

**COFFEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2022  
9:30 O'CLOCK A.M.  
COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM**

Coffee County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, August 1, 2022, at 9:30 o'clock a.m. with the following present: Chairman AJ Dovers, Vice-Chairman Ted O'Steen, Commissioners Johnny Wayne Jowers, and Jimmy Kitchens. Also present were County Attorney Tony Rowell, and County Clerk Tracie Vickers. Commissioner Oscar Paulk was absent. County Administrator Wesley Vickers was absent. Also present were Agency Directors/Department Heads and members of the public.

Chairman Dovers called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Chairman Dovers asked Fire Chief Steve Carver to give the invocation. Everyone participated in the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

There were no announcements.

Chairman Dovers asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the pre-Meeting and the Regular Meeting held on July 5, 2022 and the Executive Session held on July 5, 2022. Commissioner Kitchens made a motion to approve the minutes of the pre-meeting work session and the regular meeting held on July 5, 2022 and the Executive Session held on July 5, 2022. This was seconded by Commissioner O'Steen. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

Attorney Rowell stated that the minutes of July 5, 2022 are accurate. However, the Board needs a motion to amend the agenda to ratify the previous CDBG contract #20-3324-B that was voted on by the Board at the meeting on July 5, 2022. That ratification is without Commissioner Jowers' participation in the conflict of interest and to amend the agenda as outlined by Attorney Rowell. Commissioner Kitchens made a motion approve the agenda as outlined by Attorney Rowell. Commissioner O'Steen seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

Chairman Dovers asked for a motion to approve the agenda as outlined by Attorney Rowell. Commissioner Kitchens made a motion to approve the agenda. This was seconded by Commissioner Jowers. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

Attorney Rowell reviewed the Resolution to adopt the 2018 Coffee County and the Cities of Ambrose, Broxton, Douglas and Nicholls Broadband Element Comprehensive Plan Amendment. Attorney Rowell stated this is ready for consideration. This Resolution will allow the County to apply for broadband grants. Chairman Dovers asked for a motion to approve or reject the Resolution to adopt the 2018 Coffee County and the Cities of Ambrose, Broxton, Douglas and Nicholls Broadband Element Comprehensive Plan Amendment. Commissioner Jowers made a motion to approve the Broadband Element Comprehensive Plan Amendment. Commissioner O'Steen seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

Attorney Rowell stated the County will need to appoint a 2022 County ACCG Voting Delegate. Commissioner Jowers made a motion to appoint Commissioner Oscar Paulk as the 2022 County ACCG Voting Delegate. Commissioner Kitchens seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

Attorney Rowell stated this was discussed at length in the pre-meeting work session. This is a one-year contract that would allow parties to give notice at any time 60 days prior to ending the contract. Otherwise, the contract will automatically renew. Municipalities will pay the Tax Commissioner directly \$20,000.00 per year in which she will receive a 1099. The Municipalities will also pay the County 3 ½% for taxes collected from each Municipality. The City of Douglas is prepared to pay \$20,000.00 per year. Chairman Dovers asked for a motion to approve or reject the Tax Collection Agreement between the County, Tax Commission, and Cities of Douglas, Nicholls and Broxton. Commissioner Jowers made a motion to approve the Tax Collection Contract for Services Agreement. Commissioner O'Steen seconded the motion. Commissioner Dovers approves this contract. Commissioner Kitchens opposes this contract. The motion carries.

Attorney Rowell stated the County received notice that the Nature Conservancy would be thinning timber adjacent to County property near the Broxton rocks. The County also has trees that needs thinning on our property. Attorney Rowell stated the Nature Conservancy will put out bids for this project and would include our tract of land in this bid, if approved. The nature of the agreement would be based on the value of our trees and the bids if we chose to accept them. Attorney Rowell stated the County would reach a managerial agreement between the County and the Nature Conservancy and it would be consistent based on the terms of their email. This motion would allow the Chairman the authorization to execute documents based on the terms he works out with our council. Chairman Dovers asked for a motion to approve or reject giving the Chairman authorization to sign documents necessary to allow thinning of timber on County owned land adjacent to Broxton Rocks that is managed by the Nature Conservancy. Commissioner Kitchens made a motion to approve. Commissioner O'Steen seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

Attorney Rowell stated we had a motion earlier to amend the agenda. Therefore, agenda Item # 12 is to ratify the CDBG Contract voted on July 5, 2022 for related to project # CDBG 20-3324-B. The reason for the ratification is that Commissioner Jowers raised the issue at the meeting about a potential conflict of interest with the property being located near his property and Attorney Rowell did not believe a conflict of interest existed. Southern Georgia Regional Commission employees believe it would be cleaner if he had not participated. Five Commissioners voted so it carried the contract. Therefore, there is no issue whether it would pass. Attorney Rowell stated the County needs a motion to ratify the contract on this CDBG project on July 5, 2022 for the 20-3324B contract to reflect in this issue that Commissioner Jowers' would not participate. Commissioner Kitchens made a motion to ratify the CDBG contract on July 5, 2022. Commissioner O'Steen seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

There were no comments from the audience.

Chairman Dovers asked for a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Jowers made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:40 o'clock a.m. and this was seconded by Commissioner O'Steen. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

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County Clerk

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Chairman