

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
AGENDA SETTING WORK SESSION
MAY 3, 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 4 Commissioner Brian Kirk
District 5 Commissioner Derek Doster

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

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 6:04 p.m.

Item No. 1. Chairman's Report

Chairman Higdon stated that two tornadoes touched down in Madison County today. Three houses were damaged. No injuries have been reported. He expressed his gratitude to the Sheriff's Office, Code Enforcement, EMS, Fire Departments and Road Department for working together to get the roadways cleared.

Chairman Higdon said to allow for a broader spectrum of services, he would like Board approval to appoint Saville & Company, Inc. as our broker of record for Property & Casualty Insurance.

On motion by Commissioner Doster and second by Commissioner Chandler the Board voted to have the broker of record go from Public Entities of America to Saville & Company, Inc. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Chairman Higdon asked Commissioner Chandler to discuss the request of the Madison County Agricultural Education Center Board to de-obligate the Board of Commissioners from the OneGeorgia Authority grant and have it awarded to the IDA. Commissioner Chandler explained the reason for the change.

Commissioner Kirk asked if the IDA has been involved with this decision. Commissioner Chandler said that is correct. Commissioner Chandler said I will not vote on this, obviously, but will be glad to answer any questions. County Attorney Mike Pruett asked if the Board of Commissioners needed to transfer a contract with engineer John Phillips. Commissioner Chandler said no, we didn't get that far. On motion by Commissioner Kirk and second by Commissioner Adams the Board voted to de-obligate Madison County Board of Commissioners from the OneGeorgia Authority grant for the Ag Center and have it handled through the ID&BA. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES. Commissioner Chandler abstained.

Chairman Higdon said Kathy emailed the financial report out and we are doing well. He noted that Teresa Patton's report, on Building and Zoning activity, shows 223 building permits have been issued so far this year.

Chairman Higdon said he is looking to purchase dump trucks for the road department and a new mower tractor, which will also be used by the Sheriff's Office for inmate work detail.

Chairman Higdon stated that Tax Commissioner Dalton has a new hire in his office. He also advised that a selection has been made for the vacant position in the building maintenance department

Chairman Higdon said that in coming weeks we will be purchasing two gate motors at around \$4,700 for the 9-1-1 Office and the Government Complex.

Chairman Higdon gave an update on the renovations that are underway for the Board of Elections Office.

Chairman Higdon informed the Board of a request from the Madison Oglethorpe Animal Shelter to apply for a \$25,000 grant for a dog park.

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

None

OLD BUSINESS:

Item No. 3. Consider a proposed EMS pension plan

EMS Director Bobby Smith approached the Board to discuss the early retirement plan submitted by Greg Gease with ACCG Retirement Services. Director Smith advised the Board of the department's desire to contribute the mandatory 4% employee payroll deducted pretax contribution for the Age 55 with 20 years of service plan.

Item No. 4. Consider discontinuing large animal burial service

Code Enforcement Officer Christopher Roach presented a procedural flow chart designed to handle animal burial requests. There was discussion regarding a list of providers and public awareness.

Item No. 5. Discuss adopting a Nuisance Abatement Ordinance

Chairman Higdon, the Board, Code Enforcement Officer Christopher Roach, former Code Enforcement Officer Jack Huff and County Attorney Mike Pruett all discussed finalizing the draft of an ordinance regulating the abatement of nuisances for the purpose of protecting and preserving the public health, safety and welfare in the unincorporated area of Madison County.

Item No. 6. Consider approving a 2021 Beer & Wine License for Dogsboro, LLC

The Board asked applicant John Betts several questions pertaining to his involvement with Dogsboro, LLC. Store Manager Melanie Dove advised the Board that she would be answering for Mr. Betts as he was on pain medication due to a recent medical procedure.

Commissioner Bettis made a motion to deny Dogsboro, LLC a 2021 Beer & Wine License. Commissioner Chandler seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Bettis and Chandler voted YES to deny. Commissioners Adams, Kirk and Doster voted No.

Commissioner Doster made a motion to approve a 2021 Beer & Wine License for Dogsboro, LLC. Commissioner Kirk seconded the motion. After discussion and additional questions, the vote to approve was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted No.

For clarification on the denial, Commissioner Bettis made a motion to deny Dogsboro, LLC a 2021 Beer & Wine License. Commissioner Chandler seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES to deny.

Item No. 7. Consider placing TSPLOST on the November ballot

Chairman Higdon updated the Board on his meeting with City Mayors to discuss placing TSPLOST on the November ballot and seeking centerline mileage from D.O.T. as a way to determine percentages.

Item No. 8. Consider sealed bid process, with an agreed upon survey, where the Danielsville Fire Department is located

There were no objections to moving forward with the sealed bid process, upon an agreed upon survey, for the land where the Danielsville Fire Department is located.

Item No. 9. Consider sealed bid process, with an agreed upon survey, where the Collins Fire Department is located

There were no objections to moving forward with the sealed bid process, upon an agreed upon survey, for the land where the Collins Fire Department is located.

Item No. 10. Consider conveying land, with an agreed upon survey, where the Danielsville maintenance shop is located

There were objections to moving forward with conveying the land where the Danielsville maintenance shop is located.

NEW BUSINESS:

Item No. 11. Discuss 2021/2022 Health Insurance Policy

Chairman Higdon advised the Board of meetings he has had with Matt Bidwell of MSI Benefits, Andrew McCannon of McGriff Insurance Services and Gloria Camp of Mark III Employee Benefits to review plans, quotes and services.

Item No. 12. Discuss approving a 2021 Beer & Wine License for Colbert Food Mart

The Board reviewed the application and asked if there have been any issues with the current store owner.

Item No. 13. Discuss approving a resolution regarding The Jail Construction and staffing Act

Item No. 14. Discuss approving a City/County agreement for inmate housing

Chairman Higdon advised the Board that Sheriff Moore tabled items 13 and 14.

Item No. 15. Discuss approving a resolution establishing the qualification fee for District 3 Commissioner

The Board reviewed a resolution establishing the qualification fee for District 3 Commissioner.

Item No. 16. Discuss selling 2.68 acre County owned parcel # 0010-049 on Jot Em Down Road

The Board discussed selling a 2.68 acre County owned parcel on Jot Em Down Road.

Item No. 17. Discuss lawn care maintenance for the Old Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Danielsville

Chairman Higdon said the County owns the parcel of land the church and cemetery are on but the Trust for cemetery maintenance was set-up with the City of Danielsville. He suggested the land be conveyed to the City. Danielsville Mayor Michael Wideman was present. He said Danielsville City Council will be meeting at the end of this month and can present a maintenance plan to the County at the June 7 work session.

Item No. 18. Discuss Pilot Club donation for renovations to the Historic Courthouse

Chairman Higdon advised the Board that the Pilot Club tabled this item.

Item No. 19. Discuss contracting with Northeast Georgia Regional Commission to facilitate the development of a joint comprehensive plan

The Board discussed the importance of a developing a comprehensive plan.

Item No. 20. Urgent Matters

Commissioner Doster read a letter to be included in the minutes as follows:

May 3, 2021

Whereas, the Madison County Board of Commissioners contracted with Arpeggio Acoustic Consulting, LLC, to conduct a sound study regarding noise levels in the Colbert, GA area with specific concern to noise output from the Madison GRP plant, received a final report dated March 23, 2021 titled "Sound Study of Community Noise Impact of Operations at Madison GRP Biomass Power Plant";

Whereas, the Madison County Board of Commissioner's empowered District 5 Commissioner Derek Doster to lead the sound study effort distributed the final report participants in the study allowing time for questions and comments;

Hereby submit the March 23, 2021 Arpeggio, LLC study to Board of Commissioners as being completed and recommend, the County begin efforts to develop a noise ordinance for future consideration.

Sincerely,
Derek Doster, Commissioner District 5
Madison County

The letter and a copy of the sound study are to be filed with the approved May 3, 2021 meeting minutes.

Item No. 21. Executive Session to discuss land acquisition, personnel matters and/or potential litigation (if needed).

There was no need for executive session.

Item No. 22. Adjourn

On motion by Commissioner Chandler the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.