CHARLTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2021
BOC CONFERENCE ROOM
6:00 P.M.

12/2/2021 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

   Those present were: Chairman James Everett, along with Commissioners Alphya Benefield, Jesse Crews, Drew Jones, and Luke Gowen; County Administrator Hampton Raulerson; County Clerk Jenifer Nobles; HR Clerk Becky Harden; County Attorney John Adams; and visitors as recorded hereafter.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

   Chairman Everett led the Invocation and Pledge to the Flag.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

   Commissioner Benefield made motion to amend the December 2, 2021 Agenda to include
   A. Hear Emily Floore - Executive Director, St. Marys Riverkeeper
   B. Consider Approval to Apply for AFG Grant Application - Purchase of VFD Engine
   Motion was seconded by Commissioner Jones, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

   Commissioner Benefield made motion to adopt the December 2, 2021 agenda to include the above mentioned amendments. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Gowen, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

   Commissioner Gowen made motion to approve November 4, 2021 and November 18, 2021 Minutes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Crews, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

5. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT

   Commissioner Crews made motion to approve Financial Report as presented. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Crews, Board voted; motion carried unanimously. Copy of Financial Report becomes integral part of Minutes.

6. HEAR TREY SCOTT, MAULDIN & JENKINS

   Trey Scott, Maudlin & Jenkins was present to discuss 2020 Financial Audit. Mr. Scott reported that audit report had clean opinion. General fund is strong. Management findings, because of size doesn't have people to segregate duties. County is working to implement controls to segregate the check signing. Management was easy to work with - professional, no difficulties, no issues.

7. HEAR MICHAEL LUSK, ONWR

   MIchael Lusk, ONWR Manager, along with Susie Heisey and Kim Bednarek were present to report on Okefenokee partnership formed to address Charlton County Comprehensive Plan. Steps to address economy with balance of nature and commerce on federal and local levels. Okefenokee NWR is listed in National Geographic #49 most beautiful places. The goal is to work together, not compete. All entrances will be promoted including Okenokee NWR, Okefenokee Swamp Park, and Stephen Foster Park. Post Wentworth Visitor Center exhibit (alligator exhibit) promoting the Okefenokee was awarded the Travel Blazer Award by the Georgia Chamber and Visitor Bureau. A new website is available with access points and recreation opportunities. Fund raising, looking for funds to expand museum and exhibits are available in an effort to help do work here with investments. The team expressed appreciation to the Board for support of grants.

8. HEAR DANA O'QUINN, DISCUSS BOA

   Dana O'Quinn and Gary Tippins were present to ask the Board to consider changing number of members on the Board of Assessors from 5 to 3. There has been a struggle to have majority to conduct business. This would also save on the costs of training. Commissioner Crews made motion to begin process to change ordinance from 5 members to 3 members. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Benefield, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

9. HEAR SHERIFF ROBERT PHILLIPS, DISCUSS E911

   Sheriff Robert Phillips and Representatives from Mobile Communications were present to discuss E911 system. A proposal for $1,759,833.00 was presented to the Board for consideration. This is state contract price. System will include coverage for Charlton County EMS, Fire Department, Sheriff's Department, City of Folkston, and School Board. System will include radio, tower, cameras, computers, records, reports, printers, and time clocks. System will include 30 month upgrades. System will replace current system. 911 fees should begin in January to help cover the costs of operation. The Board asked to find out if ARPA funds can be used for the costs of the system. Commissioner Benefield asked to make sure funds are available. Commissioner Crews made motion to table consideration of proposal until next meeting, Thursday December 16th, 2021. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Gowen, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

10. CONSIDER 2021 BUDGET AMENDMENT

    Agenda Amendments -
    Emily Floore, Executive Director, St. Mary's RiverKeeper was present and asked for letter of support for St. Mary's Riverkeeper's Environmental Water Testing and Nonpoint Source Pollution Educational programming, a grant proposal being submitted to the EPA for their Environmental Education grant. Commissioner Crews made motion to approve letter of support for the Environmental Education grant. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Gowen, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

    C. L. Lewis was present and asked for approval to apply for AFG Grant application in order to purchase VFD Engine for the fire department. Commissioner Gowen made motion to approve application for AFG grant for the fire department, in order to purchase engine for the fire department with a 10% county match. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Crews, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

    Commissioner Crews made motion to approve Resolution Budget Adjustment #1 For Fiscal Year 2021. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Benefield, Board voted; motion carried unanimously. Copy of Budget Adjustment becomes integral part of Minutes.

11. CONSIDER ADOPTION OF 2022 BUDGET

Commissioner Gowen made motion to approve 2022 Budget. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Benefield, Board voted; motion carried unanimously. Copy of 2022 Budget becomes integral part of Minutes.

12. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF 2022 INDIGENT DEFENSE AGREEMENT AND BUDGET

Commissioner Jones made motion to approve 2022 Indigent Defense Agreement and Budget. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Benefield, Board voted; motion carried unanimously. Copy of Agreement and Budget become integral part of Minutes.

13. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT #1 - 2016 OPERATING AGREEMENT - GEO

Commissioner Gowen made motion to approve Amendment # 1 to the 2016 Operating Agreement Between The County of Charlton, Georgia and The Geo Group, Inc. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Benefield, Board voted; motion carried unanimously. Amendment becomes integral part of Minutes.

14. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF HARDWARE WARRANTY AGREEMENT - DOMINION VOTING SYSTEMS

Brenda Hodges, Supervisor of Elections, was present to discuss Hardware Warranty Agreement. Commissioner Gowen made motion to approve Hardware Warranty Agreement by and Between Dominion Voting Systems, Inc. and Charlton County, GA. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Benefield, Board voted; motion carried unanimously. Agreement becomes integral part of Minutes.

15. CONSIDER ADOPTION OF PLAN AND RESOLUTION FOR LOCAL REDISTRICTING

Commissioner Gowen made motion to adopt Resolution, Approving a Redistricting Plan for Charlton County Board of Commissioners Requesting that its Local Legislative Delegation have such Redistricting Plan Introduced as Local Legislation at the 2022 Regular Session of the Georgi General Assembly, Providing for an Effective Date, and for other purposes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Crews, Board voted; motion carried unanimously. Resolution becomes integral part of Minutes.

16. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Commissioner Benefield made motion to rescind motion designating a portion of State Highway 121 between Thompson Road and Wheeler Street, and approve Resolution Requesting that the Georgia General Assembly Designate A Portion of State Highway 121, and the eastern Florida-Georgia State boundary to be named in honor of Ernest "Dobie" Conner. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Gowen, Board voted; motion carried unanimously. Resolution becomes integral part of Minutes.

17. CONSIDER RADIO QUOTE FOR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Upon recommendation of Fire Board and budget availability, Commissioner Jones made motion that 22 radios be purchased from Mobile Communications of America for $15,408.00. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Crews, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

18. ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF OCTOBER, 2021 WELLNESS REPORT

The Board acknowledged receipt of October, 2021 Wellness Report.

19. PUBLIC COMMENTS: (PLEASE LIMIT TO 3 MINUTES)

Dana O'Quinn reported that 4 blessing boxes have been donated around town by Georgia Power and Ace Hardware and 4H students painted them. The items are available to anyone in need. Boxes are located St. George Elementary School, Homeland, Pinewood Center, and Chatman Mobley Park. Ms. O'Quinn reminded everyone of the 2nd Annual Light Up Parade on Saturday night at 7:30 p.m.

Antwon Nixon and Leangela Austin asked the Board for 2 sets of bleachers at the Park.

20. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Crews thanked Dana O'Quinn for honoring his Dad when referring to Jesse Crews, Sr. Park.

21. EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF REQUIRED)

Commissioner Gowen made motion to enter executive session at 8:00 p.m. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Benefield, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Everett opened meeting at 8:00 p.m. and stated that litigation was discussed in executive session. Commissioner Gowen made motion that Hampton Raulerson be named as representative to sign the National Prescription Opiate Litigation Exhibits, in order to participate in settlements. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Benefield, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

22. NEXT BOC MEETING, THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 2022 - 6:00 P.M. BOC CONFERENCE ROOM

23. ADJOURN

Commissioner Jones made motion that meeting be adjourned at 8:01 p.m. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Benefield, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

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James E. Everett, Chairman

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Jenifer Nobles, County Clerk