

**THE SCREVEN COUNTY**  
**COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**

**OCTOBER 13, 2020**

The Board of Commissioners of Screven County, Georgia, Mr. Will Boyd, Chairman, Mr. J.C. Warren, Vice-Chairman, Mr. John O. Triplett, Mr. Michael McBride and Mr. Mike Dixon met in regular session at 9:00 A.M. on October 13, 2020 at the Screven County Courthouse. Mr. Edwin Lovett and Commissioner Rosa Romeo attended the meeting via Zoom.

**PERSONS ATTENDING THE MEETING**

Mr. Hubert Reeves, County Attorney, Mrs. Lori Boulineau, Personnel Director/Finance Officer, Mr. Enoch Autry, Sylvania Telephone, Mr. Paul Keller Newton, Mr. Andy Durrence, Mr. Bobby Smith, Ms. Brooke Collins, Mr. Preston Dees, Mayor of Sylvania, Ms. Hannah Derriso, Ms. Tania Barker

**CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

Commissioner McBride made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Warren seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

**MINUTES**

Commissioner Warren made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2020 and September 29, 2020 meetings. Commissioner Dixon seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

**APPEARANCES**

(1) **Brett Dickerson** Tania Barker appeared for Brett Dickerson and discussed the application to the USDA Rural Development Grant for Community Facilities Grant and to receive public comment and input about the grant. Chairman Boyd opened the meeting to public comment. There was no public comment. Chairman Boyd closed the meeting to public comment.

**NEW BUSINESS**

(1) **Discussion** Commissioner Lovett discussed obtaining a .gov domain for the county website and email hosting services for the county. Commissioner Warren made a motion to approve the \$400.00 a year fee for a .gov domain. Commissioner Lovett seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote. Commissioner Lovett made a motion to approve the cost of an email hosting up to an amount of \$2500.00 a year. Commissioner McBride seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

(2) **Hospital Authority** Commissioner Triplett discussed reactivating the Hospital Authority and updating the appointments to that Board. The Board agreed by common consent without objection to begin looking for new members and allow County Attorney look into the number of members that would have to be on the Board.

(3) **Appointment** The Board agreed to table the appointment until the November meeting so that a volunteer could come and feel out an application to be placed on the Airport Authority.

(4) **Discussion** Commissioner Triplett began the discussion about the funding of the local hospital by talking about different options such as building a new facility and maintaining and operating the current one. Chairman Will Boyd stated the current owners were not interested in a short term agreement with the county and would need a long term commitment in order to continue operation. Commissioner Warren suggested putting it on a ballot and allowing the citizens of Screven County decide if they wanted to fund the hospital or not and would like for guarantees and upgrades to be listed in agreement. The Board agreed that the county needs a voice if they are going

to be giving the hospital money. County Attorney Hubert Reeves stated paperwork must show indigent care costs in order to make payments. Chairman Boyd stated himself and Commissioner Triplett met with the City of Sylvania and the Industrial Development Authority Board in an effort to get help with funding the hospital. Chairman Boyd opened the meeting to public comment about the funding of the hospital. Mr. Bobby Smith, IDA Chairman, stated that legally the IDA cannot give money to the hospital but they are in support of having a local hospital and think it's important to our community to have one. Mr. Andy Durrence, KOYO, stated that manufacturing plants need hospitals but he thinks the county should have input on the operations of the hospital if they are receiving county money. Ms. Hannah Derriso stated that the image of the hospital needs to change, hire more local people and it will help make it profitable again. Ms. Judy Pitts stated the hospital saved her life and she liked being able to see local faces there. Mayor Preston Dees stated he received great care at the local hospital. Ms. Brooke Collins suggested Optim get more involved with the community. Chairman Boyd closed the meeting to public comment. Commissioner Triplett asked if the agreement could state the position of the county as a stakeholder. Chairman Boyd stated Optim is open to discussions at this time. Commissioner Warren said that community involvement and input could help their business. Commissioner McBride made a motion to offer Optim Medical Center \$800,000.00 a year for indigent care, owners agree to do infrastructure improvements and will give the county the option to buy at a reduced rate. Commissioner Dixon seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**REPORTS**

Commissioner Warren thanked Personnel Director/Finance Officer Lori Boulineau and Sanitation Director Bobby Smith for installing cameras around courthouse and implementing the mask wearing in the courthouse. Commissioner Triplett thanked Commissioner McBride for his help on the dumpster sites and stated that Jenkins County may be interested in combining transfer stations to help Screven and Jenkins County with cost.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Commissioner McBride made a motion to go into executive session at 10:40 A.M. for the purpose of litigation. Commissioner Dixon seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Lovett made a motion to return to regular session at 11:19 A.M. Commissioner Romeo seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

Commissioner McBride made a motion to approve the executive session minutes for the September 29, 2020 and October 13, 2020 meetings. Commissioner Triplett seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Boyd adjourned the meeting at 11:20 A.M.

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Chairman

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County Manager