

THE SCREVEN COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

AUGUST 8, 2023

The Board of Commissioners of Screven County, Georgia, 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 6:00 p.m. on August 8, 2023, at the Screven County Courthouse. Mr. Will Boyd arrived at 6:26 p.m.

PERSONS ATTENDING THE MEETING

Ms. Lori Burke, County Manager, Mr. Aaron Meyer, County Attorney, Mrs. Sonya Gordon, Administrative Clerk, Kathryn Counts, Ben Counts, Carrie Williamson, Wanda-Scott Bragg, Joy Hagan, Randy Hagan, Rebecca Ross, Bella Burt, Danielle Laverde, Ruthie Robbins, Uley Robbins, Evan Burns, Andrew Burns, Lynn Bates, Ben Deen, Joe Bohannon, Mary Felton, Terry Roberts, Rose Roberts, Frankie Kirkland, Joyce Kirkland, Sarah Saxon, Tom Mitchell, Thomas Griffin, Rodney Howard, Mandy Howard, Danny Andrews, Carly Christy, Celissa Edenfield, Heather Smith, Caitlin McBride, Jonna Thompson, Jeremy Pearce, Kathleen O'Connor, Jerry Lister, Willie Jenkins, Jarett McBride, Kaytie Doyle, Douglas Doyle, Lagina Evans, Mary Robbins, Priscilla Cooper, Nicholas Ward, Amanda Ward, Randall Griffin and Sheriff Kile

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

AGENDA APPROVAL

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

MINUTES

Commissioner Willis made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2023 Commissioners' meetings. Commissioner Romeo seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous

vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Thomas Griffin notified the Board that there are no speed limit signs on Best Bridge and Farmdale Roads. Mr. Griffin would like to see some signs put up in those areas.

Mr. Randall Griffin thanked the County Manager and staff for the work that was done trimming the roads.

Mr. Joe Bohannon announced that he is happy about having an evening meeting, stating that this helps appeal to the workforce. Mr. Bohannon also questioned why Screven County isn't experiencing any growth.

Mr. Nick Ward announced that he is glad the County decided to have an evening meeting. Mr. Ward also informed the Board of the terrible road conditions on Wesley Church Road.

Mrs. Danielle LaVerde asked the Board if the roller for the Roads & Bridges Department has already been purchased.

Mr. Jeremy Pearce wanted to know if a motor could be purchased to fix a roller the Roads & Bridges Department already have.

Ms. Heather Smith stated that she was traveling behind a motor grader one day while they were working, and she believes that lack of experience is the reason behind the roads not being fixed properly.

Mr. Joe Bohannon also believes that low wages are the reason that the County can't keep employees.

Ms. Becca Ross wants to know why the Roads & Bridges Department does not remain fully staffed.

APPEARANCE(S)

(1) **Kathryn Counts** discussed funding for the Ag Center. Mrs. Counts stated that the Ag Center

will be receiving \$400,000 from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. Although the Ag Center needs some repairs, this building is only utilized about five times a year and Mrs. Counts feels that these funds could be better spent within our community.

(2) **Carrie Williamson** supplied the Board with pictures of injured and abandoned animals that FOSCA has taken in. Mrs. Williamson says these strays have cost FOSCA \$16,000 within the last six months and she wants to know what the Board is going to do about these stray animals.

(3) **Tyler Oglesby** did not appear

(4) **Danielle Laverde** wants to know about the status of having volunteers at the animal shelter. Mrs. Laverde feels that volunteers could help get these animals adopted.

(5) **Carly Christy** shared photos with the Board of cats that she has fostered over the years. Mrs. Christy thinks that the volunteer program would be a huge benefit to the community.

NEW BUSINESS

(1) **Pine Street Park** Commissioner Romeo would like to have signs posted at the park to inform residents that the County is not liable for any wrongdoing that may occur while on the property. Commissioner Thompson made a motion to approve the use of the park for a back-to-school event with the condition of the signs being posted. Commissioner Willis seconded this motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

(2) **Appointment/Rec** Commissioner Romeo made a motion to appoint Mr. Michael Jones to the Recreation Advisory Board. Commissioner Lovett seconded this motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

(3) **Agreement** Commissioner Romeo made a motion to approve the Georgia Indigent Defense Agreement with the Public Defender Office. Commissioner Willis seconded this motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

(4) **E-911** Commissioner Willis made a motion to approve off-site consulting for E-911 in the

amount of \$15,000 using Georgia Fund One Funds. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

(5) **Equipment Purchase** Commissioner Romeo made a motion to approve the purchase of a Roller from Demott Auction Company for \$7,585.00 using TSPLOST funds. Commissioner Dixon seconded this motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

(6) **Vehicle Purchase** Commissioner Willis made a motion to approve the purchase of a truck for Zoning in the amount of \$42,468.00 using Unincorporated Funds. Commissioner Romeo seconded this motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

(7) **Vehicle Purchase** Commissioner Willis made a motion to approve the purchase of a van for the Prison in the amount of \$34, 310.00 using their Telephone Fund. Commissioner Dixon seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

(8) **Road Maintenance** Commissioner Willis made a motion to add Douglas Loop and Kenwood Drive, which are privately owned roads, to the Roads & Bridges road scraping list. Commissioner Romeo opposed due to Lawton Place, which is also private, not being a part of this conversation. Ms. Romeo has been approached many times about the horrible road conditions of Lawton Place and has always been told it is the property owners' responsibility to maintain their property. Commissioner Lovett wondered if there has been any cost studies done for these private roads. Commissioner Willis is in favor of this motion. Commissioner Romeo, Commissioner Boyd, Commissioner Dixon, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Warren and Commissioner Lovett opposed. Motion denied due to majority vote.

(9) **Grass Cutting Bids** Commissioner Willis made a motion to move forward with the process of bidding out the grass cutting for the Roads & Bridges Department for next year. Commissioner Thompson seconded this motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

(10) **Volunteers** Commissioner Willis made a motion to move forward with having volunteers at

the Animal Shelter pending the Board's approval of guidelines and requirements. After a brief discussion, the Board decided to table this discussion. Commissioner Willis made a motion to table this discussion until next month's meeting. Commissioner Lovett seconded this motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

(11) **2022 LMIG** Commissioner Romeo made a motion to approve the revised 2022 LMIG list. Commissioner Willis seconded this motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

COMMISSION/STAFF COMMENTS

County Manager Burke announced that the link for the ACCG Leadership Conference will be available August 9, 2023 for any Commissioners that are interested in attending. Commissioner Romeo reported that she has been receiving calls about individuals shooting around the Sandy Hill Lane and Carver Road areas. Sheriff Kile informed Commissioner Romeo that some arrests have been made. County Manager Burke thanked the Roads & Bridges Department for clearing the roads until 2 a.m. this morning.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Willis made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel at 7:26 p.m. Commissioner Dixon seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Thompson made a motion to return to regular session at 8:40 p.m. Commissioner Warren seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Boyd adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Chairman

County Manager