

THE SCREVEN COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

The Board of Commissioners of Screven County, Georgia, Mr. Will Boyd, Chairman, Mr. J.C. Warren, Vice-Chairman, Mr. John O. Triplett, Ms. Allison Willis, Mr. Edwin Lovett, Ms. Rosa Romeo and Mr. Mike Dixon met in regular session at 9:00 A.M. on September 14, 2021, at the Screven County Courthouse.

PERSONS ATTENDING THE MEETING

Ms. Lori Boulineau, Interim County Manager, Mr. Hubert Reeves, County Attorney, Mr. Paul Keller Newton, Mr. Uley Robbins, Ms. Stephanie Heinen, Mr. Joshua Heinen, Mr. Ricky Smith, Mr. Sam Sullivan, Mr. Harvey Cryder, Fire Chief, Ms. Mikki Saxon, Executive EMA Director, Ms. Ida Daughtry, Ms. Samantha Smith, Ms. Tina Scott, Ms. Andrea Waits, Tax Commissioner, Mr. T. Roberts, Mr. Enoch Autry, Sylvania Telephone, Mr. Bobby Smith, Sanitation Director, Mr. Steven Scroggins, Warden

CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Boyd called the meeting to order. Commissioner Triplett gave the invocation and lead the pledge of allegiance.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Warren made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of IV. New Business (4) Tax Levy. Commissioner Willis seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

MINUTES

Commissioner Romeo made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Willis seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Jeremy Pearce asked the Board about issues regarding road conditions and bushes and limbs hanging in road ways. Chairman Boyd stated the county is working on this issue and due to staffing issues we hope to have the issues resolved soon. Mr. Ricky Smith questioned why there are not ditches on the roads, he thinks department heads show favoritism and stated county employees are using materials and equipment for personal use. Mr. Smith also asked where he can view the county codes.

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Boyd opened the meeting to public input on the intent to abandon Farm Road also known as County Road 161. Ms. Teresa Thompson spoke in favor of closing the road because she states the property is hers and she does not want the county maintaining it any longer. Mr. Joshua Heinen spoke against closing the road due to the road giving him access to his property and it would be a cost to build another entrance if road was closed. Commissioner Willis asked Ms. Thompson if she was paying taxes on the road and if there was ever a deed done to give the property of the road to the county and Ms. Thompson responded no. Commissioner Willis stated that since there was no deed then Ms. Thompson gave permission to the county to maintain and now she was revoking it. County Attorney Hubert Reeves stated that once the county maintains a property for so long it becomes county property and he requests the county abandon the road and give back to the previous owner for \$1.00. Commissioner Lovett made a motion to table the discussion due to the confusion of where property lines and the road is. Commissioner Willis seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

APPEARANCES

(1) **Samantha Smith** appeared before the Board to discuss programs offered and work being done in Screven County for adult education and the GED and education program at the Screven County Prison. Ms. Smith stated during COVID a lot of people did not have the resources and

technology available to them and asked if the county could help by applying for grants to assist with this.

(2) **Ida Daughtry** appeared before the Board to discuss the county's plan in response to the exponential increase in positive COVID cases in the last two months and asked if the county would show a stance against COVID. Executive EMA Director Mikki Saxon gave an update on the recent COVID numbers for the county and stated the Health Department is holding vaccine clinics. Ms. Lagina Evans, Optim Medical Center Screven, stated the hospital will host a drive-thru vaccine clinic on September 23, 2021.

NEW BUSINESS

(1) **Resolution** This item was not discussed due to more information needed after the public hearing.

(2) **Appointment/DFACS** Commissioner Lovett made a motion to appoint Ms. Sandra Brown to fill an unexpired term on the DFACS Board. Commissioner Warren seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

(3) **Fire Department Requests** Commissioner Warren made a motion to approve the request and accept the low bid for concrete work at the EMS and Fire Department in the amount of \$81,401.00 using SPLOST funds and Fire Fund Contingency funds to cover the cost. (\$40,700.50 SPLOST funds \$40,700.50 Fire Fund contingency) Commissioner Triplett seconded the motion. Commissioner Boyd, Commissioner Romeo, Commissioner Triplett, Commissioner Dixon, Commissioner Lovett and Commissioner Warren voted in favor. Commissioner Willis opposed. Motion carried by majority vote. Commissioner Warren made a motion to approve a request to purchase a Command 1 vehicle for \$33,300.00 and equipment for the vehicle in the amount of \$5000.00 using contingency funds from the Fire Fund. Commissioner Romeo seconded the motion. Commissioner Boyd, Commissioner Triplett, Commissioner Romeo, Commissioner Warren and

Commissioner Lovett voted in favor. Commissioner Willis and Commissioner Dixon were opposed. The motion carried by majority vote.

(4) **2021 Tax Levy** Commissioner Romeo made a motion to adopt a Resolution setting the 2021 Tax Levy and the County Millage rate. Commissioner Willis seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote. (See copy of Resolution on minute book page ____).

COMMISSION/STAFF REPORTS

Commissioner Warren informed the Board that paving on Johnson Grove Road, Greenhill Road and Jenk Hill Road was complete. Interim County Manager Lori Burke presented a request to the Board from Augusta Chiller to replace the boiler at the Screven County Courthouse. Commissioner Warren made a motion approve the cost of replacing the boiler in the amount of \$28,875.00. Commissioner Romeo seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote. Ms. Burke then gave an update on the operations and changes at the Screven County Solid Waste Department and discussed the issues with bulk waste in the county. Fire Chief Junior Cryder spoke about the funds that are available through the FEMA Funeral Assistance to help families who lose family members to COVOD.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Triplett made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel at 11:15 A.M. Commissioner Willis seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion to return to regular session at 12:39 P.M. Commissioner Warren seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Dixon made a motion to approve the minutes of the executive session. Commissioner Warren seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Boyd adjourned the meeting at 12:39 P.M.

Chairman

County Manager