

**LAURENS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 6, 2018 @ 5:30 P.M.**

The Laurens County Board of Commissioners held their regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, February 6, 2018, at 5:30 P.M. Present were, Chairman Jeff Davis, Commissioners Trae Kemp, Emory Lake, Tommy Daniel, County Administrator Bryan Rogers, and County Attorney Billy Kight. Commissioner Roscoe Brower was absent due to illness. County Administrator Bryan Rogers gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The first item was the approval of the minutes of the January 9, 2018 regular meeting and the called meeting on January 22, 2018. Commissioner Emory Lake made a motion to approve the regular meeting and the called meeting. Commissioner Trae Kemp seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The next item was Presentation by Attorney Ben Vaughn on Opioid Crisis Litigation. Mr. Vaughn stated he is with the law firm of Dillon and Vaughn in Forsyth, Georgia and they have partnered with Dubose Porter and other lawyers across the State in an attempt to sue opioid manufacturers much like the tobacco litigation. Mr. Vaughn stated he met with the County Attorney, County Administrator and Chairman Davis. Mr. Vaughn stated the National Consortiums of Law Firms are working to combat this Opioid epidemic that has been in the National Media and they would like Laurens County to sign on with them in the class action lawsuit. Attorney Billy Kight will be reviewing the information.

Next was a presentation by Mrs. Angie Nelson to discuss establishing an Arts Council and possible funding. Mrs. Susanne Dukes, President of Art Dublin, stated she is here to represent the visual arts aspects of the alliances. Mrs. Dukes stated there are about 45 members in the group and their main goal is to have two art shows a year. Mrs. Dukes also stated they have the student art show in March, and that involves all of the schools, including the home school students. Mrs. Dukes also stated they have the regular art show in November and this year they had 32 exhibits and had very good representation. Mrs. Dukes stated they are trying to have a cultural presents here in Dublin, but they need a place to call home. Mrs. Dukes stated if they had the means to, they would love to paint murals and have contest with who could paint the best mural. Ms. Patsy Baker was also present and she stated she would like to see a historical garden on the grounds of the museum. Ms. Christy Blue was also present to represent the Dublin Main Street Players, and Mr. Kelly Canady was present and represented the Page House.

The next item was Approval of Bid for Watkins Hall Resurfacing. County Administrator Bryan Rogers stated bids were taken for the resurfacing of Watkins Hall Road and this will be a TIA project. Mr. Rogers stated there were two bids made after advertising the project, one was Dykes Grassing and the other was from Reeves. Mr. Rogers stated Dykes Grassing had the low bid of \$234,366 and Reeves submitted a bid of \$269,330. Mr. Rogers stated he thought Dykes had an excellent bid and he would recommend excepting the bid. Mr. Rogers also stated the bid had to be accepted by GDOT, which is just the administrative part of the bid process. Commissioner Emory Lake made a motion to approve the bid of Dykes Grassing. Commissioner Trae Kemp seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The next item was Discussion of Sheriff's request for Firearm Retention Retirement Policy. Chairman Jeff Davis stated the Sheriff is requesting that the Commissioners adopt a policy giving deputies their badges and side arms upon retiring. Chief Deputy Stan Wright was present and stated the legislature passed a law allowing this. County Attorney Billy Kight stated he received a draft and there will be some boundaries the law requires, and there will be a policy. Mr. Kight stated he will review the policy and send it back to the Commissioners and if it is the Sheriff's desire to pass it, then he can do so. Mr. Rogers

stated it will be a requirement of twenty years of service for it to be retired, or if a deputy was disabled in the line of duty.

Next was National Guard Hurricane Evacuation Agreement. Mr. Rogers stated the County has had this agreement in place with the Air National Guard in Savannah stating that they can use the Airport in the event there is an evacuation from the Georgia coast. Mr. Rogers also stated they are just asking for the renewal of the agreement that has been in place and is renewable on an annual basis. Commissioner Emory Lake made a motion to reapprove the agreement. Commissioner Tommy Daniel seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The next item was the Family Connection Fiscal Agent. Mr. Rogers stated the County has always done this for Family Connection, and as of this month, they have met all financial obligations. Mr. Rogers stated Family Connection is a child advocacy group that provides services for children and families and is with a state group. Mrs. Connie Smith is the Director. Commissioner Trae Kemp made a motion to approve the Family Connection Fiscal Agent Request. Commissioner Tommy seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Marshall Floyd asked if the Commissioners will be talking about the roundabout. Chairman Davis stated they will not because at this time, it's in the DOT's hands, and there is nothing the Board can do at this time.

Mrs. Carolyn McCun asked what the progress was on updating the web site. Chairman Davis stated the Commissioners are about to enter into a contract with a company to do just that.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Emory Lake made a motion to go into executive session. Commissioner Trae Kemp seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Emory Lake made a motion to come out of executive session. Commissioner Trae seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.