

COFFEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2020
9:30 O'CLOCK A.M.
COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM

Coffee County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, at 9:30 o'clock a.m. with the following present: Chairman Johnny Wayne Jowers, Vice-Chairman Oscar Paulk, Commissioners Jimmy Kitchens, Ted O'Steen and AJ Dovers. Also present were County Attorney Tony Rowell, County Administrator Wesley Vickers, and County Clerk Tracie Vickers.

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

Chairman Jowers announced that Wreaths across America Ceremony will be held on December 19th at 12:00 p.m. at the CE Weir Center. If you would like to purchase a wreath, please contact Mr. Jerome Loving.

Chairman Jowers asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the pre-meeting work session and the regular meeting held on August 3, 2020 and the Special Called Work Session held on August 27, 2020. Commissioner Paulk made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Kitchens seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

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

Ms. Rhonda Sports, Member of Childhood Cancer Awareness Group of Coffee County, stated this is the 10th year this group has been raising money to support Childhood Cancer Victims. They presently have 16 families they are helping. In 2018, this Group disbursed \$153,000.00 to their childhood cancer families. Ms. Sports discussed several upcoming fund raisers they will be holding throughout September. Attorney Rowell read the Childhood Cancer Awareness Group of Coffee County Proclamation. Commissioner O'Steen made a motion to approve the Proclamation. Commissioner Kitchens seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Administrator Vickers stated the 5-year Digest has been properly advertised. The total millage rate for the County is 7.754 mills which is the same as last year. The total millage rate is 8.254 mills with one-half mill being distributed to the Douglas-Coffee County Industrial Authority. Chairman Jowers asked for a motion to approve or reject the 2020 County Millage Rate. Commissioner Kitchens made a motion to approve the 2020 Millage Rate at 7.754 mills. Commissioner Paulk seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Administrator Vickers stated that Ms. Tracy Youghn, Finance Director for Coffee County Board of Education, came to the pre-meeting work session and stated the Board of Education met on August 27, 2020. The County has a letter from the Board of Education stating

the Board of Education millage rate was approved at 16.032 mills, which is the same millage rate as last year. Chairman Jowers asked for a motion to approve or reject the request by the Board of Education to set the 2020 Millage Rate. Commissioner Dovers made a motion to approve the Board of Education Millage Rate at 16.032 mills. Commissioner Paulk seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Attorney Rowell stated the County has met with CSX Railroad and the Department of Transportation. They have an agreement to close the crossing with the contingency to pave Pecan Grove Road to have adequate paved access to Salem Church from Barrington Road. CSX has asked the County to approve the Resolution as a commitment to close the crossing subject to their commitment to pave the road. Also, the next item is the agreement which includes a \$15,000.00 contribution by CSX Railroad as well as their commitment to close the crossing subject to the Department of Transportation paving Pecan Grove Road. Chairman Jowers asked for a motion to approve or reject the Resolution providing for the elimination of Railroad Crossing; repealing all prior ordinances / Resolution in Conflict herewith, and for other purposes. Commissioner Dovers made a motion to approve the Resolution. Commissioner O'Steen seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

Chairman Jowers stated that if everything lines up with the Department of Transportation and the Railroad and the Department of Transportation gets the road paved, then they will move forward with the closure of the railroad crossing. Chairman Jowers then asked for a motion to approve or reject the Crossing Closure agreement between Coffee County and CSX Transportation on Salem Church Road / CR-482. Commissioner Dovers made a motion to approve the crossing closure agreement between Coffee County and CSX Transportation on Salem Church Road / CR-482. Commissioner Kitchens seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Administrator Vickers stated the County has received bids for the Courthouse Administration Annex Building. The bids received were:

Harper & Company Builders, Inc. - \$2,094,000.00
Charles E. Lewis Construction Company, Inc. - \$2,169,149.00
Kellerman Construction, Inc. - \$2,089,581.00

Mr. Vickers stated the County budget in May was \$1,457,370.00 with a contingency fee of \$145,737.00 for a total of \$1,603,107.00. The bids received are approximately one-half million dollars over the amount we anticipated. Construction cost is up. The County has not completed the Courthouse renovation and this needs to be completed before moving to any new projects. The Commission had a work session meeting and decided to complete the Courthouse project and then see where we are at with remaining funds. Mr. Vickers recommends declining these bids at this time and work on the Courthouse. We will be waiting on approval from the State Fire Marshall's Office for the Courthouse plans. Chairman Jowers asked for a motion to approve or reject the bids for the Courthouse Administration Annex Building. Commissioner Paulk made a motion to reject the bids for the Courthouse Administration Annex Building. Commissioner Kitchens seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

Chairman Jowers asked for a motion to approve or reject the appointment of a voting delegate on behalf of Coffee County for the ACCG 2021 Policy Agenda. Commissioner Dovers made a motion to approve Commissioner Kitchens as the delegate on behalf of Coffee County for the ACCG 2021 policy agenda. Commissioner O'Steen seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Administrator Vickers stated that it is time to apply for the 2021 LMIG allocation. Mr. Vickers read the list of 2021 LMIG projects. The allocation for this year is \$1,174,559.46. The total amount of funds to be submitted is \$2,312,000.00 which are DOT LMIG funds - \$1,174,559.46; TSPLOST funds - \$450,000.00; SPLOST funds - \$687,441.00. This is ready for approval this morning. Chairman Jowers asked for a motion to approve or reject the 2021 LMIG submission and give the Chairman authorization to sign documents. Commissioner Kitchens made a motion to approve the 2021 LMIG submission and give the Chairman authorization to sign the documents. Commissioner Paulk seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

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

Chairman Jowers asked for a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Dovers made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:50 a.m. o'clock. Commissioner O'Steen seconded the motion. All Commissioners unanimously agreed.

County Clerk

Chairman