

MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING
MARION COUNTY, GEORGIA
MARION COUNTY ANNEX BUILDING
February 11, 2020 - 5:00 P.M.

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

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

APPROVE MINUTES:

Commissioner Young made a motion to approve the minutes from the *January 14, 2020* Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners and minutes from the *January 29, 2020* Special Called Meeting of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Gunnels seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION:

a. The presentation regarding Revenue Bond Consolidation (Mr. Jayson Griffin – Ameris Bank) was cancelled and will be moved to the March 10, 2020 Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

a. County Manager Strickland presented two options for the Board's consideration:

1. Hire Mr. Jake Kemp as Marion County Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator for a salary of \$35,000.00 or
2. Enter into a shared arrangement with Chattahoochee County to utilize Clearwater Solutions for managing the permit, inspection, and zoning processes. Marion County's cost would be \$60,000 per year.

Commissioner Grimsley expressed concern about the cost of continuing to pay Clearwater while the new administrator is obtaining certifications. It's estimated the new administrator could obtain certifications for electrical, plumbing, and building inspections within the first 6 months of employment, and have all required certifications at the end of his first year. Commission Grimsley suggested offering a pay increase as certifications are achieved as an incentive to get them.

Commissioner Gunnels suggested letting the inspector serve in the permit clerk role while working on certifications rather than filling that open position.

Chairman Neal suggested some inspections could be completed by the new administrator with Clearwater oversight.

Commissioner Young made a motion to hire Jake Kemp as presented by the County Manager with the condition that he obtain all required certifications within his first 12 months of employment and that he serve as a permit clerk in the meantime, along with the current part time permit clerk, to keep the office covered during business hours. Commissioner Gunnels seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Commissioner Gunnels made a motion to award the contract to Whitt's Roofing in the amount of \$14,400.00 for the purpose of removing and replacing the shingled portion of the Marion County Courthouse Roof. Commissioner Grimsley seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- b. Commissioner Young made a motion to approve a new Windstream Communications agreement for phone and internet services in the amount of \$1,505.93 per month plus taxes and fees. Commissioner Gunnels seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- c. Commissioner Gunnels made a motion to approve purchasing five tablets with cases for the County Commissioners with a budget of \$275.00 per tablet. Commissioner Grimsley seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Tablets will assist commissioners with communications and research while attending meetings or training on behalf of the County and also reduce paper costs. Commissioner Young and Chairman Neal opted to not get a tablet at this time.
- d. Review of the Marion County Manager Ordinance was postponed to March pending legal review.

GA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

J. D. Abercrombie from the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) attended the meeting to introduce himself and his team to the Commissioners. He shared that his team is available if the Commission has questions or needs guidance. Larry Cagle in the local GDOT office is our primary contact. Other resources are located in the Thomaston office.

DISCUSSION

- a. Three options were presented for Dirt Road Remediation:
 1. Utilize private contractors: County Manager Strickland reported that three bids were requested; however, only one bid was received from Maxwell Grading, Inc. The total bid is \$414,500.00 for sections of Harbuck Pond and Edgar Jones and is only for labor, equipment, travel, and wear and tear from the contractor. The county would be purchasing and providing all material including dirt, sand, and pipes. County Manager Strickland did not recommend awarding this bid.
 2. Direct Clearwater to conduct the remediation work through hiring two additional skilled employees.
 3. Direct Clearwater to continue working with current staff and work on remediation as time permits.

After discussion of the options, the commissioners asked Clearwater to provide a quote for accomplishing dirt road remediation with additional employees.

REPORTS

- a. Public Works & Water Department Report – ClearWater Solutions
Shane Cox of ClearWater gave a report of activity during January.
- b. County Manager’s Report – Justin Strickland reviewed his report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL

Commissioner Gunnels made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel. Commissioner Young seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board of Commissioners went into Executive Session at 6:10 PM.

PUBLIC SESSION:

The Board came out of Executive Session and Chairman Neal called the Regular meeting back to order at 6:40 PM.

Commissioner Young made a motion to modify holiday pay for EMS employees. Those who work on holidays will be paid double the hourly rate. Those not working on holidays will not receive holiday pay. Commissioner Grimsley seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Gunnels made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 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

Commissioner Matt Gunnels

Attest:

Sylvia Russell, County Clerk