

**COFFEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, JULY 3, 2023  
9:30 O’CLOCK A.M.  
COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM**

Coffee County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, July 3, 2023, at 9:30 o’clock a.m. with the following present: Chairman Ted O’Steen, Vice-Chairman Jimmy Kitchens, Commissioners Johnny Wayne Jowers, AJ Dovers and Oscar Paulk. Also present were County Attorney Tony Rowell, County Administrator Wesley Vickers, and County Clerk Tracie Vickers. Also present were Agency Directors/Department Heads, the media, and members of the public.

Chairman O’Steen called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Chairman Ted O’Steen asked Mr. CT Peavey to give the invocation. Everyone participated in the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Chairman O’Steen announced there will be a July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration tomorrow at 5:00 p.m. at the JC Adams Complex.

Chairman O’Steen asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the pre-meeting work session and the regular meeting held on June 5, 2023. Commissioner Jowers made a motion to approve the minutes, and this was seconded by Vice-Chairman Kitchens. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

Chairman O’Steen asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Dovers made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Paulk seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

Chairman O’Steen asked for a motion to approve the Board appointments expiring June 30, 2023. Vice-Chairman Kitchens made a motion to approve the following Board appointments expiring on June 30, 2023

UNISON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH-	Joanne Lewis	7-1-2023 TO 6-30-2026	3 YEARS
UNISON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	Brannen Pruett	7-1-2023 TO 6-30-2026	3 YEARS
LIBRARY BOARD	Sylvia Stone	7-1-2023 TO 6-30-2026	3 YEARS
FAMILY & CHILDREN SERVICES	Jenny McIver	7-1-2023 TO 6-30-2028	5 YEARS
TAX ASSESSORS BOARD -POST 3	Ben Vickers	7-1-2023 TO 6-30-2027	4 YEARS
TAX ASSESSORS BOARD – POST 1	Nathaniel Smith	7-1-2023 TO 6-30-2027	4 YEARS
GEORGIA FORESTRY BOARD	Wade Tanner	7-1-2023 TO 6-30-2028	5 YEARS
PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD	Marvin Knight	7-1-2023 TO 6-30-2027	4 YEARS

Commissioner Jowers seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Administrator Vickers reviewed the Unison Behavioral Health County Participation contract. This is for mental health service and substance abuse services. Mr. Vickers stated this contract is for \$20,000.00 and the funds have been approved in the FY 2023 County budget. Chairman O’Steen asked for a motion to approve the Unison Behavioral Health County Participation contract. Commissioner Paulk made a motion to approve the Unison Behavioral Health County Participation contract. Commissioner Dovers seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Administrator Vickers reviewed the Unison Behavioral Health Lease Agreement for 1005 Shirley Avenue for July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. Mr. Vickers stated that Unison Behavioral Health maintains the inside of the building. The County maintains the outside of the building. This is the same agreement as in the past as there is no money exchanged in the agreement. Chairman O'Steen asked for a motion to approve or reject the Unison Behavioral Health Lease Agreement for 1005 Shirley Avenue for July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. Commissioner Jowers made a motion to approve the Unison Behavioral Health Lease agreement for 1005 Shirley Avenue. Vice-Chairman Kitchens seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Administrator Vickers reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding between Coffee County and the Department of Health for the building located at 1003 Shirley Avenue for July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. Mr. Vickers stated the agreement for this is that the Southeast Health Department funds the local Department of Health for \$7,500.00 for building operations. No money to the County changes hands. This agreement is the same as it has been in the past. Chairman O'Steen asked for a motion to approve or reject the Memorandum of Understanding between Coffee County and the Department of Health for the building located at 1003 Shirley Avenue for July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. Commissioner Dovers made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding. Commissioner Paulk seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Administrator Vickers reviewed the agreement between Coffee County and Southern Georgia Regional Commission for support and Maintenance of the Elections Interactive web Mapping application and access to the GIS Information for July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. Mr. Vickers stated this agreement is for GIS services for the Elections Department. This is the annual contract for \$1500.00 to maintain GIS mapping related to Elections. Chairman O'Steen asked for a motion to approve or reject the agreement between Coffee County and Southern Georgia Regional Commission for support and maintenance of the Elections Interactive web mapping application and access to the GIS Information. Vice-Chairman Kitchens made a motion to approve the agreement. Commissioner Jowers seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Administrator Vickers reviewed the agreement for Geographic Information System Services agreement between Coffee County and Southern Georgia Regional Commission to maintain support and Maintenance of the county's 911 roads & address Interactive Web Map Application for July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. Mr. Vickers stated this agreement is \$2,000.00 annually. Southern Georgia Regional Commission will update the County's E-911 addresses quarterly. Chairman O'Steen asked for a motion to approve or reject the agreement for Geographic Information System Services Agreement between Coffee County and Southern Georgia Regional Commission to maintain support and maintenance of the County's 911 roads & address interactive web map application for July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024. Commissioner Paulk made a motion to approve the agreement. Commissioner Dovers seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Administrator Vickers reviewed the Resolution and the Intergovernmental Agreement for the ARPA-Improving Neighborhood Outcome in Disproportionately impacted communities grant #GA-0013741 Sole Source Procurement of the SGRC for grant administration technical services. The County received a \$2,200,000.00 grant for the construction of the new soccer complex. This Resolution today allows for the Commission to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement for administration services with Southern Georgia Regional Commission for \$50,000.00. Southern Georgia Regional Commission will make certain the County is in compliance and do reporting requirements in accordance to this grant agreement. Chairman O'Steen asked for a motion to approve or reject the Resolution for the ARPA-Improving Neighborhood Outcome in disproportionately impacted communities grant #GA-0013741 Sole Source Procurement of the Southern Georgia Regional Commission for grant administration technical services. Commissioner Paulk

made a motion to approve the Resolution. Commissioner Dovers seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Administrator Vickers reviewed the agreement for Guardian Ad Litem Services in Juvenile Court for the period beginning July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. The total of this contract is \$14,400.00. Mr. Vickers stated that Attorney Chad White has had this agreement for several years and is doing a good job in Juvenile Court. These funds have already been approved in the FY 2023 budget. Chairman O'Steen asked for a motion to approve or reject the Agreement for Guardian Ad Litem Services in Juvenile Court for the period beginning July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. Commissioner Jowers made a motion to approve the agreement. Vice-Chairman Kitchens seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Administrator Vickers reviewed the agreement for Indigent Defense Representation contract in State Court for the period beginning July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. Mr. Vickers stated this agreement is for the amount of \$24,999.96 annually and consist of the same terms as the past agreement. Chairman O'Steen asked for a motion to approve or reject the agreement for Indigent Defense Representation in State Court for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. Commissioner Dovers made a motion to approve the agreement. Commissioner Paulk seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Administrator Vickers stated the County has received bids for the grading and drainage improvements for Phelps Road. The County decided there was a need for a cul-de-sac at the end of this road and to address drainage issues. The County had asked the contractor, East Coast Asphalt, for a change order. Their price on the change order was \$73,949.55 and the County felt like that was excessive. The County asked for proposals. The bid received was from Burke Paving Company, Inc. for \$46,897.50. Chairman O'Steen asked for a motion to approve or reject the bid for the grading and drainage improvements for Phelps Road. Commissioner Jowers made a motion to approve the bid for Burke Paving Company, Inc. for the low bid of \$46,897.50. Vice-Chairman Kitchens seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Administrator Vickers stated the county has received bids on June 21, 2023 for the purchase of (2) pickup trucks for the County Road Department. The bids received were:

	Bids
Woody Folsom (2) Dodge 1500	\$101,942.00
Fitzgerald Chrysler (2) Dodge 1500	\$100,504.00
Anderson Ford (2) Ford F150	\$95,796.00

Mr. Vickers recommends the low bid of Anderson Ford for \$95,796.00. These (2) vehicles will be paid out of SPLOST funds.

Chairman O'Steen asked for a motion to approve or reject the bid for the purchase of (2) pickup trucks for the County Road Department. Vice-Chairman Kitchens made a motion to approve the low bid of Anderson Ford at \$95,796.00. Commissioner Jowers seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed. County Administrator Vickers stated the County has received bids for the demolition of the old Election office located at 224 West Ashley Street. Administrative offices will be moved across the road into the new administrative building and the courthouse will be solely used for judicial purposes. The new parking lot across the street will allow for additional parking and will be used for public parking that the City of Douglas will be able to utilize also. The bids for demolition of the old Elections building were:

	Bids
Harper & Company Builders, Inc.	\$52,000.00
Jamie Rucker- Southeastern Excavating & Land Clearing, LLC	\$129,700.00
754 Enterprises, LLC	\$56,400.00
Spires Construction	\$25,000.00
Trinity Industrial Services	\$50,000.00
Charles E. Lewis Construction Company, Inc.	\$45,648.00

Mr. Vic Suttles has provided a letter of recommendation for the low bid of Spires Construction for \$25,000.00. Chairman O'Steen asked for a motion to approve or reject the bid for the demolition of the old Elections office located at 224 West Ashley Street. Commissioner Paulk made a motion to approve the low bid for Spires Construction. Commissioner Dovers seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Administrator Vickers stated the county has received bids for the construction of a new administrative building. The County received the following bids:

	Bids
Charles E. Lewis Construction, Inc.	\$4,958,569.00
Harper & Company Builders Inc.	\$5,284,000.00

This project will be funded mostly from excess SPLOST VI funds. The county can use TIA funds for the construction of the parking lot. Mr. Vickers recommends the low bid of Charles Lewis construction. Chairman O'Steen asked for a motion to approve or reject the bid for the construction of the new administrative building. Commissioner Dovers made a motion to approve the low bid of Charles E. Lewis Construction. Commissioner Paulk seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

Mr. Jim Hudson, 1054 Squire Road, Ambrose, Ga spoke concerning the alleged election breach. Mr. Hudson stated that he had attended several Board of Elections meetings about his concerns over the alleged elections breach. Mr. Hudson addressed the Board of Commissioners about his concerns today. Mr. Hudson has previously sent the Board of Commissioners a Resolution and urged the Commission to recommend that the Board of Elections pass the Resolution.

Mr. Larry Nesmith, 877 MJ McClelland Road, Douglas, GA, spoke concerning the alleged election breach.

Ms. Olivia Coley Pearson, 614 Taylor Circle, Douglas, GA, spoke concerning the alleged election breach and asked if the Commission could answer questions. Ms. Pearson asked the Board of Commissioners to recommend Mr. Hudson's Resolution.

Ms. Kathryn Grant, 5237 Greyfield Circle, Valdosta, GA spoke concerning the alleged election breach. Ms. Grant asked the Board of Commissioners to recommend Mr. Hudson's Resolution.

Commissioner Jowers spoke to issues raised by Citizens.

There were no further comments from the audience.

Chairman O'Steen asked for a motion to adjourn the regular meeting. Commissioner Jowers made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:57 o'clock a.m. and this was seconded by Vice-Chairman Kitchens. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

---

County Clerk

---

Chairman