

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
February 22, 2021
6:00 PM**

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 (via speaker phone)
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 meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led in the pledge to the American Flag.

Item No. 1. Approval of minutes:

Minutes of the January 14, 2021 Public Hearing

Minutes of the January 25, 2021 Regular Business Meeting

Minutes of the February 1, 2021 Agenda Setting Work Session

On motion by Commissioner Chandler and second by Commissioner Doster the Board voted to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2021 Public Hearing, the January 25, 2021 Regular Business Meeting, the February 1, 2021 Agenda Setting Work Session and the February 22, 2021 agenda. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

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

Chairman Higdon recognized Drago Tesanovich. Mr. Tesanovich addressed the Board with his request for a Citizen Advisory Board to research environmental impact with possible incoming businesses and subdivisions. He asked the Board to form a committee charged with creating the Citizen Advisory Board and said he would be happy to serve on the committee.

Item No. 3. Chairman's Report

Chairman Higdon stated the five acre parcel of land in Comer that was deeded to the County from D.O.T. has been cleared. The Road Department's side of the lot is already being used and floor plans for EMS Station 4 are being reviewed.

Chairman Higdon advised the Board of the renovations that are taking place at 20 Albany Avenue with the help of about twelve inmates. Renovations are scheduled to be complete by summer to allow for adequate housing of the Board of Elections Office in time for November elections.

Chairman Higdon advised the Board of negotiations to trade two early 1980's unused tractors plus \$6,000.00 for a 2001 Caterpillar rubber tire loader. The \$6,000.00 is to be paid from 2014 Road Department SPLOST.

He also discussed negotiations to purchase a 2021 Bobcat front end loader for the Recreation Department at a price of \$21,782. The general consensus of the Board was to purchase the Bobcat front end loader to be paid from the 2021 general fund account as budgeted.

Chairman Higdon discussed negotiations to purchase Deutz 85 horsepower cab tractors for bush hogging at a price of \$39,900 each with an extended five year power train warranty. He said he would like to purchase two out of the 2014 Road Department SPLOST funds. The general consensus of the Board was to purchase two Deutz 85 horsepower cab tractors to be paid from the 2014 Road Department SPLOST funds.

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

Chairman Higdon asked if there were any statements or remarks on agenda items. No one came forward.

OLD BUSINESS:

Item No. 5. Consider approving a resolution authorizing the tax commissioner to make final determinations concerning the waiver of interest and penalties

Item No. 6. Consider approving a resolution authorizing the tax commissioner to receive payments by credit card

Agenda items five and six were taken up as one vote.

On motion by Commissioner Kirk and second by Commissioner Chandler the Board voted to approve a resolution authorizing the tax commissioner to make final determinations concerning the waiver of interest and penalties and a resolution authorizing the tax commissioner to receive payments by credit card. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 7. Consider appointing Lee Mitchell to the Planning and Zoning Commission

On motion by Commissioner Chandler and second by Commissioner Bettis the Board voted to appoint Lee Mitchell to the Planning and Zoning Commission. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 8. Consider amending section 2-187 of the Vehicle Fleet Policy

Item No. 9. Consider amending section 2-204 of the Transportation Policy

Item No. 10. Consider amending section 46-36 of the Parks and Recreation Board Policy to change frequency of meetings

Agenda items eight, nine and ten were taken up as one vote.

On motion by Commissioner Doster and second by Commissioner Chandler the Board voted to amend section 2-187 of the Vehicle Fleet Policy, section 2-204 of the Transportation Policy and section 46-36 of the Parks and Recreation Board Policy. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 11. Consider conveying land, with an agreed upon survey, where the Danielsville Fire Department is located

Chairman Higdon said he talked to Collins Fire Chief Jackson Parham. Chief Parham would like to have the land where the Collins Fire Department is located conveyed to them and agrees to pay any associated costs pertaining to a survey, advertisement and closing/recording fees.

Commissioner Chandler made a motion to begin the process of conveying the land, with an agreed upon survey, where the Danielsville Fire Department and Collins Fire Department are located. Commissioner Adams seconded the motion. After discussion, the Board decided to postpone action until they had a better understanding of how to protect all entities involved. Commissioner Chandler withdrew his motion. Commissioner Adams withdrew his second.

Item No. 12. Consider conveying land, with an agreed upon survey, where the Danielsville maintenance shop is located

Commissioner Adams made a motion to convey the land, with an agreed upon survey, where the Danielsville maintenance shop is located. Commissioner Chandler seconded the motion. After discussion, on motion by Commissioner Bettis and second by Commissioner Doster the Board voted to table this item. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 13. Consider formal adoption of Gosnell-Hutto Road with a 60 foot right-of-way

On motion by Commissioner Bettis and second by Commissioner Doster the Board voted to adopt Gosnell-Hutto Road as a county maintained road with a 60 foot right-of-way. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

NEW BUSINESS:

Item No. 14. Consider hiring Dickie Hunsinger to fill a vacant part-time position at the Transfer Station

On motion by Commissioner Doster and second by Commissioner Chandler the Board voted to hire Dickie Hunsinger to fill a vacant part-time position at the Transfer Station based upon the passing of all County screens. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 15. Roads Update

Commissioner Adams shared citizens' expression of gratitude for road work done on Williams-Wilson Road, Stoy-Smith Road and Sanford Road. He requested road work on Mt. Zion Road and Smith Road.

Commissioner Chandler requested road work on Macedonia Church Road, Timberlane Drive, James Springs Road and consideration of Paradise Valley Road being accepted as a County maintained road.

Commissioner Bettis expressed thanks for the gravel on Thomas Road and requested to have Windsor Heights looked at.

Commissioner Doster requested road work on Faith Road, HV Chandler Road at the railroad crossing and Greenridge Court.

Commissioner Kirk requested gravel for Collins Brooks Road.

Item No. 16. Urgent Matters

Chairman Higdon presented 2020 budget amendments for the sheriff's State Seizure, Jail Commission and Donation accounts and a 2021 budget amendment for the sheriff's Donation account.

On motion by Commissioner Doster and second by Commissioner Bettis the Board voted to approve the 2020 budget amendments for the sheriff's State Seizure, Jail Commission and Donation accounts. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

On motion by Commissioner Chandler and second by Commissioner Doster the Board voted to approve the 2021 budget amendment for the sheriff's Donation account. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 17. Statements and Remarks from Citizens

Chairman Higdon said our previous chairman, Anthony Dove, wanted to express thanks to two officers, one with Madison County Sheriff's Office and one with Danielsville Police Department, for stopping and helping his mother when they saw that she fell outside. His mother was okay. He wanted to share his pride in our community.

Drago Tesanovich read comments from his wife, Ruth Ann Tesanovich, stating she did not agree with the decision to no longer have meetings conducted through Zoom and her opposition to the issuance of a NPDES Wastewater Permit to Madison County Georgia Renewable Power.

Mr. Tesanovich recommended the results of the noise survey conducted by the Madison County Clean Power Coalition and the noise study contracted out by the County be combined to come up with a solution.

Chairman Higdon responded to each comment presented by Mr. Tesanovich.

Gina Ward read comments from Dave Ramsey regarding noise and light pollution ordinances, suggesting a review of ordinances that are in place in Athens-Clarke County.

Chairman Higdon addressed Mr. Ramsey's comments.

Item No. 18. Statements and Remarks from Commissioners

Commissioner Doster addressed the concerns presented and then also suggested a road maintenance coalition be formed to investigate the benefits of TSPLOST.

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 Chandler and second by Commissioner Doster the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.