

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING**  
**MARION COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**VIA VIDEO and TELECONFERENCE DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS**  
**September 8, 2020 – 5:00 PM**

**PRESENT:** Those present on the video call (ZOOM meeting ID 985 7691 8442) were Chairman George Neal, Commissioner Steve Young, Commissioner Norman Royal, Commissioner Matt Gunnels, Commissioner Jody Grimsley, County Attorney Wayne Jernigan, County Manager Justin Strickland, County Clerk Sylvia Russell and Deputy County Clerk Martyna Currington-Jenkins. Commissioner Gunnels left the call at 6:15 PM. Commissioner Royal left the call at 6:51 PM and returned to the call at 7:15 PM.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Neal called the meeting to order at 5:10 PM. County Attorney Jernigan gave the invocation.

**APPROVE MINUTES:**

Commissioner Young made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 11, 2020, Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Gunnels seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

- a. **Change Nursery Road to Knowlton's Mill Road:** Chairman Neal called to order a **Public Hearing at 5:12 PM to discuss** changing the name of Nursery Road to Knowlton's Mill Road. Citizens were given an opportunity to speak for or against the requested change. Lehanne Singleton, the citizen who requested the name change, spoke in favor of the change and updated the Commission on her family's intent to restore a historical grist mill and pond. They plan to use the area as an event venue. No one spoke against the change.

Commissioner Young made a motion to approve the request to change the name of Nursery Road to Knowlton's Mill Road. Commissioner Royal seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- a. **Purchase 2020 Dodge Ram:** Commissioner Young made a motion to approve the purchase of a 2020 Dodge Ram 3500 4x4 with Service Body in the amount of \$59,720.00 from Jeff Smith Chrysler Dodge Jeep. Commissioner Royal seconded the motion. Commissioners Gunnels and Grimsley voted against the purchase. Chairman Neal voted to approve the purchase with the condition that County Manager Strickland shop for a price on a Ford truck with similar features. The motion passed with the condition as stated by Chairman Neal.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **Ordinance Establishing the Position of County Manager:** Commissioner Young made a motion to approve an Ordinance Establishing the Position of County Manager for Marion County, Georgia. Commissioner Royal seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

- b. **Duties & Instructions for County Manager:** Commissioner Young made a motion to table consideration of Duties & Instructions for the Office of County Manager for Marion County, Georgia, to the October session. Commissioner Gunnels seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- c. **Face Mask Resolution:** Commissioner Young made a motion to approve A Resolution Requiring The Use Of Masks Or Face Coverings In Property Owned Or Leased By Marion County During The Covid-19 Outbreak. Commissioner Royal seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- d. **EMS Surplus Items:** Commissioner Young made a motion to approve Marion County EMS Surplus Items (minus the ambulance) to be offered for sale via online auction. Commissioner Royal seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Young made a motion to transfer the surplus ambulance to the Tazewell Volunteer Fire Department. Commissioner Royal seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **Amendment to the Agenda**

Commissioner Young made a motion to amend the Agenda and appoint Shaun Raulston to the Region 7 ES Council to fill the unexpired term of Brandon Everett. Commissioner Royal seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

- e. **Voting Delegate for ACCG 2021 Policy Agenda:** Commissioner Royal made a motion to designate Chairman George Neal, Jr., as the Commission's voting delegate for the ACCG 2021 Policy Agenda. Commissioner Grimsley seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- f. **Election Day Pay Raise for Board of Elections and Registration:** Commissioner Young made a motion to approve a pay raise from \$100.00 to \$175.00 for members of the Marion County Board of Elections and Registration for Election Day pay. Commissioner Grimsley seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

- a. **Dirt road remediation schedule/priorities:** Commissioner Young made a motion to approve completing pipe work on Harbuck Pond Road and rebuilding "washboard" area of Edgar Jones Road as a priority with plans to complete the remainder of remediation on those roads by year-end 2020. Commissioner Grimsley seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**Solid Waste Services:** Regional Manager Winn Bearden from Marion County's contracted Solid Waste Collection Company, Green For Life (GFL), reported to the Commission regarding recent delays in service. They have a new truck now operating in Marion County that will stay here until October when a 2017 truck that has only been used in the city (no dirt roads) will be placed on Marion County routes. While they have had some equipment failure in the past few months, he noted that delays have been largely due to an increase in waste while citizens are home during the COVID-19 pandemic. The traditional average weight of 45 lbs. per unit has increased to 50 lbs. This creates the need for more trips to offload at the landfill, which delays the route.

- b. **2020 Millage Rate:** County Manager Strickland reported that the rate will be ready for review within the next few days and the Commission will need to set the rate by month-end. He pointed out that multiple public hearings will be needed if the rate changes/increases and an aggressive schedule is needed to finalize a decision.

**REPORTS:**

**a. Recreation Board Update:**

Bill Addison reported to the Commission on behalf of the Recreation Board. A new tennis program is scheduled to start in October. The Recreation Board is concerned about the age of recreation facilities, especially as compared to neighboring counties. They would like the Commission to consider adding recreational facilities to the next SPLOST cycle to include purchasing a larger plot of land, then implementing new facilities/fields with a phased approach:

1. Baseball facilities/fields
2. Football facilities/fields
3. Central playground and parking lot.

**b. Public Works & Water Department Report – ClearWater Solutions:**

Billy Davis and Daniel Enfinger updated the Commission on recent road repairs needed due to heavy rains. This has hindered progress on remediating roads such as County Line Rd.; however, they made a lot of progress in the last week. Chairman Neal stressed the importance of following through on the commitment to finish three roads this year.

**c. County Manager’s Report - County Manager Strickland:**

County Manager Strickland reviewed his monthly update and highlighted the following:

- Marion County is receiving \$330,014.51 in CARES funding related to COVID-19.
- Airport Phase II and JP Hudson Road paving projects are progressing as planned.
- The Firetower Road resurfacing project is complete.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Commissioner Grimsley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 PM. Commissioner Young seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

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Chairman George Neal, Jr.

Attest:

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Sylvia Russell, County Clerk