

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
June 28, 2021
6:00 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commission Chairman Todd Higdon
District 1 Commissioner Dennis Adams
District 2 Commissioner Terry Chandler
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 6:05 p.m. and led in the pledge to the American Flag.

Item No. 1. Approval of minutes:

Minutes of the May 24, 2021 Regular Business Meeting

Minutes of the June 7, 2021 Agenda Setting Meeting

On motion by Commissioner Chandler and second by Commissioner Doster the Board voted to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2021 Regular Business Meeting and the June 7, 2021 Agenda Setting Meeting. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, 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 2021 First Quarter Library Report. She provided reporting documents, highlighting various programs and stated 5,785 patrons visited the library during the first three months, when it was open 20 hours per week. The library is now open 56 hours per week.

Item No. 3. Chairman's Report

Chairman Higdon said the new Board of Elections Office is near completion and should be ready for occupancy in about three weeks. It looks great! T.C. Ledford has done an amazing job along with B&B Flooring out of Madison County. This has been a collective effort with the Board of Elections Office, the Sheriff's Inmate Work Detail and Thomas Smallwood overseeing all of the IT infrastructure.

Chairman Higdon announced that tentatively on July 5th, Zoom Telecom Company, owned by a Madison County resident, will be starting the installation of an internal fiber loop to tie our government buildings together. This will be a cost savings of \$1,200.00 a month and a 2 ½ year return on investment.

Chairman Higdon said 27 Madison County employees took a Defensive Driving Course on June 16th. This is mandatory for some departments. It not only provides our employees with safe driving tips but is a contributing factor in our insurance premium.

Chairman Higdon stated he attended a meeting at The Department of Agriculture at the state capitol last Monday with several county chairmen and county managers, including Oglethorpe, Warren, Wilkes and Elberton, to express concerns with Senate Bill 260 which excludes certain soil amendments from local regulation. State Representative Rob Leverett also attended the meeting and was a huge advocate for our county to have input in developing guidelines for the permitting process.

Chairman Higdon said he has been working with Christina Baxter and Rhonda Wooten to take the necessary steps for Madison County to be recognized as a Broadband Ready Community. This will be discussed further at our July Work Session.

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 Zachery Hightower's rezone request of 3.53 acres from A1 to B on Map 2 Parcel 40

Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman Lamar Hughston stated the Planning and Zoning Commission voted seven to zero at their June 7, 2021 meeting to recommend denial of this rezone request based on additional information regarding the chemicals being used.

Chairman Higdon asked Zachery Hightower to address the Board. Mr. Hightower explained the service his company provides and answered numerous questions.

After considerable discussion, on motion by Commissioner Doster and second by Commissioner Chandler the Board voted to deny the rezone request. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Kirk and Doster voted YES to deny the request.

Item No. 6. Consider approving a TSPLOST Intergovernmental Agreement with the cities

On motion by Commissioner Adams and second by Commissioner Chandler the Board voted to approve the TSPLOST Intergovernmental Agreement with the cities and the Resolution that does not include language authorizing County Bonds. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Kirk and Doster voted Yes.

Item No. 7. Consider reappointment of Reginald Hunter to the Advantage Behavioral Health Systems Board

On motion by Commissioner Doster and second by Commissioner Chandler the Board voted to reappoint Reginald Hunter to the Advantage Behavioral Health Systems Board. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 8. Consider approving the 2021/2022 Public Defender's Indigent Defense Agreement

On motion by Commissioner Kirk and second by Commissioner Adams the Board voted to approve the 2021/2022 Public Defender's Indigent Defense Agreement as submitted. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 9. Consider conveying the Presbyterian Church and Cemetery, Parcel #D003 011, to the City of Danielsville

Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve conveying the Presbyterian Church and Cemetery, Parcel #D003 011, to the City of Danielsville. Commissioner Kirk seconded the motion.

After discussion, on substitute motion by Commissioner Chandler and second by Commissioner Adams the Board voted to postpone action until the July 26, 2021 meeting with the intent of gathering a statement of intent and/or proposals regarding the church building. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

NEW BUSINESS:

Item No. 10. Roads Update

Chairman Higdon gave the following Roads Update:

Road work on White Fence Road, Moon Guest Road and Stapler Road has been completed.

Rumble strips have been installed at the intersection of Crabapple Hollow and Sanford Road.

The concrete road pipe on Virginia Lane has been taken care of.

Tire mount and balance machines have been purchased, are on line and working. This will save the County a lot of money in the coming years rather than outsourcing.

The Brush Grappler attachment arrived and will help with debris and storm clean-up.

The bushhog crews have completed the Harrison area. One crew is moving to the Neese Commerce area and another crew will be in the Macedonia Church, Jot-Em-Down area.

Our second sidearm has been repaired and is up and running. Sidearm crews will be on Buford Carey Road and Adam Clarke Road. Chairman Higdon asked that everyone be mindful of the work being done in these areas and drive safely.

Commissioner Kirk inquired about the ditches on Roy Woods Road.

Commissioner Chandler inquired about work on Waggoners Grove Church Road.

Item No. 11. Urgent Matters

County Attorney Mike Pruett explained the need for a vote regarding a settlement plan for opiate litigation.

On motion by Commissioner Adams and second by Commissioner Chandler the Board voted to approve a settlement plan for opiate litigation against Purdue Pharma L.P. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Adams, Chandler, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

Item No. 12. Statements and Remarks from citizens

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

Item No. 13. Statements and Remarks from commissioners

Commissioner Doster asked about the 9-1-1 facility and SPLOST funds. He also stated that he wanted to make deliberate decisions on county matters, such as the Comprehensive Plan, and inquired about drafting a noise ordinance.

Item No. 14. Executive Session to discuss real estate acquisition, personnel matters and/or potential litigation

There was no need for executive session.

Item No. 15. Adjourn.

On motion by Commissioner Doster the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn at 8:22 p.m.