

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING  
AUGUST 31, 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 (Via Live Video)  
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 (In person)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

**MEDIA PRESENT:**

Zach Mitcham, Madison County Journal (Via Live Video)

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Rhonda S. Wooten, County Clerk (In person)  
Mike Pruett, County Attorney (Via Live Video)

Chairman Scarborough called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**Item No. 1. Approval of minutes:**

**Minutes of the August 3, 2020 Agenda Setting Meeting**

Commissioner Allen made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2020 Agenda Setting Meeting. Commissioner Bettis seconded the motion.

Commissioner Doster requested clarification in the minutes regarding the second motion made under agenda item number five. The request was to clearly show that the second motion was made to approve the issuance of a Request For Proposal, rather than the issuance of a bid, for a new 9-1-1 radio system.

The vote to approve the August 3, 2020 minutes with the requested clarification was as follows: Commissioners Allen, Strickland, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

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

**Susan Goldman, County Extension Agent**

County Extension Agent Susan Goldman presented the 4-H contest winners of the Food Challenge Team, Junior Livestock Judging Team and Performing Arts.

On motion by Commissioner Strickland and second by Commissioner Doster the Board approved a proclamation recognizing the 4-H achievements. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Allen, Strickland, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

**Item No. 3. Chairman's Report**

Chairman Scarborough stated an application for the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) Funding Grant was submitted for reimbursement of approximately 1.4 million of the County's expenses and several cities have allocated their portion to the County bringing the total close to 1.5 million.

**Item No. 4. Statements and Remarks from Citizens on an agenda item**

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

Butch McDuffie, Shiloh Volunteer Fire Department Chief, addressed the Board regarding agenda item number six with his request for the departments to have access to funds, agenda item number seven with his request to have this option available to the fire departments and lastly, agenda item number 12, with his gratitude for the widening and repaving of Jones Chapel Shiloh Road.

Todd Higdon addressed the Board regarding agenda item number five with his request to not build a new 9-1-1 Center but to have the current EMS station in Danielsville become the 9-1-1 Center and office for the detectives. He suggested building a new EMS station at the Danielsville City Hall location. He also addressed agenda item number 11 with encouragement to cities to not forego their CARES Act funding but to turn it over to the County instead.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Item No. 5. Consider RFP ads for 9-1-1 projects**

On motion by Commissioner Allen and second by Commissioner Doster the Board voted to approve RFP ads for the new 9-1-1 radio system and purpose built facility with minor changes to the wording as suggested by County Attorney Mike Pruett and Commissioner Doster. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Allen, Strickland, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

**Item No. 6. Discuss early distribution of SPLOST funds**

After considerable discussion, the general consensus of the Board was to allow the fire departments to continue to receive up to 60% of their SPLOST funds as needed and the early release of funds for other SPLOST projects upon Board approval. For planning and cash flow purposes, a plan developed earlier by Commissioner Doster was agreed upon with a reduction of 10% of total advanced amounts to ensure collections are received. The plan is included with the 8-31-20 minute documents.

**Item No. 7. Consider approving Road Department's fueling station for volunteer fire departments**

Considering Madison County's current arrangement with Madison County Rescue and the Madison County Industrial Development and Building Authority to have access to the fueling point located at the Road

Department and billed monthly to the organizations, the Board agreed to extend the agreement to the volunteer fire departments for the fueling of fire trucks. This arrangement is to continue to be managed by the Public Works Director and the Finance Director with a line item for every fire department.

**Item No. 8. Consider approving the 2020 Millage Rate**

On motion by Commissioner Strickland and second by Commissioner Allen the Board voted to set the millage rate at 14.269 for the incorporated area and 12.750 for the unincorporated area. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Allen, Strickland, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

**Item No. 9. Consider a resolution to combine the School Board, ID&BA and County millage rates**

On motion by Commissioner Doster and second by Commissioner Strickland the Board voted to approve a resolution to combine the School Board, ID&BA and County millage rates. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Allen, Strickland, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

**Item No. 10. Consider down payment for 20 Albany Avenue a 2020 SPLOST Facility acquisition and improvement project**

Chairman Scarborough stated the original vote regarding the \$85,000 down payment for 20 Albany Avenue did not include that the funds were to be paid from 2020 SPLOST funds. For accounting purposes, he requested the Board's concurrence in the amount being reimbursed to the general fund out of 2020 SPLOST funds. The Board concurred.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Item No. 11. Consider CARES Act Funding Resolution**

On motion by Commissioner Doster and second by Commissioner Allen the Board voted to approve the CARES Act Funding Resolution. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Allen, Strickland, Bettis, Kirk and Doster voted YES.

**Item No. 12. Roads Update**

Chairman Scarborough said we will be preparing a list of 2021 LMIG projects soon.

Commissioner Kirk said he would like to include Russell Drive.

Commissioner Strickland said the problems on Racetrack Road and Irvin Kirk Road have been taken care of and he asked about Timberlane Drive.

**Item No. 13. Urgent Matters**

There were no urgent matters.

#### **Item No. 14. Statements and Remarks from Citizens**

Chairman Scarborough asked if there were any statements or remarks.

Todd Higdon suggested reaching out to the volunteer fire departments for road considerations.

David Jones volunteered his services and expertise in establishing a strategy for better internet access.

Gina Ward complained about the noise from the Georgia Renewable Power facility and asked the Board to revisit the noise ordinance.

#### **Item No. 15. Statements and Remarks from Commissioners**

Commissioner Allen expressed appreciation to David Jones for attending the meeting. He also thanked the people of Madison County for their patience in allowing us to get to a point of being able to roll-back the millage rate. He said that he would be happy to revisit the noise ordinance.

#### **Item No. 16. Executive Session to discuss real estate acquisition, personnel matters and/or potential litigation**

There was no need for executive session.

#### **Item No. 17. Adjourn.**

On motion by Commissioner Strickland the meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.