

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
OCTOBER 26, 2020
6:00 PM**

(In person meeting held in Public Meeting Room and also available remotely through Zoom)

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commission Chairman John Scarborough (In person)
District 1 Commissioner Lee Allen (In person)
District 2 Commissioner Tripp Strickland (In person)
District 3 Commissioner Theresa Bettis (Via live video)
District 4 Commissioner Brian Kirk (Via live video)
District 5 Commissioner Derek Doster (Via live video)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

MEDIA PRESENT:

Zach Mitcham, Madison County Journal (Via live video)

STAFF PRESENT:

Tracy W. Patrick, Deputy County Clerk (In person)
Mike Pruett, County Attorney (Via live video)

Chairman Scarborough called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Item No. 1. Approval of minutes:

**Minutes of the September 28, 2020 Regular Business Meeting
Minutes of the October 5, 2020 Agenda Setting Meeting**

On motion by Commissioner Allen and second by Commissioner Strickland, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2020 Regular Business Meeting and the vote was as follows: Commissioners Allen, Strickland, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

On motion by Commissioner Allen and second by Commissioner Strickland, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2020 Agenda Setting Meeting. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Allen, Strickland, Kirk and Doster voted YES. Commissioner Bettis abstained.

Item No. 2. Business Involving Guests, Groups or Multiple Visitors

None

Item No. 3. Chairman's Report

Chairman Scarborough shared that with strong recommendation from the Chairman of the Recreation Board, concurrence from members of the Board of Commissioners, himself and others, he was pleased to

present the name of Shelley Parham to fill the Recreation Department Director position effective December 1, 2020. Board action on this announcement is to take place at the November 30, 2020 meeting.

Chairman Scarborough announced that Governor Kemp proclaimed Sunday, November 1, 2020 as Retired Educators Day in Georgia. He stated that he signed a proclamation last Wednesday recognizing Retired Educators Day and that he calls upon the citizens of Madison County to express their appreciation for the contributions that retired educators have made and continue to make.

Chairman Scarborough informed the Board that the 2021 LMIG funds were received this morning for the approved project list that was submitted in October. The amount received was \$713,509.05.

Item No. 4. Statements and Remarks from Citizens on agenda items

Chairman Scarborough asked if there were any statements or remarks on agenda items.

Marc Perry addressed the Board and requested more information regarding agenda item number eight.

Steve Arnold addressed the Board and spoke in favor of agenda item number eight and expressed concerns with the current 9-1-1 radio system.

Todd Higdon addressed the Board regarding agenda item number 13 with his request to have the decision delayed until the new Board members were seated.

Bill Barrett with Gunby Communications addressed the Board regarding agenda item number eight and spoke in favor of their proposal for the new 9-1-1 radio system, giving a brief explanation of the proposal.

Scott Lester addressed the Board and spoke in favor of agenda item number six.

Ray Walton addressed the Board and spoke in favor of agenda item number six.

Jesse Williams addressed the Board and spoke in favor of agenda item number 11.

CONSENT AGENDA: Items under this section were discussed at prior public meetings and are presented for consideration as a single vote.

Item No. 5. Consider a lease agreement with Poca Volunteer Fire Department

Item No. 6. Consider initiating the process to adopt Wesley Chapel Road

Item No. 7. Consider initiating the process to adopt Fowler Freeman Lane

Agenda items five, six and seven were approved as consent agenda items with the Board approving the extension of the lease agreement with Poca Volunteer Fire Department and to start the initiating process to adopt Wesley Chapel Road and Fowler Freeman Lane.

On motion by Commissioner Allen and second by Commissioner Strickland, the Board approved consent agenda items five through seven. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Allen, Strickland, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

OLD BUSINESS:

Item No. 8. Consider recommended proposal for a new 9-1-1 radio system

Captain Brennan Baird addressed the Board and presented two proposals from Gunby Communications and Mobile Communications America for a new 9-1-1 radio system. He sighted issues with the current system and presented cost information on both, ultimately recommending Mobile Communications America.

After discussion, the Board agreed to postpone the final decision until the next Board of Commissioners meeting on November 2, 2020.

On motion by Commissioner Doster and second by Commissioner Kirk, the Board agreed to postpone the final decision for the recommended proposals for a new 9-1-1 radio system until the November 2, 2020 Board of Commissioners meeting. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Allen, Strickland, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 9. Consider authorizing the Chairman to execute a quitclaim deed for two acres of abandoned property at Old Burroughs Smith Road

Chairman Scarborough stated action on this agenda item had been taken by the Board in 2005 and executing a quitclaim deed will facilitate the official transfer from the County to the landowner.

On motion by Commissioner Strickland and second by Commissioner Allen, the Board voted to authorize Chairman Scarborough to execute a quitclaim deed for two acres of abandoned property at Old Burroughs Smith Road. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Allen, Strickland, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 10. Consider initiating the process to abandon Andrew Adams Road

Chairman Scarborough asked if there was any public comment regarding the abandonment of Andrew Adams Road. No one came forward.

On motion by Commissioner Kirk and second by Commissioner Allen, the Board agreed to declare Andrew Adams Road has ceased to be used by the public to the extent that no substantial public purpose is served by it or that its removal from the County Road System is otherwise in the best interest and directed the County Attorney to begin the abandonment process. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Allen, Strickland, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 11. Consider initiating the process to abandon Ray O'Kelley Road

Chairman Scarborough asked if there was any public comment regarding the abandonment of Ray O'Kelley Road. No one came forward.

On motion by Commissioner Allen and second by Commissioner Bettis, the Board agreed to declare Ray O’Kelley Road has ceased to be used by the public to the extent that no substantial public purpose is served by it or that its removal from the County Road System is otherwise in the best interest and directed the County Attorney to begin the abandonment process. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Allen, Strickland, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 12. Consider initiating the process to abandon a portion of O’Kelley Road

Chairman Scarborough asked if there was any public comment regarding the abandonment of a portion of O’Kelley Road. No one came forward.

On motion by Commissioner Allen and second by Commissioner Bettis, the Board agreed to declare a portion of O’Kelley Road originating at US Highway 98 and terminating at County Road 125, Short Seagraves Road, has ceased to be used by the public to the extent that no substantial public purpose is served by it or that its removal from the County Road System is otherwise in the best public interest and directed the County Attorney to begin the abandonment process. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Allen, Strickland, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

NEW BUSINESS:

Item No. 13. Consider approving Lot Purchase and Sale Agreement for 50 Albany Avenue to be paid out of 2020 SPLOST designated for Facilities Acquisition and Improvement

Chairman Scarborough stated that the purchase price for the property is \$80,000 and the purpose for purchasing the 1.58-acre parcel is for a parking lot or facility construction. He informed the Board that Geo-Hydro Engineers performed a Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment and no evidence of recognized environmental conditions in connection with the property was revealed. In addition, the assessment noted the potential for a past or present release of hazardous or petroleum substances leading to contamination of soil or groundwater at the subject property is low and further investigation is not warranted at this time.

On motion by Commissioner Strickland and second by Commissioner Doster, the Board voted to approve the Lot Purchase and Sale Agreement for 50 Albany Avenue to be paid out of 2020 SPLOST designated for Facilities Acquisition and Improvement. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Strickland, Kirk and Doster voted YES. Commissioners Allen and Bettis voted NO.

Item No. 14. Consider approving Facility Use Agreement with PATH Volleyball Association

Chairman Scarborough stated the Facility Use Agreement was provided to outline the roles and responsibilities between the County and PATH Volleyball Association and it closely mirrored that of other County facility agreements.

On motion by Commissioner Allen and second by Commissioner Doster, the Board voted to approve the Facility Use Agreement with PATH Volleyball Association. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Allen, Strickland, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 15. Roads Update

Commissioner Allen stated the shoulder of Crabapple Hollow Road near Sanford Road is washing away and exposing the pipe beneath and said the Road Department is addressing the issue at this time.

Item No. 16. Urgent Matters

There were no urgent matters.

Item No. 17. Statements and Remarks from Citizens

Chairman Scarborough asked if there were any statements or remarks. No one came forward.

Item No. 18. Statements and Remarks from Commissioners

There were no statements or remarks from Commissioners.

Item No. 19. Executive Session to discuss real estate acquisition, personnel matters and/or potential litigation

There was no need for executive session.

Item No. 20. Adjourn.

On motion by Commissioner Strickland and second by Commissioner Allen, the meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.