

MINUTES
Liberty County Board of Commissioners
May 5, 2020
Regular Meeting
Teleconference

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lovette with all Commissioners in attendance except Commissioner Bowen.
2. County Administrator, Joey Brown certified that the meeting had been duly advertised and that a quorum of the Board of Commissioners were present.
3. Prayer was offered by Commissioner Connie Thrift.
4. The Board considered minutes of their April meetings. A motion was made by Commissioner Stevens to accept the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Frasier, with all Commissioners present on call voting in favor of the motion.
5. The Board adopted Proclamations for National Day of Prayer (May 7, 2020), National Travel & Tourism Week (May 3-9, 2020), and National Nurses Week (May 3-9, 2020). Chairman Lovette shared that it is especially appropriate that we recognize nurses during Covid-19 since they were on the frontline of the battle.
6. New Business was considered:

(a) Finance - Ms. Kim McGlothlin, CFO, gave an overview of the revenues and expenses for March. Ms. McGlothlin noted that the narcotics division would run over budget and advised that she had talked to Chief Deputy Long and advised that money would need to be moved from one of the Sheriff's other budgets to account for the projected loss. Ms. McGlothlin also shared her thoughts about revenue losses during the Covid-19 crisis. Ms. McGlothlin also shared the proposed 2021 budget calendar and provided dates for a required public hearing.

Ms. McGlothlin advised the Board that the three year contract with the current auditor was set to expire this year and recommended renewal for three additional years with the accounting firm of Mauldin & Jenkins. A motion was made by Commissioner Stevens, and seconded by Commissioner Thrift, to approve a three year contract with Mauldin & Jenkins at a cost of \$60,000.00, \$61,000.00, and \$62,000.00 respectively with all Commissioners present on the call voting in favor of the motion.

(b.) Engineering – Trent Long, County Engineer, presented the monthly report. Mr. Long provided an in depth review of the projects that he has been working on. Mr. Long also provided the Board of Commissioners with a status report on the Isle of Wight Fire Station that is under construction. He advised that he had obtained pricing for the bay heater from Dee's Electric in the amount of \$11,755.87. A motion was made by Commissioner Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Thrift, to approve the heater with all Commissioners present on call voting in favor of the motion. Commissioner Stevens inquired about a generator for emergency purposes. Mr. Long explained that he will get a price for a transfer switch so that a generator might be able to be added at a later date. Commissioner Thrift inquired as to whether or not Station 15 (Gum Branch) had a generator? Mr. Brown advised that he would check.

Commissioner Stevens noted to the group that something needed to be done about flooding at the Fleming Fire Station. Mr. Long shared that his survey crew has already

done a survey over there to get grades and that he would develop a proposed action plan for Board consideration.

Commissioner Stevens asked if there was anything the County can do to Bill Carter Road. Mr. Long shared that he was actively putting together a list of projects for the County to approve as part of its 2021 GDOT LMIG application.

(c) Recreation - Jimmy Martin, Recreation Director, discussed with the Board a phased re-opening plan for park facilities. He would like to propose to the Board of Commissioners a soft opening as part of Phase I. Presently, he has staff policing parks and facilities. Mr. Martin stressed that he plans to encourage users to reserve use of facilities. Commissioner Thrift expressed support of self-policing favored re-opening of some aspects of the facilities. Chairman Lovette inquired about county liability for re-opening. Mr. Brown advised that he would get with the County Attorney about the liability. Board members expressed the need for adequate signage in all areas. Chairman Lovette advised everyone that he wanted to wait until next week to make a decision in order to see what Governor Kemp would propose for reopening. Chairman Lovette recommended that we hold off basketball court reopening. Chairman Lovette suggested that the Board of Commissioners conduct a called meeting after hearing from Governor Kemp. Mr. Brown shared that the Board of Commissioners could place dates for a phased opening once the Board of Commissioners meet.

(d) The Board considered a Green Infrastructure Ordinance as presented by Trent Long, County Engineer. Mr. Long shared that he had presented this ordinance originally in February. Mr. Long explained that was more a program than an ordinance because it encourages green development and low impact drainage facilities. The document needs to be adopted and forward to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division (EPD). Commissioner Walden inquired if the LCPC and Planning Commission had reviewed and recommended this program for adoption. Mr. Long added that the Water Technical Committee of the LCPC had reviewed and signed off on the document. A motion was made by Commissioner Stevens and seconded by Commissioner Gilliard to adopt the ordinance with all commissioners present on call voting in favor of the motion.

(e) Administrative Report was presented– Joey Brown, County Administrator

(1) Mr. Brown informed the Board of Commissioners that Assistant County Administrator Joseph Mosley, County Engineer Trent Long, and Recreation Director Jimmy Martin had met and are developing a plan for recommendations to make the County's facilities accessible according to the Americans with Disability Act.

(2) Mr. Brown informed the Board of Commissioners that he had been working with the Elections Board and Peggy McGee, Infection Disease Specialist of Liberty Regional Medical, to put together a plan to protect the poll workers and the public. He was holding some meetings to help develop a plan of action for the soon coming elections.

Mr. Brown shared with the Board of Commissioners that administration was developing a draft reopening plan for county offices and that he plans to meet with Virgil Jones, Tax Commissioner and Glenda Roberts, Tax Assessor with reopening the County Annex. Commissioner Gilliard expressed concern about people riding on the elevators. It was suggested that County officials place signage and encourage people to ride one at a time for social distancing purposes.

7. A motion was made by Commissioner Frasier to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Thrift, with all Commissioners present on call voting in favor of the motion.

SIGNED:

Donald L. Lovette, Chairman

Marion Stevens, Sr., Vice Chairman

Justin L. Frasier, Commissioner

Connie Thrift, Commissioner

Pat Bowen, Commissioner

Gary Gilliard, Commissioner

Eddie J. Walden, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Joseph W. Brown
County Administrator