

MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
MARION COUNTY, GEORGIA
MARION COUNTY ANNEX BUILDING
January 29, 2020 - 5:30 P.M.

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

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Neal called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM.

DISCUSSION: DIRT ROAD REMEDIATION

Chairman Neal noted our annual budget for road improvements is \$300-350,000.

County Manager Strickland led a discussion about road priorities. He reviewed a spreadsheet of all dirt roads with rating factors based on length, condition, and number of residents. Those factors were combined to create total points per road. Roads already in the works or already voted to be remediated are top priority. Remaining roads are sorted by points (high to low) which directly correspond with priority (high to low).

County Manager Strickland obtained estimates from Ricky Maxwell (Maxwell Grading) for crowning, fixing erosion/drainage issues, and bringing Palmer Cemetery and Harbuck Pond roads up to a standard ready for millings:

Palmer Cemetery Rd. estimate: \$312,000.00
Harbuck Pond Rd. estimate: \$360,000.00

Additional contractors being consulted are Cliff Sizemore and Jimmy Stubbs.

Clearwater Project Manager Shane Cox reported that the Road Department has installed a cross drain at the Shady Acres/Moody Rd. intersection. Additionally, over the past three weeks, they have applied clay and millings on approximately one mile of Moody Rd. from the Marion County Line to Shady Acres. The work is holding well and they plan to scatter grass seed on the sand shoulders to help prevent it from washing into the road bed.

All Commissioners agreed generally with prioritizing by condition and residents as presented. Commissioner Gunnels recommended working Bethany Loop at the same time we work Palmer Cemetery Rd. since the Loop starts and ends on Palmer Cemetery Rd.

Commissioner Young recommended picking the worst spots (intersections, erosion/drainage, wash-outs, sandy) on each road and fix those to prepare for millings, rather than tackling the expense and effort of the whole road.

Commissioner Grimsley suggested we have Clearwater focus on top priorities and see how much we get completed. Clearwater can tell us if any of the Priority 1 roads have "easy" spots to fix.

Clearwater representatives (Regional Manager Tim Mitchell and Project Manager Shane Cox) proposed looking at lowest priority to apply millings where major work isn't needed. They also suggested County Line Rd. be assigned to Clearwater now for repair and applying millings.

Commissioner Grimsley asked about Fuller Rd. He understood a lot of money was spent on it in recent years and wanted to understand why it still needs work. Clearwater Project Manager Shane Cox clarified that a section of Fuller Rd. was repaired extensively after a 10+ inches rainfall a couple of years ago. That section of the road was subsequently reverted back to the landowner. The section on the list now is between the Tower Point Rd. intersection and GA Hwy 41, a different section that has many residents on it.

Commissioner Gunnels asked if it may be cheaper to ask Clearwater to hire more people to do the work instead of using contractors. Clearwater Regional Manager Tim Mitchell noted Clearwater would be willing to hire additional employees but it may still result in people being pulled back to maintenance in emergencies. He recommended using contractors the first year, then possibly using Clearwater the second year since maintenance miles list will be smaller at that point.

Chairman Neal noted we need to be able to tell our constituents we are making progress, understanding we must be sympathetic to emergencies due to rain or other issues.

Commissioner Gunnels suggested that we swap Palmer Cemetery Rd. with Edgar Jones Rd. on the priority list.

Chairman Neal proposed and Commissioner Young made a motion that the Commission proceed as follows:

- Direct Clearwater to handle County Line Rd. repairs (drain pipes) and apply millings>
- Direct County Manager Strickland to obtain bids for Edgar Jones Rd. and Harbuck Pond Rd by February 11 meeting. These bids should consider repairing only the trouble spots to prepare for Clearwater to apply millings on those sections only.
- Direct Clearwater to apply millings on designated sections as a final step after contractor work is complete.

Commissioner Gunnels seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Clearwater Regional Manager Tim Mitchell offered to use Clearwater resources to coordinate a public education campaign to report on our progress and future road plans. He will ensure Board of Commissioners approve any materials before releasing. This is something they do regularly and will not involve extra cost.

Clearwater was directed to determine the number of tons of millings needed to the approved road work so Robinson Paving can start setting millings aside for Marion County. This information should be ready for the regular Board of Commissioners meeting scheduled for February 11, 2020.

County Manager Strickland noted he will send a revised spreadsheet based on discussions during the meeting. This will be a reference that can be shared with citizens as needed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Gunnels made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 PM. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Royal and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman George Neal, Jr.

Commissioner Steve Young

Vice-Chairman Norman Royal

Commissioner Jody Grimsley

Attest:

Commissioner Matt Gunnels

Sylvia Russell, County Clerk