

**COFFEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2021
9:36 O'CLOCK A.M.
COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM**

Coffee County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 7, 2021, at 9:36 o'clock a.m. with the following present: Chairman Oscar Paulk, Vice-Chairman AJ Dovers Commissioners Jimmy Kitchens, Ted O'Steen and Johnny Wayne Jowers. 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 Paulk called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Commissioner AJ 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 Paulk announced that our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the service members who lost their lives in Afghanistan.

Chairman Paulk asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the pre-meeting work session and the regular meeting held on August 2, 2021 and the Executive Session held on August 2, 2021 and the Special Called Work Session held on August 26, 2021. Commissioner Dovers made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner O'steen seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

Chairman Paulk asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Jowers made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Kitchens seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Attorney Tony Rowell read the Childhood Cancer Awareness Proclamation to proclaim September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Chairman Paulk asked for a motion to approve the Proclamation. Commissioner O'Steen made a motion to approve the Proclamation. Commissioner Kitchens seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

Ms. Michelle Girtman, Director of Magnolia House, thanked the Commission for their support of the Magnolia House and the fight against Domestic Violence. Attorney Rowell read the Proclamation to declare October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Chairman Paulk asked for a motion to approve the Proclamation. Commissioner Dovers made a motion to approve the Proclamation. Commissioner O'Steen seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

Mr. Parker Borland, Hurst and Hurst, presented the FY 2020 County Audit Report. Mr. Parker stated the County has received a clean opinion on financial statements. The County is in sound financial condition. The 2021 millage rate is ready for approval today.

County Administrator Vickers stated the tax digest has been properly advertised. The total levy for the tax year is 8.247 mills with .500 mills being remitted to Douglas-Coffee County Industrial Authority. The County's portion of the millage rate will be 7.747 mills. Chairman Paulk asked for a motion to approve the FY 2021 County millage rate. Commissioner Kitchens made a motion to approve the County millage rate at 8.247 mills. Commissioner Jowers seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

Ms. Tracy Youghn, Director of Finance – Coffee County Board of Education, stated the Board of Education met on August 26, 2021 and has adopted the FY 2021 millage rate at 16.019 mills which is a rollback from 16.032 mills. Chairman Paulk asked for a motion to approve the FY 2021 millage rate for the Coffee County Board of Education. Commissioner Jowers made a motion to approve the FY 2021 millage rate for the Coffee County Board of Education at 16.019 mills. Commissioner Kitchens seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Attorney Rowell stated there was a conflict with the appointment of Ms. Connie Lott. Chairman Paulk asked for a motion to approve the Board appointment for Concerted services for July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024. Commissioner Kitchens made a motion to approve the appointment of Ms. Linda McDuffie to the Concerted Services Board. Commissioner Jowers seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

Chairman Paulk asked for a motion to approve the Board appointment for the Atkinson County-Coffee County Joint Development Authority. Commissioner Kitchens made a motion to approve the appointment of Mayor Tony Paulk to the Atkinson County-Coffee County Joint Development Authority for September 7, 2021 through December 31, 2023. Commissioner Dovers seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Administrator Vickers stated the County has received a change order (#2) for patching and spot overlay improvements to various roads. As the County was repairing the roads approved on this contract, they found several additional potholes on the roadway that needed repairing. There was patching done on Hebron Church Road. There has previously been a deductive change order for this project of \$10,500.00. This project is paid out of TSPLOST funds and there are sufficient funds available for this change order. This change order #2 is an increase in the contract of \$87,380.72. The new contract total is \$308,172.97. Chairman Paulk asked for a motion to approve or reject the change order #2 for patching and spot overlay improvements to various roads. Commissioner Dovers made a motion to approve the change order. Commissioner O'Steen seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Administrator Vickers stated the pipe on Basswood Drive needed replacing with a concrete pipe. The County has received a proposal from Douglas Electrical & Plumbing, Inc. for pipe installation for \$17,500.00 to replace this pipe. This project will be paid out of TSPLOST funds. The County purchase the pipe separately. Chairman Paulk asked for a motion to approve or reject the proposal for pipe installation on Basswood Drive. Commissioner Dovers made a motion to approve the proposal in the amount of \$17,500.00. Commissioner Jowers seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Attorney Rowell stated the County has previously approved this Resolution designating the Law Enforcement Center as an Annex which is in a separate building. The law states for this law to be in effect you must hold court at least two times per year at that facility to qualify as an Annex. Due to COVID-19, the courts have not held court at the Law Enforcement Center in the required period of time, therefore, the status of that Resolution has lapsed. The Resolution today will reestablish the Law Enforcement Center, at 825 Thompson Drive, Douglas, Georgia, as a Court Annex and allow the Courts to hold court at that location. Chairman Paulk asked for a motion to approve or reject the Resolution establishing the Law Enforcement Center as a Courthouse Annex. Commissioner Kitchens made a motion to approve this Resolution. Commissioner Jowers seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

Chairman Paulk asked for any comments from the audience. There were no comments from the audience.

Chairman Paulk asked for a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Dovers made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:07 a.m. Commissioner O'Steen seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Clerk

Chairman