

MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING
MARION COUNTY, GEORGIA
MARION COUNTY ANNEX BUILDING
December 10, 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 5:01 PM. Wayne Jernigan gave the invocation.

APPROVE MINUTES:

Commissioner Grimsley made a motion to approve the minutes from the *November 12, 2019* Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners and minutes from the *December 4, 2019* Special Called Meeting of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Royal seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING:

At 5:03 PM Chairman Neal called to order a Public Hearing to discuss the FY2020 Marion County Proposed Annual Operating Budget. County Manager Strickland commented that this is a balanced budget. Most of the budget for roads maintenance was moved to TSPLOST to help with deficits; however, this is not expected to be permanent solution. Commissioner Grimsley suggested the commissioners have a special meeting to discuss resolving concerns with handling budget deficits.

Citizens were given an opportunity to speak for or against the proposed budget. No one spoke for or against the proposed budget.

Chairman Neal concluded the public hearing and called the meeting back into regular session at 5:07 p.m.

GUESTS

Tammye Jones is the new aide for U.S. Representative Sanford Bishop. She introduced herself and encouraged the commissioners to call on her to support the County as needed.

County Manager Strickland gave a 2020 Census update. Local activity will increase after the holidays with emphasis on communication through schools and churches. The goal is to educate people that the census is a *good thing*. Postcards are being mailed in March 2020. A focus on hard-to-reach residents will be coordinated April through July.

Hugh Weaver from Pond & Company spoke to the commissioners about the economical impact of the airport, such as when industrial leaders look at sites for growth, they look for:

1. Availabilty of skilled labor
2. Quality of life
3. Proximity to airport

Also, the local community benefits from travelers who buy fuel, meals and other necessities. Mr. Weaver encouraged the commissioners to look at the impact statement the state prepared about the potential of the airport.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Commissioner Royal made a motion to approve re-appointment of Georgia Taylor to the Marion County Elections Board effective January 1, 2020 for a term of four years. Commissioner Young seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- b. Commissioner Gunnels made a motion to table until January 2020 the request to allocate \$4,000.00 for Marion County's portion of financial support for Marion County IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. Commissioner Grimsley seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. VITA coordinator Marie Berlanga will be invited to the January regular meeting to provide more insight on the program and how it is funded.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Commissioner Young made a motion to approve a contract with Robinson Paving in the amount of \$1,262,377.25 for construction work of PHASE II APRON AND FUEL FARM for the Marion County Airport project. Commissioner Royal seconded the motion. Commissioner Gunnels recused himself from the vote due to a conflict of interest. Commissioner Grimsley opposed the approval. Commissioner Neal voted in favor of approving and the motion passed. Chairman Neal stressed to Mr. Weaver that all work should be completed according to specifications with no variances. Mr. Weaver affirmed that Pond & Company will oversee the work in this manner.
- b. Commissioner Grimsley made a motion to approve awarding a contract to Hunter Roofing in the amount of \$13,800.00 for a new roof on the Marion County Jail. Commissioner Gunnels seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
 - c. Commissioner Young made a motion to approve making an offer to Hoyt Allen for the position of Marion County Building Official based on County Manager Strickland's recommendation to offer up to \$40,000 salary and use of a County vehicle only while working (not allowed to drive it home). Commissioner Gunnels suggested offering \$42,000 based on the candidate being a certified building inspector. Non-certified candidates hired at a lower salary would cost the County as much or more than a certified candidate when considering cost of certifications that would be paid by the county. Commissioner Royal noted concerns that we would be paying a new, unproven candidate \$10,000 more than the base salary. His top salary would be \$38,000. After further discussion, Commissioner Gunnels seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

1. Reports

- a. Public Works & Water Department Report – ClearWater Solutions
Shane Cox of ClearWater gave a report of activity during November. With permission from Chairman Neal, County Manager Strickland provided an update on the CASE motor grader offered for sale on the GovDeals auction website. The 2nd auction offering brought a high bid of \$63,000. We countered with \$80,000 and were refused. That counter offer was made to the 2nd bidder and we are waiting for a response.
- b. County Manager's Report – Justin Strickland

EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL

Commissioner Gunnels 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 6:22 PM.

PUBLIC SESSION:

The Board came out of Executive Session and Chairman Neal called the Regular meeting back to order at 6:30 PM.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Gunnels made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 PM. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grimsley and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman George Neal, Jr.

Vice-Chairman Steve Young

Commissioner Norman Royal

Commissioner Jody Grimsley

Attest:

Commissioner Matt Gunnels

Sylvia Russell, Acting County Clerk