

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING**  
**MARION COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**MARION COUNTY ANNEX BUILDING**  
**January 14, 2020 - 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 5:07 PM. Wayne Jernigan gave the invocation.

**APPROVE MINUTES:**

Commissioner Young made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 10, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners and minutes from the December 18, 2019 Special Called Meeting of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Gunnels seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Carol Streeter – 778 Moody Rd. – Ms. Streeter was not present.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Commissioner Gunnels made a motion to approve the qualifying fee schedule for 2020 elections. Commissioner Royal seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- a. The Commissioners were asked to consider a contract with FuelForce in the amount of \$16,335.00 for the installation of hardware and software for the purpose of a county fuel tracking system. This system would track usage by employee using individual PINs keyed in a digital collection device. Each vehicle would have a card to be scanned/swiped. This system will promote accountability and ensure proper controls for preventing abuse. While there is no known suspected abuse of fuel usage, our current process is an honor system with different logs by department. County Manager Strickland proposed using one log at the pumps and requiring each user to list meter start and end numbers, gallons pumped, date, and time. This method will help determine if abuse exists. Commissioner Royal proposes trying the proposed method. Chairman Neal proposed to vote on the FuelForce system in February and all agreed.

## **DISCUSSION**

- a. Work Session Schedule: Commissioner Grimsley suggested regularly scheduled work sessions. Chairman Neal and Commissioner Young proposed calling special meetings for work sessions as needed. Within the next two weeks, the Board expects to meet about dirt road remediation. Justin and Shane will bring ideas and specifications from contractors regarding priority roads that need attention.

## **AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA**

Commissioner Grimsley made a motion to amend the agenda to review the contract for paving JP Hudson Rd. Commissioner Royal seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Grimsley made a motion to award the bid for paving JP Hudson Rd. to Robinson Paving. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. Commissioner Gunnels recused himself from the vote due to a conflict of interest. Chairman Neal and Commissioner Royal voted to approve the motion and the motion passed.

## **REPORTS**

- a. Public Works & Water Department Report – ClearWater Solutions  
Shane Cox of ClearWater gave a report of activity during December. Commissioner Gunnels suggested using a tractor-trailer to haul millings for Moody Rd. and Burginville Rd. He will look into a discounted rate from a driver who regular comes through Buena Vista.
- b. County Manager's Report – Justin Strickland

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL & PENDING LITIGATION**

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

The Board of Commissioners went into Executive Session at 6:03 PM.

## **PUBLIC SESSION:**

The Board came out of Executive Session and Chairman Neal called the Regular meeting back to order at 6:26 PM.

Commissioner Young made a motion to consent to approve the settlement offer by Trident Insurance of \$185,000.00 for the Stephanie Burke legal case with a dismissal of all claims. Commissioner Royal seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Grimsley made a motion to appoint Sylvia Russell as Clerk for Marion County. Commissioner Gunnels seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

The Commissioners directed County Manager Justin Strickland and County Clerk Sylvia Russell to hire a capable deputy clerk and keep the Commission apprised of progress.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Commissioner Gunnels made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 PM. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Royal 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, County Clerk