

THE SCREVEN COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

OCTOBER 10, 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 October 10, 2023, at the Screven County Courthouse.

PERSONS ATTENDING THE MEETING

Ms. Lori Burke, County Manager, Mr. Aaron Meyer, County Attorney, Mrs. Sonya Gordon, Administrative Clerk, Jake Gay, Jerome Jenkins, Jason Miller, Heather Smith, Ruthie Robbins, Uley Robbins, Mary Felton, Lynn Bates, Ben Deen, Lagina Evans, Andrea McBride, Sarah Saxon, Danielle Laverde, Kathryn Youles and Inez Williams

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. Commissioner Willis seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

MINUTES

Commissioner Warren made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2023 Commissioners' meeting and the amended minutes from the July 11, 2023 and August 8, 2023 Commissioner's meetings. Commissioner Romeo seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPEARANCE

(1) **Jerome Jenkins** discussed with the Board the progress he has made restoring Pine Street Park. Mr. Jenkins stated that several citizens in the community have reached out to help in many different areas. The Board has given Mr. Jenkins their blessing with the condition he keeps Commissioner Romeo informed of the process and progress.

NEW BUSINESS

(1) **RFP** Commissioner Boyd opened and read all bids aloud. Commissioner Warren made a motion to award the RFP for tree trimming and debris removal to Evans Freight Services in the amount of \$147,300.00. Commissioner Dixon seconded this motion. Commissioner Boyd, Commissioner Romeo, Commissioner Lovett, and Commissioner Thompson are in favor of this motion. Commissioner Willis abstained. Motion carried by majority vote.

(2) **Appointment/GSRA** Commissioner Romeo made a motion to reappoint Ms. Dorie Bacon and Ms. Dorothy Glisson to the Greater Savannah Regional Alliance. Commissioner Willis seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

(3) **Resolution** Commissioner Willis made a motion to adopt the Resolution to Improve Mental Health Services in Georgia. Commissioner Romeo seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote. (See copy of Resolution in Minute Book page ____).

(4) **Resolution** The Board revisited the idea to surplus the County's Blue Springs property. This property was surplus in 2014 with no bids being high enough to compensate its worth. At that time the property was split in half being separated by a road. The Board would like to look into abandoning the road to make this property whole. Commissioner Thompson made a motion to table this discussion until next month's meeting. Commissioner Romeo seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

(5) **Resolution** Commissioner Willis made a motion to adopt the Resolution to set the pay for

the Board of Elections members. Commissioner Romeo seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote. (See copy of Resolution in Minute Book page _____).

(6) **Animal Shelter** Commissioner Romeo made a motion to approve the requirements and guidelines for animal shelter volunteers. Commissioner Dixon seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

(7) **Discussion** Commissioner Willis discussed with the Board the possibility of the County adopting its own code of ethics. A few of the Board members are conflicted about this due to the fact that there is already an ethics policy in place by the State. County Manager Burke informed the Board that there have been some recent changes to those policies. County Attorney Aaron Meyer will be sending this updated information to the Board.

(8) **Discussion** Commissioner Willis discussed with the Board modifying the voting process of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Currently, the Board votes to elect the Chairman and Vice-Chairman at the first official meeting of the new year. Mrs. Willis stated that she has asked around to other counties and some of them do what's called a Rotational Board. This means that all Board members may have an opportunity to become Chairman or Vice-Chairman. Mrs. Willis feels that this will further help the members of the Board to be informed about all County business.

COMMISSION/STAFF COMMENTS

Commissioner Warren asked for an update on the county roads. Mr. James Woods, Roads & Bridges Superintendent introduced himself to the Board. Mr. Woods stated that once he took over the position, he wiped the slate clean and any complaints that came in would be addressed within a 10-day period. As of 8:00 a.m. this morning there were zero open complaints. Mr. Woods also stated that the purchase of 1 or 2 motor graders and a maintenance & repair line-item increase would be very helpful. Jake Gay, Animal Control Officer and Celissa Edenfield, Shelter Helper gave an update on the Animal Shelter. Mr. Gay and Mrs. Edenfield took a few animals to the Hiltonia Fall

Festival and a few cats were adopted. They also stated that 14 dogs were adopted in the month of September. Mrs. Lagina Evans gave an update on the hospital and invited the Board to the ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, October 12, 2023 for the newly renovated cafeteria.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Boyd adjourned the meeting at 10:23 a.m.

Chairman

County Manager