

CHARLTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2021
BOC CONFERENCE ROOM
6:00 P.M.

8/19/2021 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Those present were: Chairman James Everett, along with Commissioners Alphy Benefield, Drew Jones, and Luke Gowen; County Clerk Jenifer Nobles; HR Clerk Becky Harden; County Attorney John Adams; and visitors as recorded hereafter. County Administrator Hampton Raulerson and Commissioner Jesse Crews were absent. (Commissioner Crews was available for discussion on phone, during meeting.)

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Chairman Everett led the Invocation and Pledge to the Flag.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Benefield made motion to adopt the August 19, 2021 Agenda. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Gowen, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Commissioner Gowen made motion to approve August 5, 2021 Minutes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Jones, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT (SECOND MEETING)

Commissioner Gowen made motion to approve Financial Report. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Benefield, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

6. HEAR LAURIE THOMAS, CHIEF APPRAISER

Laurie Thomas, Chief Appraiser discussed the Sales Ratio Study with the Board. Sales Ratio for Charlton County was 35.09, which falls short of the 38 -42 range which allows values to be assessed at 40%; which would create a loss in revenue for Charlton County and the School Board. GMASS appraisals will bring assessed values up and should be more accurate overall. Commissioner Gowen made motion to appeal the 2020 Sales Ratio Study. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Benefield, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

7. HEAR DANA O'QUINN, CHAMBER/OKEFENOKEE PARTNERSHIP

Dana O'quinn, Chamber of Commerce and Kim Bednarek/Okefenokee Partnership were present. Mrs. O'Quinn reported that a Back Pack Bash was held on September 25 and Peach State Insurance and Champ Bailey were the sponsors. On August 28, 4H Ag Day will be held. Madison Sands, 4H Agent invited all to attend. City and County officials will be in attendance, as well as the School Administration.

A live Auction, along with 27 vendors, Kiss A Pig, and Cow Patty Bingo will be available. Contributions will be used to support the 4H Program.

Kim Bednarek, Okefenokee Partnership was present to speak on behalf of Michael Lusk, who is presently out of town. Okefenokee Partnership is a 501C3 business which has been formed to promote local businesses within the Okefenokee communities. The Chamber and Okefenokee Partnership will market collaboratively the swamp entrances: Stephen Foster Parkway, Okefenokee Swamp Park, Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, and Okefenokee Adventures. A Visitor Information Swamp Exhibit has just been opened in Savannah, Georgia. There is an Okefenokee application available on the website in support of featuring local businesses, in support of inviting guests and community in supporting strategic agenda.

8. HEAR ALICIA KEYES, ONE HUNDRED MILES AND OKEFENOKEE PROTECTION ALLIANCE

Alice Keyes, One Hundred Miles was present. Mrs. Keyes thanked Kim Bednarek, Okefenokee Partnership for support of the Okefenokee, which is part of the Comprehensive Plan to protect the Okefenokee and its natural resources. In discussion of Okefenokee Protection Alliance, Mrs. Keyes stated the region has to have vision. A concern is that EPD has the sole responsibility of overseeing and permitting Twin Pines Mining operation. Mrs. Keyes stated that she is seeking Resolutions from City of Homeland, City of St. Mary's, and City of Kingsland asking for support of all officials to do no harm to the community and the Okefenokee Swamp. If the Board would consider, Mrs. Keyes will bring back Resolution to the next Board meeting for their consideration.

9. HEAR DARYL DEITERS - GORDIAN

Daryl Deiters - Gordian, Georgia Department of Administrative Services, EZIQC, Contracts for Construction Services, provided power point presentation, stating that process is very timely and cost effective, and local contractors could also be used. Services are available to the County.

10. HEAR C. L. LEWIS, FIRE CHIEF - CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PUMP REPAIRS

C. L. Lewis, brought update to the Board for pump repair as follows:

Fire Line, Inc - \$28,186.50

Commissioner Crews was on the phone for discussion.

Commissioner Gowen made motion to take decision back to the Fire Board for their recommendation. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Benefield, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

11. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF FY2020 AMENDMENT FOR AUDIT

Commissioner Benefield made motion to approve FY2020 Amendment for the Audit. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Gowen, Board voted; motion carried unanimously. Amendment becomes integral part of Minutes.

12. CONSIDER WASTE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT AMENDMENT

Commissioner Gowen made motion to table Waste Management Contract Amendment. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Jones, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

13. ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF JULY, 2021 WELLNESS REPORT

The Board acknowledged receipt of July, 2021 Wellness Report.

14. PUBLIC COMMENTS: (PLEASE LIMIT TO 3 MINUTES)

Antwon Nixon was present and discussed community event for October 16, for basketball tournament to be held at basketball court on Laura and Ann Streets. Mr. Nixon asked that courts be marked, pressure washed, and power source be updated. Commissioner Crews asked that plan be drawn up and be placed on next agenda.

Commissioner Crews exited meeting (by phone) at 7:00 p.m.

Joel Shivar, Recreation Director was introduced.

Steve Allen, Twin Pines Minerals thanked the Board for consideration and patience while EPD is looking over permitting process.

Elaine Bailey thanked the Board for work done on the roads at Settler Village.

Dorinda Montgomery, Lonnie Todd Road, mile marker 41 -" after 26 years road should not be like that. If road department can't fix it, get a contractor to tell you what to do."

Ronnie Pollock, Road Superintendent stated that road department started trying to build road up, then rains came. "Working best I can."

15. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Benefield stated that she learned that State of Georgia doesn't put sidewalks next to state highways.

Commissioner Benefield stated that Charlton County citizens don't need to be concerned. "We have no interest in holding funds. We cannot and will not profit from monies."

Commissioner Benefield stated that information on funeral expenses, due to COVID 19 is available on website.

Commissioner Gowen thanked everyone in attendance and recognized Joel Shivar, Recreation Director, who will be a great asset to our community.

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF REQUIRED)

None.

17. NEXT BOC MEETING, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2021, BOC CONFERENCE ROOM - 6:00 P.M.

18. ADJOURN

James E. Everett, Chairman

Jenifer Nobles, County Clerk

