

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
MARCH 29, 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
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 6:06 p.m. and led in the pledge to the American Flag.

Item No. 1. Approval of minutes:

Minutes of the February 22, 2021 Regular Business Meeting

Minutes of the March 1, 2021 Agenda Setting Meeting

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

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

Jennifer Ivey, Madison County Library Branch Manager

Ms. Ivey gave the 2020 Fourth Quarter Library Report, requested approval of a proclamation naming April 4-10, 2021 National Library Week and presented the name of Linda Pitts to fill a vacant position on the Library Board of Trustees.

On motion by Commissioner Adams and second by Commissioner Chandler the Board voted to approve a proclamation naming April 4-10, 2021 National Library Week. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

On motion by Commissioner Kirk and second by Commissioner Bettis the Board voted to appoint Linda Pitts to the Library Board of Trustees. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 3. Chairman's Report

Chairman Higdon expressed appreciation to Woodmen Life Chapter 1415 for their recent contribution of \$1,269.00 toward the purchase of a 2021 Ford Escape for the Madison County Senior Center Meals on Wheels program. The Senior Center delivers about 2,000 meals a month, and the vehicle they needed to replace, which dated back to 1997, had well over 200,000 miles. He also extended appreciation to Jackson EMC for the \$15,000 grant they awarded to the Senior Center for the purchase of this new meal delivery vehicle.

Chairman Higdon announced that the American Rescue Plan passed by Congress should allow Madison County to receive \$5,795,042. County governments all over the country are currently waiting to get word on the U.S. Treasury guidelines for eligible expenditures. He said broadband internet and a sewer system are potential projects to be considered for Madison County.

Chairman Higdon stated he has been in meetings the last couple of weeks with David Jones, Lee Mitchell, Terry Chandler and Tom Harter regarding broadband internet in Madison County. He has another meeting scheduled this Friday to look at a feasibility study.

Chairman Higdon announced the news of County Clerk Rhonda Wooten's decision to retire on September 24th of this year. He said that it has been a pleasure to work with her. (She said the feeling was mutual.) He also announced that she will be training Christina Baxter to take her place.

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

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

Commissioner Adams said he would like to speak on behalf of Brenda Watkins to present her request, along with others on her road, to have Aderhold Rogers Road repaved.

Angela Rouse addressed the Board to offer collaborative efforts in providing Madison County with the best organized sports programs possible.

Brenda Watkins thanked Commissioner Adams for presenting their request to have Aderhold Rogers Road repaved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Item No. 5. Consider approving a 2021 Beer & Wine License for Dogsboro, LLC

Commissioner Bettis made a motion to deny a 2021 Beer & Wine License for Dogsboro, LLC. Commissioner Doster seconded the motion.

After discussion, on substitute motion by Commissioner Kirk and second by Commissioner Chandler the Board voted to table this item until the April 19, 2021 meeting to allow the applicant to submit additional paperwork. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 6. Consider restructuring the Road Department salaries

On motion by Commissioner Kirk and second by Commissioner Adams the Board voted to approve Proposal B of the restructured Road Department salaries dated 3-29-21 with an effective date of 4-11-21 and all additional money for taxes and benefits to be added to the total annual amount presented. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 7. Consider amending sections 50-40(f) and 50-45(e)(3) of the Personnel Policy

On motion by Commissioner Doster and second by Commissioner Kirk the Board voted to approve the amendments to section 50-4(f) and 50-45(e)(3) of the Personnel Policy. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 8. Consider moving the code enforcement position under the Board of Commissioners and hiring Christopher Roach to fill the position

On motion by Commissioner Chandler and second by Commissioner Bettis the Board voted to approve moving the code enforcement position under the Board of Commissioners and hiring Christopher Roach to fill the position. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 9. Consider discontinuing large animal burial service

After discussion, Commissioner Chandler made a motion to assign code enforcement with the duty of developing criteria to enable the public an understanding on how to proceed with future large animal burials in place of the current County service.

After further discussion, on substitute motion by Commissioner Doster and second by Commissioner Adams the Board voted to postpone this item until the April 19, 2021 meeting. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 10. Consider discontinuing the sale and installation of driveway pipes

On motion by Commissioner Bettis and second by Commissioner Doster the Board voted to discontinue the sale and installation of driveway pipes. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 11. Consider discontinuing gravel sales

On motion by Commissioner Bettis and second by Commissioner Kirk the Board voted to discontinue gravel sales. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

NEW BUSINESS:

Item No. 12. Consider appointing Jonathon Pou to fill a vacant position on the Recreation Board

On motion by Commissioner Doster and second by Commissioner Chandler the Board voted to appoint Jonathon Pou to fill a vacant position on the Recreation Board. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 13. Roads Update

Commissioner Adams submitted a list of road work requests.

Commissioner Chandler requested road work on Cliff Griffith Road. Commissioner Chandler also stated he has received positive comments about the work of the Road Department.

Commissioner Bettis requested road work on Piedmont Park Road, Gunter Drive and Lem Edwards Road.

Commissioner Kirk requested road work at the culvert on New Haven Church Road and the ditch at 2404 New Haven Church Road.

Item No. 14. Urgent Matters

There were no urgent matters.

Item No. 15. Statements and Remarks from Citizens

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

Item No. 16. Statements and Remarks from Commissioners

Commissioner Doster said the data collection portion of the Madison County GRP Power Plant Sound Study has been performed and he now requests an opportunity to discuss it with property owners to get more information and a better understanding.

Commissioner Bettis announced her decision to resign as District 3 Commissioner effective May 31, 2021.

Item No. 17. Executive Session to discuss real estate acquisition, personnel matters and/or potential litigation

There was no need for executive session.

Item No. 18. Adjourn.

On motion by Commissioner Doster and second by Commissioner Adams the meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.