

MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING
MARION COUNTY, GEORGIA
MARION COUNTY ANNEX BUILDING
November 12, 2019 - 5:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Those present were Chairman George Neal, Commissioner Steve Young, Commissioner Jody Grimsley, Commissioner Mathew Gunnels, Commissioner Norman Royal, County Attorney Wayne Jernigan, County Manager Justin Strickland and Acting County Clerk Sylvia Russell.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Neal called the meeting to order at 5:04 PM. Wayne Jernigan gave the invocation.

AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA:

Commissioner Young made a motion to amend the agenda to remove item 4a, Public Hearing regarding FY2020 Proposed Annual Operating Budget. Commissioner Grimsley seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

APPROVE MINUTES:

Commissioner Royal made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 8, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Gunnels seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING:

[Removed from Agenda.]

GUESTS:

Jessi Phillips, Georgia Tech Research Institute, presented a request to allow Institute to use the Marion County Airport to fly unmanned drones in training exercises. The drones never leave line of sight and operators follow Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) protocol for interacting with other flight activity. A benefit for the County would be Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) program support in local schools. If approved by the Board, their next step is to obtain approval from the FAA for boundaries and altitude. The Board will consult with the County's airport engineering firm, Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), and the FAA to consider the request.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Robert Philmon is a County resident who lives on Riding Trail, a private road. Residents on Riding Trail are spending \$3,000 on gravel for their road and ask that we apply gravel to Burginville Road, the public road leading to Riding Trail. Burginville Road appears to have been scraped on one side and is holding water. Commissioner Young asked if we can maintain the dirt section of Burginville Road to avoid expense of gravel. Clearwater project manager Shane Cox agreed it has not been regularly maintained in the past but will be maintained on a regular schedule going forward. The Board did not commit to adding gravel to Burginville Road but asked Clearwater and County Manager Justin Strickland to review and address the issue causing water to stand.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Commissioner Royal made a motion to approve the 2020 Board of Commissioner's Regular Meeting Schedule. Commissioner Grimsley seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- b. Commissioner Young made a motion to approve the 2020 Marion County Observed Holidays. Commissioner Royal seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- c. Commissioner Young made a motion to approve to advertise for the position of Marion County Clerk from November 13, 2019 – December 11, 2019. Commissioner Grimsley seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- d. Commissioner Gunnels made a motion to approve re-appointment of Randolph Horton to the Marion County Tax Assessor Board for a term of three years. Commissioner Royal seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- e. Commissioner Grimsley made a motion to approve re-appointment of Sheriff Derrell Neal to the Middle Flint Behavioral Healthcare Board for a term of three years. Commissioner Gunnels seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

[None]

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Commissioner Young made a motion to approve the purchase of one (1) 2003 Ford Econoline Van in the amount of \$3,500.00 from Patrick L. Padgett for the Marion County Coroner's Office. The van has 109,000 miles on it and new tires. The seller will add lights and lettering for no extra charge. Commissioner Royal seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- b. The Board was asked to consider the purchase of one (1) 2020 Ford F150 and one (1) 2020 Ford F250 in the amount of \$60,807.00 from Brannen Ford of Perry for the Marion County Water Department. The Board recommended looking at alternatives, such as installing a hitch and using the dump truck to move heavier equipment the current F250 is not equipped to move. Commissioner Gunnels made a motion to table this request to the next meeting. Commissioner Grimsley seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- c. Commissioner Royal made a motion to approve a lease agreement with Canon for an IR Adv C5540i III copier for the Board of Commissioners office, replacing the current RICOH lease. Commissioner Grimsley seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- d. Commissioner Young made a motion to approve a contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation for funding of Airport Project Phase II. Commissioner Royal seconded the motion. Commissioners Gunnels and Grimsley opposed the motion. Chairman Neal voted to approve the motion and the motion passed. GDOT is funding \$1,013,750 and Marion County is funding \$337,917 from TSPLOST revenue. The County is responsible for completing the project.
- e. Commissioner Grimsley made a motion to approve renewal of the Statewide Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement. Commissioner Gunnels seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- f. Commissioner Gunnels made a motion to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between GEMA and Homeland Security Agency & Marion County. Commissioner Young seconded the motion and the motion

passed unanimously. This Memorandum must be signed in order for us participate in the grants process for disaster relief funds. It also includes provisions for automating and streamlining the grant process.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Grimsley made the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel after a five-minute break. Commissioner Royal seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board of Commissioners went into Executive Session at 6:32 PM.

PUBLIC SESSION:

The Board came out of Executive Session and Chairman Neal called the Regular meeting back to order at 6:57 PM.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Grimsley made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 PM. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gunnels and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman George Neal, Jr.

Vice-Chairman Steve Young

Commissioner Norman Royal

Commissioner Jody Grimsley

Commissioner Matt Gunnels

Attest:

Sylvia Russell, Acting County Clerk