

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

PRESENT: DAVID SIKES, ALFRED CASON, BUCK MOON, DARRIEL NOBLES, TOMMY ROLLINS, JOHN M. JONES AND HELEN HARRIS

Call to Order: Chairman Sikes called the March 18th Regular Board Meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

Invocation: Commissioner Cason gave the Invocation.

Approve Agenda: Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve the Agenda.

Commissioner Moon made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to add Consideration of Approval of Addendum 2 with DebrisTech, LLC to Increase Not to Exceed Amount, after the Consideration of Approval of Addendum 6 with Looks Great Services of MS, Inc. to Increase, not to Exceed Amount. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to approve the Minutes for the February 18, 2025 Regular Board Meeting:

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the minutes from February 18, 2025 Regular Board Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Development Authority Report:

Michele Johnson, announced the Toombs County Development Authority (TCDA) Regular Monthly Meeting – Thursday, March 20th, at 12:00 noon in the Dot Foods Business Hub, Greater Vidalia® Center for Rural Entrepreneurship, 208 East First Street, Vidalia. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Southeast Non-Profit Housing (SENP) – Tuesday, March 25th, 3:00 p.m., at the Greater Vidalia® Center for Rural Entrepreneurship, 208 East First Street, Vidalia. Greater Vidalia® Chamber (GVC) Monthly Meeting – Thursday, March 27th, at 11:30 a.m. in the Dot Foods Business Hub, Greater Vidalia® Center for Rural Entrepreneurship, 208 East First Street, Vidalia. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Bowen & Co. (1st tenant for GVCRE) – Thursday, March 27th, 1:00 p.m., at the Greater Vidalia® Center for Rural Entrepreneurship, 208 East First Street, Vidalia. Greater Vidalia® Chamber (GVC) ConnectHer Event – Thursday, March 27th, from 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at The Dahlia Event Center, 200 Southwest Main Street, Vidalia (Flyer Attached) Leadership Greater Vidalia® Graduation – Friday, April 11th

An update was given on the local businesses. Dot Foods – 2024 Annual Report demonstrates full time employee positions of 371 against a goal of 332 and investment of \$9,128,601 against a goal of \$9,000,000. East Jordan Plastics – 2024 Annual Report demonstrates full time employee positions of nine against a goal of six and investment of \$28,476,706 against a goal of \$7,100,000. Fillamon, formerly Shinsung – The project has selected TQ as the general contractor. Tumi – 2024 Annual Report demonstrates full time employee positions of 145 against a goal of 119. The survey for Atlanta Gas Light (AGL) Universal Service fund (USF) deadline is April 30th. The link to the survey is <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/USFsurvey2025> Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) [Public Unmet Need](#) Survey and Public Hearing (04.02.2025, 3:00 p.m., Dot Foods Business Hub, GVCRE). U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Recovery Assistance (DRA) at Greater Vidalia® Center for Rural Entrepreneurship (GVCRE) (March 3rd – June 30th).

Department Report: None

Public Participation: The Commissioner's office received several letters expressing concern about the potential closure of a section of Ohoopee Station Road. Each letter opposed the closure, and some of the citizens who wrote these letters were present at the meeting to voice their opinions.

Mark Heart, 217 New Parker Road, questioned how many houses are effected by this issue. Alan Thigpen, address the question, all emergency agencies will have the code for the gate if the road is closed. **William Collins**, 1352 Raymond Rollins Roads, the signs were placed because of the trash and the criminal activities; if this is the issue; the proper authorities must be involved; he did not believe that was the real issue. His main concern was that when it rains, the road towards Hwy 292 would not be a pleasant road to travel and they would be restricted to take another route from their home. **Elica Godwin**, 1700 Raymond Rollins Road, Her point was that the County was growing and it would prohibit the growth of the area if the road were closed. **Hugh Rollison**, Vidalia, GA. The family owns the 11.2 acres and asked how they would get to their property if this portion of the road was closed. Alan Thigpen replied and said the landowners would be supplied with a code to the gate if they could not access their land. **Phillip Talley**, 424 Hwy 86 East Ohoopee, Old Donald Anderson Road in the Ponderosa Area were all dirt roads when we were growing up. A group wished they had spoken up when they closed the other portion of Ohoopee Station Road, the road to the creek. The person that wants the portion of the road knows the whole community of Ohoopee area is upset but still wants the road closed.

Consideration to Close a Portion of Raymond Rollison Road and a Portion of Ohoopee Station Road:

Manager John Jones informed the audience that the Board had carefully considered the potential closure of Ohoopee Road in the previous Commissioners Meeting. This decision-making process followed the procedure outlined in Georgia Code 37-7-2. The Board also took into account the public's input from the Public Meeting held on February 18, 2025.

Vice-Chairman Rollins stated he read all the letters that were sent. He drove down that road when it rained about two and a half inches, 3.9 miles from Raymond Rollinson starting point to where it comes out on Hwy 86. The road from Raymond Rollinson starting point by the railroad tracks was a little muddy. He acknowledged that they had much emotional attachment, but he did not see any disconnect to the County to close the portion of the road presented. One of the citizens spoke out of order and said everyone had to agree. Chairman Sikes regained order and asked Vice-Chairman Rollins to continue what he was explaining. Vice-Chairman Rollins continued to say that everyone did not have to agree, only the people who owned both sides of the road, and he was sorry if they did not agree with his decision. There were signs posted in required areas that the road was being proposed to close.

Vice-Chairman Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Moon, to close the proposed section of Raymond Rollison Road and a portion of Ohoopee Station Road. Chairman Sikes said we have a motion and a second; we are open for discussion. Commission Nobles stated he was voting no to close the road; he continued to say he promised the people during the election that he would leave his personal feelings aside and would vote like the majority of the people in the third district wanted me to vote and I feel like the majority of the people have spoken. On second thought, I will not nail shut their back door. He could leave his house and has the option of four different directions to leave my house. When the storm came through last September, I could not leave my house. These people will only have one way in and one way out. If one tree fell, they could miss a doctor's appointment; go to school, or even work. Commissioner Cason spoke with a vote of No. Chairman Sikes stated that for the first time in nine years, we have a split vote; this places a breaking tie on the Chairman. Chairman Sikes continued that he had driven down to the area in question today. I understand your concerns; we all have one way in and one way out; in my case, I have two ways out. I know the traveling is a concern, but on this one, I am going with the landowners because the landowners are asking

for it to be closed, so I vote yea; that means the vote is three to two and the road in that section will be closed.

Consideration of Approval of Proposal of Software Package from Nitorco, Inc. for Tax Commissioners Office:

Manager Jones stated in the Commissioners packet that the Tax Commissioners' Office has presented a draft contract with Nitorco, Inc. The current software used in the Tax Commissioners' Office is outdated. This software will be an upgrade to the software that they are currently using. The payments will be paid with SPLOST funds. Anna Holcombe, Tax Commissioner, spoke to the Commissioners, explaining the advantages of the new software with Nitorco. She and her staff members attended the meeting to express their request to purchase Nitorco Software. Mrs. Holcombe explained that the present software is outdated and that we have been using the same software since the nineties. It isn't easy to search what property someone owned with the out dated software the office is using presently; with the new software, the office could search by first and last name, and it would pull all the property that person owns in Toombs County. This is just one of many features of the new system that will allow our citizens to get quicker service and efficient payments to the County in real time and not the next day. Commissioner Nobles asked the cost of the new software. The cost is a one-time initial cost of \$20,000 for the conversion of data and \$1,700 per month for updates, customer support, and cloud storage. Vice-Chairman Rollins asked how long it took to do the conversion. Mrs. Holcombe stated the company was completing the entire state of Alabama because they had no other software available to them and so in July 2025 the conversion would be over-night and there would be no down time to their office. Commissioner Moon asked if they were paying a monthly on the current software. Mrs. Holcombe said that there was a monthly fee, with the new software; rather waiting up to five days for support with the old system, the new system response time will be immediately.

Vice-Chairman Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason, to approve the contract with Nitorco, Inc. for the Tax Commissioners Office at a one-time initial cost of \$20,000 for data conversion and \$1,700 per month for updates, customer support, and cloud storage, to be paid with SPLOST funds. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval of Bid for TIA 2 Band 1 Project:

Manager Jones stated that the bid opening was held on March 06 for the widening and paving of Old Normantown Road and Cedar Crossing – Alston Road (also known as the dead-man's curve to the Montgomery County line). The budget from TSPLOST for this project was \$2,565,009, and the low bid from McLendon Enterprises was \$2,160,679.93. Because of the difference between the budget and bid, we will ask GDOT to allow us to do a change order and extend the two-foot widening on the Cedar Crossing-Alston Road southward to US #1. This project will be paid with TSPLOST funds.

Vice-Chairman Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Nobles, to accept the bid for the TIA 2 Band 1 Project, to the low bid from McLendon Enterprises of \$2,160,679.93 to be funded by TSPLOST. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Changer Order from Brunnell-Lammons Engineering, Inc for Geotechnical Evaluation for Vertical Expansion:

Manager Jones stated that the County is preparing a master plan for the Landfill for future expansion. The Landfill may expand the current permitted area vertically, giving an additional 5-7 years life. This change order represents the need for additional geotechnical evaluation to determine this. There is a \$50,000 change order to their contract; the County's Architect, Hofstadter and Associates, recommended that the Board approve this change order and be paid with Landfill Funds.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason, to accept the change order at the cost of \$50,000 to Brunnell-Lammons Engineering, Inc. for geotechnical evaluation for Vertical expansion at the Landfill and to be paid with Landfill Funds. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval of Addendum 6 with Looks

Manager Jones stated this is the company that is picking up our debris. The Toombs County Citizens was given the date of March 15 having their debris on

Great Services of MS, Inc. to Increase Not To Exceed Amount: the Right-of-Way. Looks Great Services has divided the County into fifty zones and are starting on the North end of the County and working their way to the South end of the County for a final pass on all County Maintained Roads. They projected another four to six weeks to finish the pickup of debris. This Addendum 6 is not to exceed \$65 million dollars. This cost will be FEMA reimbursed to the County and the Governor Kemp has confirmed that the State and GEMA will help with reimbursement.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the Addendum 6 with Looks Great Services of MS, Inc. not to exceed \$65 million dollars. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Approval of Addendum 2 with DebrisTech, LLC to Increase Not To Exceed Amount: Manager Jones stated this is the company that monitors the debris for the FEMA reimbursement request. They are asking for Addendum 2 not to exceed Eight (\$8m) million dollars.

Commissioner Moon made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Rollins to approve the Addendum 2 with DebrisTech, LLC. Not to Exceed Eight (\$8m) million dollars. Motion carried unanimously

Consideration of Approval Proposed Public Defender Office Memorandum of Agreement for Superior Court: Manager Jones stated this is the same as last Year's budget with no changes, beginning with July which is their beginning of their fiscal year.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Cason to approve the Proposed Public Defender Office Memorandum of Agreement for Superior Court starting in July of fiscal year 2026 and to approve the County Manager to sign. The motion carried unanimously.

Consideration of Appointment to the Board of Assessors: Manager Jones stated the Board assigned Ricky Mitchell to serve on the Board of Assessors last Commissioner Meeting; since then the Commissioner learned that Mr. Mitchell cannot serve on both the Development Authority Board (which he currently serves) and be appointed to the Board of Assessors. Ingrid M. Dykes had been asked to be on the Board of Assessors if the Board approved.

Vice-Chairman Rollins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Moon to appoint Ingrid M. Dykes to the Board of Assessors, with her terms being from January 01, 2025 to December 31, 2028. The motion carried unanimously.

County Manager Report: Manager Jones stated the Sale Tax, for the second month in a row we are seeing double digit increase from last year. On the M & O Budget – The line item in Road Department is high but this is due to where we are passing the Hurricane Helene Expenditures are being passed through. The Fire Departments are getting some improvement on the Fire Stations through-out the County. The stations will have brick work on the bottom of the exterior of the building, and then be painted. Toombs County Volunteer Fire Department was rather busy with forty-five (45) calls in the month of February. Workman Comp has Eight (8) claims are outstanding. Most of the claims are small and trying to get them settled. The EMS Department went live with the new ePCR to GEMSIS and it is going very smoothly. In the Commissioners Packet the Self-Funded Health Benefit Plan showing the Month of February and Plan year-to-date information on claims.

Miscellaneous: For the debris cleanup the DebrisTech Company has a Google Car and did documentation on all debris through-out the County on March 15 for piles of debris that needs to be picked up. They will finish the cities last. They expect to be completed with the ROW Debris pickup in 6-8 weeks.

Team Rubicon will be here until March 29, removing debris from homes and on houses. They have completed 159 work orders and have 49 current work orders left. They are still taking work orders if you know of anyone who still has trees on their house or in the yards and are unable to have them.

Standing Committee Reports

Commissioners Comments

Adjournment:

Chairman Sikes asked for a motion to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting.

Commissioner Nobles made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Moon to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 PM.

David Sikes, Chairman

Attest: _____
Helen Harris, County Clerk