and Commissioner Dixon will continue to work on this matter. Commissioner Warren thanked Commissioner Boyd and Commissioner Thompson for the work they have done for the Ag Building. County Manager Burke announced that the annual Red, White and Boom will be held on June 25, 2023 at the Recreation Department and would like the Board's blessing on the \$2500 donation for fireworks. Commissioner Willis stated that she will work on the ordinances for Animal Control. County Manager Burke inquired about volunteers for the Animal Shelter. County Attorney Aaron Meyer stated that standard practice would be to draft a Resolution to form a non-profit organization instead of an Advisory Board for the Animal Shelter.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Warren made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel at 11:23 a.m. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Romeo left before executive session.

Commissioner Thompson made a motion to return to regular session at 12:05 p.m. Commissioner Willis seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Boyd adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Chairman

County Manager