

THE SCREVEN COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

MARCH 14, 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 March 14, 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, Sarah Saxon, Ben Deen, Thomas Griffin, Uley Robbins, Ben Counts, Kathryn Counts, Becca Hughes, Paul Keller Newton, Stacy Mincey, Kathryn Youles, Patti Boddiford, Nadine Loits, Wanda-Scott Bragg, Mikki Saxon, Harvey Cryder, Mary Felton, Barry Felton, Richard Marz, David Pedersen, Rita Junco, Heather Smith, Ricky Smith, Ida Daughtry and Randall Griffin

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Thomas Griffin of Farmdale Road still has concerns about the trash that is trailed

alongside county roads. After reviewing the contract between the County and Allgreen, he feels that Allgreen is not doing their part. Mr. Griffin also suggested Allgreen lower their cans into the ground so that the elderly can have easier access.

Mr. Ricky Smith had questions regarding the cameras at the dumpsites. Mr. Smith feels that if the County is catching these activities on camera, there should be some consequences to these actions. Mr. Smith would like to see some reinforcements on this matter.

Mrs. Patti Boddiford has concerns about Screven County becoming a Sanctuary County. Mrs. Boddiford supports our Constitution and feels that it is the roll of the Judicial System to decide if the law is constitutional or not, not our Local Government. Mrs. Boddiford feels that there is a way to support the 2nd Amendment and “Common Sense” gun laws. Mrs. Boddiford would like to encourage the Board to vote “NO” on Screven County becoming a Sanctuary County.

Mr. David Pederson shares Mrs. Boddiford’s concerns about becoming a Sanctuary County. Mr. Pederson’s concerns are focused on Economics and Law Enforcement. Mr. Pederson feels that if law enforcement is in support of this, he may reconsider his position, but also feels as if this may interfere with potential growth from businesses if this Resolution passes.

APPEARANCE(S)

(1) **Dr. Richard Marz** of Statesboro, Georgia appeared before the Board to discuss the benefits of an Advisory Board for the Animal Shelter. Dr. Marz says that Bulloch County was dealing with some of the same issues as Screven County until his meeting with Mr. Roy Thompson, Chairman of Bulloch County. A Bulloch County Animal Shelter Advisory Committee was formed. This Committee has helped use social media to advertise, created a Shelter Day for the community, opened the doors to Animal Rescue Groups, and created a pilot program called TNR (Trap Neuter Return). Dr. Marz expresses what an amazing transformation it has been for Bulloch County.

(2) **Rebecca Ross** of Buttermilk Road returned voicing her concerns over the current state of the

Animal Shelter. Mrs. Ross still feels that there is a lack of advertising, so citizens are reaching out to surrounding counties about adoptions. Mrs. Ross also provided the Board with pictures of stray dogs roaming the County roads as well as some that were deceased due to vehicle strikes. Mrs. Ross says that she is concerned for her business because these stray dogs are roaming into her yard, being aggressive and may carry diseases. Mrs. Ross reminded the Board that County Code 11-3, #4, states that these strays should be picked up by the Animal Control Officer.

(3) **Tallulah Trice** of Beaufort County oversees Animal Control for the Beaufort/Hilton Head area. Mrs. Trice provided the Board with a handout of an Administrative Ticket Form; these forms serve as a parking ticket. Instead of appearing in Court for these tickets, they would be passed out to the community in an “Fix It or Ticket” effort. Mrs. Trice feels that this will help with the irresponsibility of the citizens.

(4) **Sarah Roehm** is President and Cofounder of Fixing the Boro. Mrs. Roehm stated that as of May 2020, over 1,200 Screven County residents have reached out to the Bulloch County Shelter for their Snip Clinic, and 40 residents for adoptions. According to these numbers, Mrs. Roehm feels that the citizens of Screven County want to do the right thing, but don't have the opportunity or are not aware of the opportunities they may have.

(5) **Nadine Loits** of Halcyondale Road appeared before the Board to discuss the stray dogs at the dumpsite on Halcyondale Road. Mrs. Loits says she has called the County multiple times about this matter. Mrs. Loits is afraid these animals may have diseases she could take back to her pets at home. These strays also take the garbage and scatter it in the roads and onto citizen's property making it an eye sore.

(6) **Ben Counts** appeared before the Board to discuss his concerns about Screven County becoming a Sanctuary County. Mr. Counts is concerned about the “Red Flag” laws, which are gun violence prevention laws. Mr. Counts feels that these laws have saved many lives and fears that the

passing of this Resolution may nullify Federal laws, which the State has no power to override. In closing, Mr. Counts stated that there are no benefits in passing this Resolution and violating the Federal Law.

NEW BUSINESS

(1) **Budget Calendar** Commissioner Romeo made a motion to approve the Budget Calendar for FY 23-24 with the omittance of the Budget Committee for meetings that began on April 10, 2023. Commissioner Willis seconded this motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

(2) **EMA Grant** EMA Director Mikki Saxon appeared before the Board to present the Hazard Mitigation Grant that EMA applied for in 2019. The original quote for this matching grant was \$11,997.75. Due to rising cost, it has since been raised to \$14,903.75. Commissioner Warren made a motion to approve the funding for the Hazard Mitigation Grant. Commissioner Willis seconded this motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

(3) **Resolution** County Attorney Aaron Meyer drafted a new 2nd Amendment Resolution. Commissioner Willis supports this version because it is more aligned with the Sheriff's Association Resolution. Commissioner Romeo wanted Sheriff Kile's response on this matter. Sheriff Kile stated that no Resolution can change Federal Law, and he is not aware of any laws in the works that will warrant taking our weapons. The Board would like to share the new Resolution with the public before making any decisions on this matter. The Board has agreed to table this discussion until a later date.

(4) **Lease Agreement** County Attorney Aaron Meyer stated that the Lease Agreement for the Ditch Pond Dumpsite has not been signed. Commissioner Warren made a motion to sign the Lease Agreement as is. Commissioner Dixon seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

(5) **RFP** Commissioner Warren made a motion to approve the RFP for tree trimming and debris removal. Commissioner Romeo seconded this motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

(6) **Discussion** Commissioner Lovett invited Mrs. Kathryn Youles to discuss the repair issues they are experiencing at the Library. Mrs. Youles says the issues seem to revolve around the HVAC system and the roof. The Board was presented with a power point presentation of buckets and trash cans being placed under some areas that are leaking. It has been established that a new roof is not needed but the soffit around the roof is falling down around the entire building allowing rain to enter. Mr. Ricky Smith, who specializes in roof repairs offered to go and take a look at the roof and give the Board an update on what's needed to move forward.

(7) **Discussion** Commissioner Willis would like the Board to consider having an Advisory Committee for the Animal Control Shelter. This Committee could mediate between the public and the County. Mrs. Willis also stated that an increase in adoption fees could help offset the cost to spay and neuter.

(8) **Discussion** Commissioner Thompson gave the Board an update on the Ag Building. Mr. Thompson met with the Livestock Association to discuss with them their list of concerns since they occupy the building primarily. Once Commissioner Thompson gets all the information he needs, he would like to put together a Bid Packet to present. Mr. Thompson also reached out to County Attorney Aaron Meyer to see if there are any legal issues or stipulations regarding donations.

(9) **MCA Quote** Commissioner Warren made a motion to approve the Mobile Communications Quote provided by E-911 to replace the phone recording system for \$26,124.00. Commissioner Romeo seconded this motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

COMMISSION/STAFF COMMENTS

Commissioner Willis stated that she visited the Transfer Station to dump some garbage and noticed that the gate was open after hours. After leaving the Transfer Station she went to the Peebles Farm Dumpsite and a Grapple Truck was there at approximately 5:45 p.m. Commissioner Willis's concern is that no one is there to make sure that these drivers are documenting these after-hours loads. The

Board agreed on a starting date of January 1, 2024 for the Board of Elections, this would allow members to be able to get their state training in July.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Boyd adjourned the meeting at 10:58 a.m.

Chairman

County Manager