

CHARLTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2022
BOC CONFERENCE ROOM
6:00 P.M.

10/6/2022 - 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 adopt the October 6, 2022 Agenda. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Crews, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Commissioner Gowen made motion to adopt the September 15, 2022 Minutes. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Crews, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

5. HEAR MADISON SANDS, 4 H EXTENSION AGENT

Madison Sands, 4H Agent, reported that 4H participation has doubled and more things are being offered. Mrs. Sands expressed appreciation for storage shed and for the Board's support of the 4H Program. Commissioner Everett complimented 4H Program for the post office project.

6. CONSIDER ADOPTION OF MILLAGE RATE

Commissioner Crews made motion to discuss adoption of millage rate. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Gowen, Board voted; motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Gowen thanked the budget committee for great job this year, in proposing 4th straight year for a net decrease. Mr. Raulerson and budget committee proposed 14.25 millage rate, but Commissioner Gowen would like to propose 13.90 millage rate. By dropping millage rate, property tax revenue will be lowered by \$127,888. Commissioner Crews asked all board members to understand the intent is to include salary schedule.

Commissioner Jones stated that County Administrator Raulerson has done a good job, balancing budgets, contingency, employee raises, reevaluation, and financial status is better than ever - appreciate all employees and Hampton's work on pay scale. This is the lowest millage rate in a decade.

The Board expressed appreciation to the budget committee: Hampton Raulerson, Becky Harden, Alphya Benefield, and Luke Gowen.

Commissioner Benefield stated that she is not excited about dropping millage rate to 13.90, but will

support. She wished to make it clear that proposed salary increases will be included in the 13.90 budget. Will budgets be sufficient? Please be clear I will support 13.90 millage rate but am not comfortable. If needed, we may have to raise millage rate next year to cover salary schedules

Commissioner Jones stated that generous raises are included in this proposed budget, and emergency funds are available. Raises for pay scale will need to be looked at every year.

Commissioner Gowen stated it is time to roll back and give back to the people.

Commissioner Everett expressed appreciation to Administrator Raulerson and employees for coming from borrowing to reserve.

Commissioner Crews made motion based on all discussion to adopt the following millage rate:

13.90 (2.276 Rollback Credit = 16.76)

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Gowen, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Crews and Board agreed that millage rate may need to be increased next year in order to be consistent with proposed salary schedule raises, intent is to keep salary schedule moving. Commissioner Benefield stated that is where her heart is to continue raises for county employees.

Commissioner Crews made motion to approve 14.443 School Board M&O. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Gowen, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

Recap: County 13.90 (2.276 rollback credit - 16.176)
Schools, M&O 14.443
Gross Millage Rate 28.343
Less Credits - 2.276
Total 26.067

Tax Levy becomes integral part of Minutes.

7. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AMENDED INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

Commissioner Jones made motion to approve Amended Intergovernmental Agreement Regarding Placement of Officers at Schools, between the Charlton County School District/ Charlton County Sheriff's Department/ and the Charlton County Board of Commissioners. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Benefield, Board voted; motion carried unanimously. Intergovernmental Agreement becomes integral part of Minutes.

8. ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF AUGUST, 2022 WELLNESS REPORT

August, 2022 Wellness Report was acknowledged by the Board.

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

Elaine Bailey appeared before Board expressing appreciation to the Board and the Road Department in coming out in preparation of storm, also expressing how blessed we were during the storm. The County provided dirt and sand bags to property owners. Mrs. Bailey expressed appreciation to the employees and

everyone coming together.

Ronnie Pollock stated that the road department is in good shape. Mr. Pollock reiterated Mrs. Bailey's comment, that we were truly blessed during the storm, and appreciate everyone's support.

Mr. Pollock stated that as far as budget is concerned, to hold off on purchase of new vehicles, will need mower and batwing mower repairs.

10. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Benefield thanked Mr. Pollock for being pro-active in road repairs, "the citizens are paying attention".

Commissioner Jones asked Mr. Raulerson to check with Georgia Forestry on burn ban.

Commissioner Benefield asked Sheriff Phillips for 911 update - waiting on AT&T to install trunc lines. Sheriff Phillips thanked the Board, Becky and Hampton for financial status of County. "Thank you for what you do!"

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF REQUIRED)

Commissioner Crews made motion to enter executive session at 6:30 p.m. to discuss personnel. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Benefield, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Everett opened meeting at 6:35 p.m. and stated personnel was discussed in executive session and no action was taken.

Commissioner Crews made motion to uphold Personnel Review Board recommendation to terminate Employee, Joshua Caleb Strickland. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Benefield, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

12. NEXT MEETING:

Next BOC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 20, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Conference Room.

13. ADJOURN

Commissioner Gowen made motion that meeting be adjourned at 6:35 p.m. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Benefield, Board voted; motion carried unanimously.

James E. Everett, Chairman

Jenifer Nobles, County Clerk

