

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

The Laurens County Board of Commissioners held their regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, March 6, 2018, at 5:30 P.M. Present were, Chairman Jeff Davis, Commissioners Trae Kemp, Emory Lake, Tommy Daniel, Julie Driger, County Administrator Bryan Rogers, and County Attorney Billy Kight. County Administrator Bryan Rogers gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The first item was the approval of the minutes of the February 6, 2018 regular meeting and the called meeting on February 9, 2018. Commissioner Trae Kemp made a motion to approve the regular meeting and Commissioner Tommy Daniel seconded the motion. Ms. Julie Driger made a motion to approve the called meeting; Commissioner Trae Kemp seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The next item was FY 2017 Audit Presentation. Robin Tanner of Thigpen, Jones, Seaton, Deemer Dana, along with Ryan Brinson, was present to discuss the audit. Mrs. Tanner stated she would like to briefly touch some of the highlights of 2017. Mrs. Tanner stated for 2017, the audit was a clean report and the county adopted a balanced budget, and the general fund ended the year with a net change in fund balance to the good of approximately of \$475,000, which is a positive net change and the general fund ended with a fund balance of \$4.3 million. Mrs. Tanner stated the beginning fund balance was \$3.8 million, and when the \$475,000 was added to that, the ending balance was \$4.3 million. Mrs. Tanner stated the county continues to manage the expenditures; however, it's hard to budget for the self-insurance fund that cannot be controlled. Mrs. Tanner stated the county is doing a good job of expenditures they can control.

Next was a Discussion on Opioid Crisis Litigation. Chairman Jeff Davis stated there is something similar to the tobacco master settlement with the Opioid Industry. Chairman Davis stated Laurens County has been identified as having 122 Opioid prescriptions for every 100 residents. Chairman Davis asked County Attorney Billy Kight to discuss the Opioid Crisis Litigation. Mr. Kight stated he looked at several different attorney proposals and all were similar, but the one he felt the strongest about was with attorney's Dubose Porter and Ben Vaughn who are associated with the firm Berrin & Bud P.C. Mr. Kight stated he has reviewed their agreement and contract, and it's very fair and it has almost no risk to the county. Mr. Kight stated he would recommend entering into an agreement with them to pursue the litigation and that if successful, it could be very beneficial to Laurens County. Chairman Davis stated he would like to entertain a motion to accept the council's recommendation and engage the firm of Berrin & Bud P.C. to represent the county in the Opioid Crisis Litigation. Commissioner Trae Kemp made a motion to accept the recommendation. Commissioner Tommy Daniel seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The next item was Discussion and Approval of the County Website. Chairman Davis stated the county needs to communicate with all the citizens through a more functional website and social media and the opportunity is there to also upgrade the mass response and mass notification system the County currently participates in with Code Red. Chairman Davis stated he and a couple of other people, including Sean Webb, the IT director, were heavily involved. County Administrator Bryan Rogers stated several firms were vetted and after looking at all the benefits, staff recommended Civic Plus. Mr. Rogers stated they offer the best value to Laurens County and come highly recommended. Chairman Davis entertained a motion to approve engaging Civic Plus to work on the website. Commissioner Tommy Daniel made a motion. Ms. Julie Driger seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Next was discussion on the Jail Medical Agreement. Mr. Rogers stated the Sheriff did a great job of managing the jail inmate medical expenses which is something that takes daily monitoring. Mr. Rogers also stated they have run into some issues, from a personnel standpoint, of being able to keep medical staff available to handle all the needs. Mr. Rogers stated Deputy Stan Wright has done a great job to come up with an alternative that really has an opportunity to save some money. Mr. Rogers also stated after himself, the Sheriff, the County Attorney, Deputy Wright and his staff met, they do recommend entering into the agreement with Southern Correctional Medical Services to handle the jail medical issues. The Chair entertained a motion to engage Southern Correctional Medical Services to handle the jail medical services. Commissioner Trae Kemp made a motion to contract with Southern Correctional Medical Services. Commissioner Emory Lake seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The next item was Discussion of a Right of Way Obstruction Policy. Chairman Davis stated there have been numerous complaints about signs on county right of ways. When public works take the signs up off the right of way, they have allowed people to come get their signs, but it seems the signs are going right back onto the right of way. Mr. Rogers stated there had never been an official written policy on this issue, but after being directed by the Board, he had developed the written policy being reviewed. He further stated that the written policy did prohibit returning the signs once they are picked up. Mr. Rogers stated if the board chooses to adopt this policy, the signs will be thrown in the trash can. County Attorney, Billy Kight stated he has reviewed this policy, and it is legal according to GDOT guidelines and the Georgia Code. Chairman Davis stated if there is no further discussion, the Chair will entertain a motion to approve the policy against placing signs on the county right of way. Commissioner Emory Lake made a motion to accept the policy. Commissioner Julie Driger seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS: There was no other business

Mayor Phil Best stated he was present to represent the Dublin City Council and City Staff and to recognize Mr. Roscoe Brower with a very prestigious award. He stated that Mr. Brower has always had the good of this community at heart, especially the young people. Mayor Best stated the community loves him and appreciates what he has done for this community. Mayor Best then presented Mr. Brower with the Golden Shamrock Award.

Commissioner Emory Lake commented on the many things Mr. Brower had done for this county, schools and children over the years and how in 1993, he and Mr. Brower came on the board of Commissioners and have served together ever since. Commissioner Lake presented Mr. Brower with a plaque from the Board of Commissioners and Staff in appreciation of all he had done for Laurens County.

Reverend Ricky Porter was also present and stated it is with much joy that he could present a Celebratory Resolution in honor of the retirement of Elder Roscoe Brower District 1 Commissioner of Laurens County.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.