

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
MAY 24, 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
Christina Baxter, County Clerk in training
Mike Pruet, 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 April 19, 2021 Regular Business Meeting

Minutes of the May 3, 2021 Agenda Setting Meeting

On motion by Commissioner Doster and second by Commissioner Chandler the Board voted to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2021 Regular Business Meeting and the May 3, 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

None

Item No. 3. Chairman's Report

Chairman Higdon extended congratulations to the 2021 Madison County High School graduating class.

Chairman Higdon announced that Madison County Youth Football and Cheerleading sign-ups are June 1st.

Chairman Higdon expressed his gratitude to Commissioner Theresa Bettis, who is resigning after 5 ½ years of service, for her work as District 3 Commissioner. He gave her a wooden name plate commemorating her time served, thanked her for her service and said she will be missed.

Chairman Higdon said the TSPLOST Intergovernmental Agreement is being drafted for Madison County and the cities. The division of the funds will be discussed at the June 7 work session.

Chairman Higdon advised the Board of a Madison County resident who offered his services to install a fiber optic line from the Complex to the new Board of Elections building at no cost for labor. The same gentleman extended an offer to provide a fiber optic line between the other county facilities at a cost of approximately \$36,206 versus a quote of \$115,000 that was received in 2012.

Chairman Higdon announced that half of Madison County's portion of the American Rescue funds, \$2,901,920, has been received. The remaining half is to be received within twelve months. The U.S. Treasury guidelines for eligible expenditures are still being developed.

Chairman Higdon said that last Thursday he met with Windstream regarding Kinetic high speed internet and will be meeting with Charter Spectrum next month.

Chairman Higdon stated the wiring for the up and coming Board of Elections building is complete and it will be getting paint on the walls and flooring soon.

Chairman Higdon said the road department is looking at new safety measures for different intersections.

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

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

Duane Bruno thanked Commissioner Bettis for her work in District 3. He also inquired as to which body governs our real estate taxes. Chairman Higdon advised him that it is the Board of Assessors.

OLD BUSINESS:

Item No. 5. Consider 2021/2022 health insurance policy

Chairman Higdon discussed the policy negotiations that were shared at this month's work session and recommended a Cigna renewal option with a County contribution of 50 percent for dependent coverage and a 16.5% premium reduction resulting in an annual savings of \$206,041.

On motion by Commissioner Bettis and second by Commissioner Kirk the Board approved the Cigna renewal option presented. The motion was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 6. Consider awarding sealed bid for county owned parcel #0069 013

On motion by Commissioner Adams and second by Commissioner Chandler the Board voted to award the sale to the highest bidder, Dennis Johnson, in the amount of \$23,877.00. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 7. Consider discontinuing large animal burial service

Code Enforcement Officer Christopher Roach presented a procedural flow chart designed for animal burial requests and a list of service providers.

On motion by Commissioner Doster and second by Commissioner Kirk the Board voted to discontinue large animal burial service effective July 1, 2021. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 8. Consider approving a Nuisance Abatement Ordinance

On motion by Commissioner Bettis and second by Commissioner Doster the Board voted to adopt a Nuisance Abatement Ordinance. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 9. Consider approving a proposed EMS pension plan

On motion by Commissioner Kirk and second by Commissioner Bettis the Board voted to approve an EMS pension plan, submitted by Greg Gease with ACCG Retirement Services, to allow eligibility at age 55 with 20 years of service through mandatory 4% pretax payroll employee contributions. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 10. Consider approving a resolution establishing the qualification fee for District 3 Commissioner

On motion by Commissioner Doster and second by Commissioner Bettis the Board voted to approve a resolution establishing a \$216.00 qualification fee for the elected position of District 3 Commissioner. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 11. Consider approving a 2021 Beer & Wine License for Colbert Food Mart

On motion by Commissioner Doster and second by Commissioner Kirk the Board voted to approve a 2021 Beer & Wine License for Colbert Food Mart effective June 1, 2021. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 12. Consider selling 2.68 acre County owned parcel #0010-049 on Jot Em Down Road through sealed bid process

On motion by Commissioner Chandler and second by Commissioner Adams the Board voted to offer County owned parcel #0010-049 through sealed bid process. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

NEW BUSINESS:

Item No. 13. Consider appointing Jean Mullis to fill the vacant ID&BA position

On motion by Commissioner Doster and second by Commissioner Chandler the Board voted to appoint Jean Mullis to fill the vacant ID&BA position. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 14. Road Update

Commissioner Kirk said he has been hearing good comments about the roadside cutting.

Commissioner Adams extended appreciation for the Sheriff's Inmate Work Detail picking up trash.

Chairman Higdon said a road crew is currently cutting in Colbert and headed to Danielsville and another road crew is on Jot Em Down Road headed toward Hull. He also announced that work on Stapler Road is about complete.

Commissioner Chandler asked about the bridge on Rogers Mill Road. Chairman Higdon said he met with GDOT and Senator Ginn. They are going to pour some concrete at the piers and then go back to a weight limit of 24 tons. He said the bridge is safe.

Item No. 15. Urgent Matters

There were no urgent matters.

Item No. 16. Statement and Remarks from citizens

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

Item No. 17. Statement and Remarks from commissioners

Commissioner Chandler said that he has been in conversation with Al Stone about historical preservation of the Old Courthouse and the Strickland House. He would like to keep the structures fixed.

Item No. 18. Executive Session to discuss real estate acquisition, personnel matters and/or potential litigation

There was no need for executive session.

Item No. 19. Adjourn.

On motion by Commissioner Bettis the meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.