

**COFFEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 2023
9:00 O'CLOCK A.M.
COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM**

Coffee County Board of Commissioners met in a special called meeting on September 29, 2023, at 9:00 o'clock a.m. with the following present: Chairman Ted O'steen, Commissioner AJ Dovers, Commissioner Johnny Wayne Jowers and Commissioner Oscar Paulk. Also present were County Attorney Tony Rowell, County Administrator Wesley Vickers, and County Clerk Tracie Vickers. Vice-Chairman Jimmy Kitchens was absent. Members of the media and members of the public were also present.

Chairman O'Steen called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Commissioner Dovers asked County Attorney Tony Rowell to give the invocation. Everyone participated in the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Chairman O'steen asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Jowers made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Dovers seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Administrator Wesley Vickers stated the 2023 County Millage Rate is 7.531 mills. Due to some reassessments, there is a rollback this year from 8.247 mills to 7.531 mills. One-half mill goes to the Economic Development Authority. The County portion is 7.031 mills. This has been properly advertised. The adoption of the county millage rate is ready for approval today. Chairman O'steen asked for a motion to approve the 2023 County Millage Rate. Commissioner Dovers made a motion to approve the County Millage rate at 7.531 mills. Commissioner Jowers seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Administrator Vickers stated the Board of Education has met to set the 2023 millage rate. The county has received a letter from Dr. Morris Leis stating that the Board of Education met on September 28, 2023. The Coffee County Board of Education's millage rate was adopted at 14.622 mills. This is also a rollback. Chairman O'steen asked for a motion to approve the request by the Board of Education to set the 2023 millage rate. Commissioner Jowers made a motion to approve the request by the Board of Education. Commissioner Dovers seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Administrator Vickers stated there are two of these agreements today from South-Central Drug Task Force. The first one is for October – December 2023 and second one is for FY 2024. The Coffee County Sheriff has been asked by the Irwin County Sheriff to become part of this task force. This task force is made up of Irwin County and Atkinson County as well. There is no cost to Coffee County. Coffee County will assign a Deputy, as needed. If funds are seized the County will receive funds according to the manpower assigned to it. Chairman O'Steen asked for a motion to approve the South-Central Drug Task Force Interagency Agreement for the term of January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023. Commissioner Paulk made a motion to approve the South-Central Drug Task Force Interagency Agreement for the term of January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023. Commissioner Jowers seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

Chairman O'steen asked for a motion to approve the South-Central Drug Task Force Interagency Agreement for the term of January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. Commissioner Dovers made a motion to approve the South-Central Drug Task Force Interagency Agreement. Commissioner Paulk seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

Chairman O'Steen called for the appointment to the Coffee County Board of Elections for the unexpired term of Wendell Stone due to his resignation to be Mr. Bobby Tanner. This appointment is in Chairman Ted O'Steen's District, #5. Commissioner Jowers made a motion to approve Mr. Bobby Tanner to the Coffee County Board of Elections, District #5. Commissioner Dovers seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Administrator Vickers reviewed the bids for the replacement of the drainage structure on Alvin Geiger Road – SWE-01-1525. Mr. Vickers stated this section of the roadway was washed out in the recent hurricane. FEMA and GEMA had inspected this road. The pipe underneath the road was completely washed out. Due to the volume of water flowing, the County recommends a box culvert. The bids received were:

	<u>Bids</u>
Underground Excavating, Inc. -	\$296,770.00
Griffin Grading and Concrete, LLC	\$336,334.60
East Coast Asphalt, LLC	\$391,738.32
Thrift Brothers, LLC	\$394,945.00

Underground Excavating, Inc. was the low bid, and the Commission has a letter of recommendation from Statewide Engineering. Statewide Engineering recommends the culvert be installed. Fire Chief Steve Carver has sent this to GEMA and FEMA. The county will probably have to pay for these fees up front and will get reimbursed. Mr. Vickers recommends the bid from Underground Excavating, Inc. for \$296,770.00. Chairman O’steen asked for a motion to approve or reject the bid for the replacement of the drainage structure on Alvin Geiger Road – SWE#01-1525. Commissioner Jowers made a motion to approve the low bid of \$296,770.00 by Underground Excavating, Inc. Commissioner Dovers seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Administrator Vickers stated this agreement is for the engineering services for the project on Alvin Geiger Road. The engineering services cost is \$27,718.00 and Construction management cost is \$11,880.00. This is with Statewide Engineering for engineering services and construction management for a total of \$38,620.50. This will be submitted to FEMA for reimbursement. This is ready for approval today. Chairman O’Steen asked for a motion to approve or reject the Engineering Services Agreement for the replacement of the Drainage Structure on Alvin Geiger Road- SWE# 01-1525. Commissioner Dovers made a motion to approve the Engineering Services Agreement. Commissioner Paulk seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

Mr. Larry Nesmith, 877 MJ McClelland Road, discussed the appointment for the Board of Elections Board Member that will be replacing Mr. Wendell Stone.

Ms. Patti Morris, 404 West Green Highway, asked if Mr. Tanner is from the same district that Mr. Wendell Stone represented? Chairman O’Steen stated yes.

Mr. Michael Newton, 1402 Adams Street, discussed the appointment for the Board of Elections Board Member replacing Mr. Wendell Stone. Mr. Newton asked the Board of Commissioners to postpone the decision to appoint someone today in order to review the petition from the Citizens that he received earlier.

Ms. Judy Worrell, 3729 Baymeadows Drive West, spoke of concerns with the Board of Elections and the alleged breach. She wants the Board of Elections to be fair and balanced.

Chairman O’Steen asked for a motion to adjourn the Special Called Meeting. Commissioner Jowers made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:29 a.m. o’clock. Commissioner Paulk seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Clerk

Chairman