

CHARLTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
THURSDAY, JUNE 6TH, 2024
COMMISSIONERS' CONFERENCE ROOM
6:00 P.M.

6/6/2024 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Benefield led the Invocation and Pledge to the Flag.

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Jones motioned to move agenda items numbers 10 and 11 to be presented under agenda item number 4. Commissioner Benefield seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Gowen motioned to adopt the agenda to include the amendment. Commissioner Benefield seconded. The board voted with the motion carrying unanimously.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Commissioner Everett made a motion to approve the May 16th, 2024 minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gowen. The board voted; motion carried unanimously.

5. ACKNOWLEDGE RESIGNATION OF TERESA HAMILTON, BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Commissioner Gowen made a motion to acknowledge the resignation of Teresa Hamilton from the Board of Elections, effective June 5th, 2024. Commissioner Benefield seconded the motion. The board voted and the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Crews asked how to fill the open position after the motion carried. County Administrator Raulerson informed the board about an individual who had requested an application for the position after the posting of the meeting agenda, but reminded the board that the position is one appointed by the board.

6. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF EMERGENCY EVENT/OPERATIONAL PAY POLICIES

Chairman Crews informed the board that the fireboard is in favor of this policy, stating that previously firefighters had not been paid due to federal policy changes. This policy would take volunteer firefighters to a paid status during an emergency event. Commissioner Jones asked if FEMA has ever not reimbursed under similar policies. County Administrator Raulerson informed the board that he had not seen any circumstances in which FEMA has not reimbursed the local government as long as the situation was declared an emergency on a local, state, and federal level, which is how the proposed policy is written.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the policy. Commissioner Benefield seconded the motion. The board voted, with the motion carrying unanimously.

The board also discussed adding this to the personnel policy, but no action was taken on the matter at this time.

Copy of Emergency Event/Operation Pay Policies became integral part of minutes.

7. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN NASSAU COUNTY AND CHARLTON COUNTY

County Administrator Raulerson explained the interlocal agreement to the board and stated that a revision would be necessary to correct typos before the document could be shared with Nassau County if the board approves.

Chairman Crews informed the commissioners that the fireboard is in favor of this agreement. Commissioner Gowen motioned to approve the agreement. Commissioner Benefield seconded. The board voted, with the motion carrying unanimously.

Copy of Interlocal Agreement Between Nassau County and Charlton County to become integral part of minutes.

8. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ROAD DEPARTMENT DUMP TRUCK REPAIR

County Administrator Raulerson informed the board that the agenda item is for repair of the garbage truck and not the dump truck as listed.

The county received bids as following:

Bobby's Diesel- \$7,353.37
Kenworth of Jacksonville- \$10,778.90

County Administrator Raulerson informed the board that there was not a current insurance and W-9 record on file for Bobby's Diesel, but the county clerk was attempting to collect this information.

Commissioner Gowen made a motion to award bid to Bobby's Diesel, pending the receipt of the insurance and W-9 records. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion. The board voted, with the motion carrying unanimously.

AMENDED AGENDA ITEM

County Administrator Raulerson proposed that the board ratify the purchase of the EMS A/C unit. The work had already been completed by the company with the best bid.

The bids were received as follows:

Jim Brown- \$5,995.00
Dixie Air and Heat- \$7,950.00

Commissioner Benefield motioned to ratify the amendment. Commissioner Gowen seconded the motion. The board voted and the motion carried unanimously.

9. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF TURNOUT GEAR FOR VFD

County Administrator Raulerson informed the board that there are currently 10 sets of turnout gear set to expire later this year. If approved, the county plans to utilize some SPLOST funds.

The county received bids as follows:

Municipal Equipment Company- \$27, 350.00
Bennett Fire Products Co., Inc. -\$36,330.00

Commissioner Gowen motioned to approve the replacement of the ten sets of expiring turnout gear and award the bid to Municipal Equipment Company. Commissioner Benefield seconded the motion. The board voted and the motion carried unanimously.

10. DISCUSS NUISANCE ORDINANCE

County Administrator Raulerson explained the proposed ordinance and requested that Ms. Anna Ensley step up to the podium to answer any questions and provide more information. The board discussed the ordinance with Ms. Ensley and County Administrator Raulerson, to receive more information.

Chairman Crews suggested that the board read through the ordinance and resume the discussion at a later date, after the board had more time to prepare. Commissioner Gowen shared his opinion of agreement and support with the ordinance, pending some revisions.

The board took no action at this time.

11. DISCUSS PERMITTING FEES

County Administrator Raulerson addressed the board regarding state changes on how permitting fees may be assessed, which prevents the county from utilizing the current system. Mr. Raulerson informed the board that a change must be adopted by July 1st.

County Administrator Raulerson suggested going to a flat rate system based on the average of current charges for permitting fees, with the exception of commercial use buildings.

The board agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting, after considering the proposed permit fee changes.

Commissioner Everett asked about how to educate the community further regarding permitting fees and requirements, suggesting newspaper ads should be taken out regarding the matter. County Administrator Raulerson stated that this is something that can be done after a permitting fee change has been adopted.

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

Prior to the public comments, the board introduced and welcomed Madeline Nettles, the new Deputy Clerk.

Elaine Bailey addressed the board by presenting them with an open invitation to a joint birthday-anniversary celebration for her parents on June 22nd, 2024. She also requested that the board issue a proclamation on behalf of the county. She presented a rough draft of a proclamation to the board. The board took the rough draft for consideration.

Ms. Bailey also commended the sheriff on the Junior Sheriff's Academy hosted at the high school.

13. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Everett commented on County Clerk Jenifer Nobles and his appreciation for her and her career with the county from May 1981 to June 2024. Chairman Crews also voiced his appreciation.

Commissioner Benefield presented Ms. Nobles with a plaque and Chairman Crews presented Ms. Nobles with flowers, commending her retirement.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF REQUIRED)

At 6:36 P.M., Commissioner Benefield made a motion to close the meeting and enter an executive session regarding potential land acquisition. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion. Commissioner Gowen asked to be excused from the session.

At 6:54 P.M., the executive session ended. The board took no action regarding potential land acquisition.

15. NEXT BOC MEETING, THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2024, ST. GEORGE COMMUNITY ROOM - 6:00 P.M.

16. ADJOURN

At 6:55 P.M., Commissioner Benefield motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Everett seconded the motion. The board voted, with the motion carrying unanimously.

Jesse A. Crews, Chairman

Madeline Nettles, County Deputy Clerk