

MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
MARION COUNTY, GEORGIA
MARION COUNTY ANNEX BUILDING
December 18, 2019 - 5:30 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 5:36 PM.

PUBLIC HEARING:

At 5:36 PM Chairman Neal called to order a Public Hearing to discuss the FY2020 Marion County Proposed Annual Operating Budget.

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 5:38 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Marie Berlanga gave an overview of the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program that provides tax return services. The local office is in its 11th year and services are available to everyone except businesses and farms. Ms. Berlanga noted they have provided service for about 1,700 Marion County residents and office expenses last year were approximately \$4,700. She requested the commissioners consider providing \$5,000 for this year. The City of Buena Vista pays approximately \$200 per month for phone and internet service for the office. Commissioner Royal made a motion to approve allocating \$4,000.00 for Marion County's portion of financial support for Marion County IRS VITA program. Commissioner Young seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- b. Commissioner Gunnels made a motion to ask Tidewater (equipment dealer) if they are interested in purchasing the 2013 Case 865B VHP Motor Grader for \$75,000. If they are not interested, approve the sale of the 2013 Case 865B VHP Motor Grader to Wilkins Farms, 230 Highway 51 S Hernando, MS 38632, in the amount of \$75,000.00. Commissioner Grimsley seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discussion regarding the FY 2020 Budget: Commissioner Grimsley asked why we have a new jail in our 5-year plan when we know it's not feasible. Commissioner Gunnels recently toured the current jail facility and suggested we remodel it. He also noted he believes we should prioritize courthouse renovations over the jail facility. Chairman Neal suggested we hear presentations from two firms who previously made recommendations about updating the current jail versus building a new one. The group discussed SPLOST: ~\$100,000 allotted for public building repair. The County has only spend \$10,000. The current SPLOST ends 3/31/21 and a new SPLOST referendum needs to be placed on the

ballot in 2020 to take effect 4/1/21. The Board of Commissioners needs to meet with the City of Buena Vista to negotiate their % before the referendum is placed on the ballot.

Commissioner Gunnels made a motion to approve the FY 2020 Budget for Marion County, Georgia, effective from January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020. Commissioner Royal seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION

- a. County Clerk Applications – At the recommendation of County Manager Strickland, this item was moved to Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Grimsley made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the process for reviewing applications for County Clerk position. Commissioner Gunnels seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board of Commissioners went into Executive Session at 6:54 PM.

PUBLIC SESSION:

The Board came out of Executive Session and Chairman Neal called the Regular meeting back to order at 7:01 PM.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Gunnels made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 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

Attest:

Commissioner Matt Gunnels

Sylvia Russell, Acting County Clerk