

GREENE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
APRIL 2020**

APRIL 14, 2020 MEETING:

Chairman Usry led the Pledge of Allegiance, led the invocation.

Call to Order: Chairman Usry called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., noting that the Board was using teleconferencing means via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Roll Call: Commissioners Deering, Filice, Lindsey, Smith and Chairman Usry were present. Also present was County Manager Byron Lombard.

Minutes: The Chairman inquired with the Commissioners to determine if any corrections were necessary for the minutes under consideration for approval. Commissioner Filice motioned to approve the Minutes from the March 2020 Regular Monthly Meeting, and the March 27, 2020 Called Meeting. Commissioner Deering seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Business Items:

Consideration of a Countywide Revaluation Project: The Commissioners were informed that it was time for a Countywide revaluation of property and that the Commissioners were encouraged to consider such a project by the Board of Tax Assessors and Chief Appraiser to ensure the County's continued compliance with Georgia Department of Revenue requirements. It was further noted that the last revaluation project was completed in 2005. Commissioner Lindsey motioned to approve the necessary budget adjustments to utilize prior year's fund balance of the General Fund to perform a countywide revaluation project as requested by the Board of Tax Assessors at an estimated cost of \$550,000.00. Commissioner Smith seconded. Commissioner Smith inquired as to the process of vendor selection, talking to the chosen vendor, and when the process would move forward. County Manager Lombard explained that the process would be managed by the Board of Tax Assessors and the meetings selecting said vendor would be public meetings and open to the Commissioners in the event there's interest or questions from the Commissioners. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of a Resolution to Participate in the Update of the NEGA Regional Solid Waste Management Plan: The Board received a request from the Northeast Georgia Regional Solid Waste Authority seeking funding to update the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan. The County is a member of the Authority along with the other nine counties in the region. The plan would serve as the guiding document for solid waste needs and efforts for the next 10 years. Commissioner Smith motioned to adopt Resolution Number 2020.4.14 (a) authorizing the County's participation as a member county in the 2020 update of the Northeast Georgia Regional Solid Waste Management Plan, to authorize the necessary budget adjustments to fund the \$1,071.00 in fees for the Plan preparation from contingency, and to waive the reading of the Resolution. Commissioner Deering seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of a Resolution Declaring Support for the Second Amendment: The Board was advised that local governments elsewhere in Georgia and across the Country have adopted resolutions or other instruments expressing support for the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution. Some of the Commissioners received inquiries from our local citizens seeking to have the Board adopt some measure as well. Commissioner Smith motioned to adopt Resolution Number 2020.4.14 (b) expressing support for the rights afforded by the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution, and to waive the reading of the Resolution. Commissioner Lindsey seconded. Motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Filice abstaining.

Consideration of Adoption of the Budget for Tax District 91 & Apparatus Purchase:

The Commissioners received background information regarding the need to establish a budget for Tax District 91, something not done initially due to the timing under which the County absorbed the operation of the fire department in that district. Additionally, Commissioner Filice expressed his support for the acquisition of an additional apparatus funded through Tax District 91. Commissioner Filice motioned to adopt the FY2020 Budget for Tax District 91, and to approve the purchase of a fourth Sutphen fire apparatus to be funded through Tax District 91. Commissioner Deering seconded. Commissioner Smith asked about the conversion of the part-time positions to full-time, with County Manager explaining why the change took place and that the benefits cost for the full-time positions are included in the proposed budget. He added that the Tax District 91 proposed budget was separate from the plans and later action that would come before the Board for the Countywide Fire service. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Adoption of the Budget for the Airport: The Board was informed that a budget for the Airport Fund was not included in the adoption cycle of the FY2020 Budget due to the timing under which the County absorbed the operation of the Airport. A budget has been prepared based on a review of the historical revenues and expenses. Commissioner Lindsey motioned to adopt the FY2020 Budget for the Airport Fund. Commissioner Deering seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of a SPLOST VI and SPLOST VII Road Improvement Project: The Commissioners received background information regarding the LMIG submission approved by the Board in October 2019, as well as additional scopes to leverage favorable pricing for one larger project. The project has four components, with the first component including the resurfacing of Lewis Road, Grey Land Road (also chip seal layer), Shady Side Lane, Holmes Drive, Brick House Road, Pointe Royal Road, Kings Row Road, Dana Drive, Lick Skillet Road (also chip seal layer), Wyatt Road, Eastover Road, Lewis Drive, and Kimbrough Drive. The second component includes a chip seal layer with asphalt overlay of Veazey Road (6.5 mile section), Macedonia Road, Randolph Church Road, Meadow Crest Road, and Walker Church Road. The third component includes resurfacing of Fleur De Lac and Jim Adams Road. The fourth component includes deep patching of portion of Carey Station Road (278 end) and Club Drive. Pittman Construction was the low bidder at \$3,779,293.11. Commissioner Deering motioned to approve the Road Improvement Project as proposed with funding from SPLOST VI and SPLOST VII. Commissioner Smith seconded. Commissioner Smith asked about the deep patching work along Carey Station Road, and discussion ensued as to where the failure points are and future work likely needed along the road. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of UGA Cooperative Extension Program Funding Request: The Commissioners received background information that UGA had submitted a Salary Verification Form asking the County to increase its contribution for the County Extension Agent position from \$18,630.46 to \$23,183.00. County Commissioner Smith motioned to submit the Salary Verification Form using the totals as reflected in the adopted FY2020 budget. Commissioner Lindsey seconded. Discussion ensued that it was the consensus to consider the request during the budget cycle discussions and not mid-year. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session:

Commissioner's Report:

Commissioner Deering reported that she was looking forward to seeing the shelter-in-place order lifted and to get the economy going again.

Commissioner Filice thanked County Manager Lombard and Public Safety Director Joe Bashore for their hard work related to the hazardous materials incident on I-20 and when the tornado came through Reynolds Lake Oconee.

Chairman Usry reported that Economic Development Director Sam Young had a positive article published in Georgia Trend magazine about Novelis' \$36-million upgrade. He also thanked the County employees for continuing to work through the pandemic, especially those on the front lines working in the public safety disciplines.

Adjournment: Chairman Usry adjourned the meeting at 5:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sylvia V. Hill, County Clerk

The above minutes were adopted and approved this day 12th day of May, 2020.

Gary Usry, Chairman

Jeffery L. Smith, Vice-Chairman

Angela Walker Deering, Commissioner

Dee Lindsey, Commissioner

Ernie Filice, Commissioner