



Miller County Government
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Board of Commissioners



REGULAR SESSION MEETING
02/12/2023, 6:00 P.M., County Government Complex

MINUTES

Present: Chairman Ladon Calhoun, Vice Chairman Jeff Cox, Commissioner Cristene Edwards, Commissioner Nikki Nixon, Commissioner Allen Worsley. Others Present: Douglas Cofty, Faye Whittaker, Austin Lambert, Sheriff Jimmy Holt

Chairman Calhoun called the meeting to order. Regular session 02/12/2024 and called for prayer then the pledge of allegiance.

HOUSEKEEPING:

Approval of Agenda:

Chairman asked if anyone had looked over the agenda? Mr. Cofty stated we have one thing we need to add, this came in late. It is the Board of Equalization, we need to add that and discuss it because the board is short again. We are going to need to fill the board or contract again with Seminole County. Chairman Calhoun stated Ok, we need a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Worsley made motion to approve, Vice Chairman Cox seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

Chairman Calhoun asked if everyone has had time to look over the minutes. Mr. Cofty always does a fantastic job. If everyone thinks it is alright we need to call for a motion to approve it. Commissioner Edwards made motion to approve, Commissioner Nixon seconded. All in favor. Motion carried

Approval of Financial Report:

Chairman Calhoun asked does everything look in order, Commissioner Worsley stated I did not see anything wrong with them, I make a motion to approve, Vice Chairman Cox seconded. All in favor. Motion Carried.

APPEARANCES:

NONE

OLD BUSINESS

Fueling Center Report:

Mr. Cofty stated if you look at it, it is performing pretty much as normal. We have passed 2 semi loads and now we are working on 2 ½. If you all look at page 12 that shows you what we are bringing in. It was lower in December, but it has picked back up. Chairman Calhoun asked was the fuel prices staying pretty consistent. Mr. Cofty stated yes for the most part but this time it was a little high this month. Commissioner Worsley stated well do they allow us to go up on the prices. Mr. Cofty stated yes they allow us to go up on the fuel prices the on get fuel it is we whatever we buy it for we charge 10% on top of that to them so whatever it is they pay.

Qualifying Fees and Location

Chairman Calhoun stated all right qualifying fees and location. Mr. Cofty stated so basically what this is this you all had to approve it so they could run it in the paper, this is the qualifying fees and then we had an issue come up with state court, so the we don't have a local democrat party but we do have a local GOP party, this is their first election so anybody that's going to register as a GOP candidate has to come here in this office from March 4th through the 7th from 9:00 to 5:00, they're going to put it in the paper if you're going to be independent or if you're going to be a Democrat you got to go to the Election supervisor because there's no party there, maybe we can get the two parties down here and we can just hosted both of them here but I kind of reached out to the attorney and he was like as long as it's not a general election. But as a primary you can have one and not the other So, if when the general comes up we won't host anybody, so any candidate, it's going to be March the 4th through the 7th from 9 to 5 so you all make a note of that. Chairman Calhoun asked you need a vote on the fees Mr. Cofty stated I need a formal vote for the fees yes. Chairman Calhoun stated all right I need a motion to adopt the 2024 qualifying fees. Commissioner Worsley stated I make it, Commissioner Edwards seconded it. All in favor. Motion carried.

P25 Radio System Update

Chairman Calhoun stated now the p25 radio system update. Mr. Cofty stated so this was the grant that we were getting Congressman Bishop, actually this was the one through the Regional commission, so that's kind of been slowly moving through well we found out now that there's only four counties that's going to be actually getting the money so we're allotted to get \$986,000 to build out a radio system as of right now there's no match, what they're telling me is if we go over the 986,000 then we're going to have to

start paying whatever dollars we go over. We're meeting Wednesday with the tier one group and we're going to kind of narrow it down and come up with a better quotation of what radios we need but as of right now we should be fine they kind of estimated high on the price of the equipment, so we still fall up under that category, so we'll meet Wednesday and then then whenever I do get an actual number I'll come back to you but it's starting slowly moving. The City has actually started to build that tower over there by their old building. Chairman Calhoun asked are we going to be a to use it free of charge. Mr. Cofty stated well our cost will have to put a generator onto that tower and that's it. We will not have to pay a monthly fee to use the tower. Chairman Calhoun stated okay all right, all right that's concludes all the old business let's move to the new business.

NEW BUSINESS

DNR Shooting Range

Chairman Calhoun asked can you update us on the shooting range. Mr. Cofty stated yes Ms. Cristene. I don't know if you were aware, I think I told you about the shooting range before well anyway we sent a letter out to Gerald Green because I got a lot of complaints on the way it looked and the safety hazard of it, So, Gerald put me in touch with the DNR they said that they don't want to give us the land, but they will give us the shoot range back as long as we manage it. I told him that we'd put cameras out there Then he starts telling me that back when Taurus came in that they wanted Decatur County to put in a shooting range and that the DNR would basically fund it well they turned it down so the guy that I talked to and the emails are in you packet, is Alan Isler, he's the Chief of the Game Management Wildlife Division and he basically was telling me that it's a Federal Grant and I talked to Paul Fryer today and he did confirm it so it's Federal money anything that we want to do to update it, improve it, put shooting like a pistol range out there, they paid 90% of all the cost.

Austin and I went to Thomasville this past week and looked at the one that they just built for Thomasville and it was 1.6 million and it was like a country club so we aren't going to need near that, they had like the old timey iron rails that well we can just do black fence you know to make it look nice but still they'll pay 90% of all cost so the city said they would use it and I know the sheriff said he would use it and then it would be open to the public. We have to take all money that we bring in, we'll have to put it back in it. So, we'll probably have to have the sheriff, when you retire you'll be a good safety officer, range officer so we got that covered. Anyway, we'll have to have a range officer out there, they had to have the lights and the computer systems and but it's 90% of all cost to be covered by the DNR. We do have a meeting on the 16th with them to kind of start the process meet each other. It's going to be a zoom and then we'll probably make a trip up there. Commissioner Worley stated what about schools and stuff would they being

interested in something like that. Mr. Cofty stated actually Ladon, didn't SGA. Chairman Calhoun stated I think all the schools would be interested in skeet shooting and archery they need some they need somewhere to practice, I know at Miller County they've been practicing in the gym, and it's been messing up the floor you know so they would probably be interested in it. Commissioner Worsley stated be nice to set it up also for handicap. Mr. Cofty state in fact the one over there over there had Thomasville had some handicap so that's why we're kind of going around there's one that's in Leary that Paul Fryer told me to go to today they just remodeled it, it's a DNR range, it's actually a little bit North toward Albany, it's Mike Commander. Chairman Calhoun asked is that 37 or. Mr. Cofty stated he said if you go to Leary kind of go like going to Albany. Chairman Calhoun stated I think it's 37. Mr. Cofty stated they just renovated those and actually put in the pistol range and all that so I'm going up there and look at their plans and then we'll just meet with them and see what we can get out of them. Commissioner Worsley asked is it going to be fenced off, the reason I say that. Mr. Cofty stated Thomasville's not fenced off. Commissioner Worsley continued reason I say that is because at night time sometimes I have to run to town and come back there be people gathered up there Chairman Calhoun stated you are talking about putting a gate out front. Mr. Cofty stated that is what Thomasville had, the nice brick driveway and it had a gate there but other than that nothing else was fence because they've got those full-time range officers and I guess they act as security so they kind of keep it and if we did that we would get with the Sheriff's Office and let them kind of patrol it and eventually people to know not to go out there or you'll go to jail. Commissioner Worsley stated or dig a ditch across where everybody can't go in. Mr. Cofty stated so but that's where we are with that I mean it looks like it's going pretty well and thrilled to see it. Chairman Calhoun stated all right any more questions or discussion, all right let's move on to the economic development. Economic Development Contract

Chairman Calhoun stated we need a formal vote. Mr. Cofty stated yes, you voted through the text group to go ahead with the contract, now let me give you a little you all had his paperwork so basically he'll do all lobbying or any kind of economic development type deal where we're still going to have to have a grant writer but they will find the money and they'll Lobby the money so they'll go out to bring in businesses that want to come, they'll kind of work hand in hand from start to finish with those businesses and do that so it's just we just need to have a lobbyist because even though ACCG is lobbying, their lobbying for all 159 counties and then the of course the bigger counties who they tend to look at so we have our own and we're going to split it with the City of Colquitt. Commissioner Worsley asked they aren't going to be looking for no monkey farm are they. Mr. Cofty stated No sir. Chairman Calhoun stated not unless you want it, you want it? Commissioner Edwards stated they blocked that didn't they? Mr. Cofty stated tomorrow the Commissioners are meeting and they're trying to get completely out of it

but I think they filed a lawsuit so they may not can get out of it but no we won't be doing that we going to bring something in, but it won't be that. Vice Chairman Cox stated I'll make a motion to approve. Chairman Calhoun stated any seconds. Commissioner Nixon seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

ADDED TO AGENDA

Board of Equalization

Chairman Calhoun stated board equalization that's next. Mr. Cofty stated that's right so basically Gail just had called me and said that several people I guess it's five members on the board, they're down to one member so when we were short last time we contracted with Seminole County to provide their board. Chairman Calhoun stated we got to have three members on it. Mr. Cofty stated I think it's five and I actually emailed Paula today and she said that we could probably work out a deal, so they'll be glad to do it. I don't know what we paid last time, I'll find out and see but she did just ask you all to kind of if you all knew anybody that wanted to be on board. Didn't you say they have to go to school. Ms. Whittaker stated they have to go to class. Mr. Cofty stated so if you know anybody wants to be on board, you all submit the names. Commissioner Worsley stated we just got to have a board where people are not wanting to field the position is that what's going on. Mr. Cofty stated they're just dropping off and not wanting to renew it. Chairman Calhoun stated is it because they had to go to class and stay is that what it is, how long class? Ms. Whittaker stated 40 hours. Chairman Calhoun stated oh really 40 hours. Mr. Cofty stated we can talk about it in the March meeting. Can they do it online, can't do it on. Sheriff Holt stated the grand is supposed to appoint them and next grand jury you know is next month. Chairman Calhoun stated we short of time is what you are saying. Mr. Cofty stated we probably need to do a head and go into contract this time with Seminole County. Chairman Calhoun stated yeah. Mr. Cofty stated and then we can get the names and go ahead and get that board but if you all know anybody just give me the names and we'll get them on to them.

Chairman Calhoun stated well that's all I think I see. Mr. Cofty stated we have Department reports. Chairman Calhoun stated has anybody got anything they want to talk about everybody nothing no questions no discussion. We need a motion to adjourn Commissioner Worsley made the motion, Commissioner Nixon seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

SIGNATURE PAGE:

Cristene Edwards, Commissioner – District 1

Jeff Cox, Commissioner – District 2

Allen Worsley, Chairman – District 3

Niki Nixon, Commissioner – District 4

Ladon Calhoun, Vice Chairman – District 5

Douglas Cofty, County Manager