

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
AGENDA SETTING WORK SESSION
MARCH 1, 2021
6:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commission Chairman Todd Higdon
District 1 Commissioner Dennis Adams
District 2 Commissioner Terry Chandler
District 3 Commissioner Theresa Bettis
District 5 Commissioner Derek Doster

MEMBERS ABSENT:

District 4 Commissioner Brian Kirk

MEDIA PRESENT:

Zach Mitcham, Madison County Journal

STAFF PRESENT:

Rhonda S. Wooten, County Clerk
Mike Pruett, County Attorney

Chairman Higdon called the work session to order at 6:00 p.m.

Item No. 1. Chairman's Report

Chairman Higdon said he invited Fire Chief Marc Perry to the work session to share additional insight and answer any questions regarding the conveyance of land where fire department stations are located. Chief Perry explained the advantages in having the building and land as collateral. He shared that all eleven fire departments and Rescue have need to finance things from time to time and confidence in the County's continued support to maintain 200 volunteer firefighters county-wide is essential to the success of the program.

Chairman Higdon was proud to share that the 2001 Caterpillar rubber tire loader, purchased with trade-in equipment, was delivered to the road department last Friday.

Chairman Higdon advised the Board of the new agreed upon 2021 rate structure with The Commercial Bank.

Chairman Higdon stated the starting salary for CDL road department positions are too low to recruit qualified applicants and requested the Board to review a revised pay structure.

Chairman Higdon advised the Board that a road department employee was assaulted last Thursday while installing a driveway pipe. An Incident Report was completed by the Madison County Sheriff's Office. While the employee did not press charges, Chairman Higdon wanted to go on record stating assault on County employees will not be tolerated.

Item No. 2. Hearings and Actions on Rezone Matters, Special Use Permits, Etc.

None

OLD BUSINESS:

Item No. 3. Consider amending the 2021 LMIG road project list

Chairman Higdon and the Board discussed resurface rather than triple surface and reviewed a few amendments to the 2021 LMIG road project list.

On motion by Commissioner Doster and second by Commissioner Chandler the Board voted to go out for sealed bid utilizing the amended 2021 LMIG list as presented at the March 1, 2021 work session. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis and Doster voted YES.

NEW BUSINESS:

Item No. 4. Discuss approving a 2021 Beer & Wine License for Dogsboro, LLC

Store Manager Melanie Dove presented the applicant's lease agreement and two years of tax returns. County Attorney Mike Pruett agreed to review the documents and communicate his findings with the Board prior to the March 29, 2021 regular business meeting.

Item No. 5. Discuss moving the code enforcement position under the Board of Commissioners

Chairman Higdon said he has discussed with Sheriff Moore his desire to have Code Enforcement under the Board of Commissioners and to adopt a Nuisance Abatement Ordinance. Sheriff Moore agreed to keep the animal control responsibilities under his office by retaining the two officers he currently employs for code enforcement and animal control. Chairman Higdon concurs that the animal control duties require two full-time employees and requests Board approval to create a code enforcement position in the Building and Zoning Office.

An applicant for the code enforcement position, Christopher Roach, addressed the Board regarding his qualifications to fulfill the code enforcement responsibilities.

Item No. 6. Discuss discontinuing large animal burial service

Chairman Higdon provided private property statistics of the number of large animals, 263, that were buried by the road department in 2020. There was discussion regarding the loss of time from needed road work, the salary and fuel costs associated with the service, and people in the county who make a living providing the service for a fee of \$125 to \$150. Animals in the county right-of-way are the responsibility of the road department.

Item No. 7. Discuss discontinuing the sale and installation of driveway pipes

Chairman Higdon and the Board discussed discontinuing the sale and installation of driveway pipes. The same material can be purchased from local businesses at competitive prices. Concern over correct pipe sizing was expressed and implementation of driveway permits for new construction was suggested.

Item No. 8. Discuss restructuring gravel requests

Chairman Higdon said the road department is unable to sell gravel because of our tax exempt status and recommended referring citizens with requests for scoops of gravel to local businesses.

Item No. 9. Discuss creating an Environmental Impact Committee

This item was postponed to the April 5, 2021 Agenda Setting Work Session.

Item No. 10. Urgent Matters

Chairman Higdon said parents have been upset with Recreation Department Director Shelley Parham regarding rules and regulations and it has been very hard on her. He asked Director Parham to share examples of the disrespectful situations she has experienced and asked the Board how they would like for things to be handled going forward. The Board expressed their full support of Director Parham and told her to contact the sheriff's office if she were ever to be in a confrontational or verbally abusive situation. There was discussion regarding signage of the rules being posted and seasonal Saturday/Sunday park supervision.

Item No. 11. Executive Session to discuss land acquisition, personnel matters and/or potential litigation (if needed).

Chairman Higdon announced the need for executive session to discuss personnel matters.

On motion by Commissioner Doster and second by Commissioner Chandler the Board voted to go into executive session at 8:30 p.m. to discuss personnel matters. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis and Doster voted YES.

The Board returned from executive session at 9:00 p.m.

On motion by Commissioner Adams and second by Commissioner Bettis the Board voted to approve the minutes of the executive session. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m. by Chairman Higdon with unanimous consent.