



**Miller County Government**  
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**Board of Commissioners**



**REGULAR SESSION MEETING**

**04/08/2023, 6:00 P.M., County Government Complex**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Chairman Ladon Calhoun, Vice Chairman Jeff Cox, Commissioner Cristene Edwards, Commissioner Allen Worsley. Others Present: Douglas Cofty, Faye Whittaker, Austin Lambert, Keith Bowen

Chairman Calhoun called the meeting to order. Regular session 04/11/2024 and called for prayer then the pledge of allegiance.

**HOUSEKEEPING:**

**Approval of Agenda:**

Chairman Calhoun stated we need approval of the agenda? Commissioner Edwards made motion to approve, Commissioner Worsley seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Chairman Calhoun asked if everyone has had time to look over the minutes. We need a motion to approve. Commissioner Worsley made motion to approve, Commissioner Worsley made motion to approve. Vice Chairman Cox seconded. All in favor. Motion carried

**Approval of Financial Report:**

Chairman Calhoun asked does everything look in order, Commissioner Worsley stated we are spending to much money other than that its ok, Chairman Calhoun stated wish we could stop that. Do we have a motion to approve financials. Commissioner Worsley made motion to approve, Commissioner Edwards seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

**APPEARANCES:**

NONE

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Fueling Center Report:**

Chairman Calhoun, Doug you got anything you want to say about that. Mr. Cofty stated it's pretty much running the same, I do want to tell you all, we have as of today, we have used 283,349 gallons. Chairman Calhoun stated that sounds like a lot to me. Mr. Cofty stated it is, it is paying for itself. Commissioner Worsley stated they like us don't they. Chairman Calhoun stated is there any way you can tell how much we are saving. Mr. Cofty stated I would have to pull old invoices. Chairman Calhoun asked like an estimate. How much do we save over like. Mr. Cofty stated well we save 50 Cent a gallon what we were paying. Chairman Calhoun stated and you say how many gallons. Mr. Cofty stated about 283,000. Chairman Calhoun stated well do some math on that. Faye Whittaker stated that's not just us. Mr. Cofty stated that city, school, and hospital as well. Chairman Calhoun stated we are charging them plus. Mr. Cofty stated yeah but they would be paying the same. Chairman Calhoun stated yeah I mean that sounds like a bunch of money. Keith looks like he is doing it right quickly. What did it come to Keith. Keith Bowen stated 140,000. Mr. Cofty stated now this is over year and a half year it's a good bit. Chairman Calhoun stated so it's paying for itself. Commissioner Worsley stated they're making a little money at it. Chairman Calhoun stated all right any more questions.

### **Motor grader Training**

Mr. Cofty stated I've talked to Andy, and I've talked to Jed down there at Yancey Brothers he's booked up until May so we're going to get the motor grader training in May probably first or second week in May we're going to try to put all of them through that Chairman Calhoun asked and that's a two- or three-hour course. Mr. Cofty stated three-day course. Chairman Calhoun stated a three-day course okay Anybody got any questions on that. Vice Chairman Cox asked are we going to do both levels at one time or how you do it. Mr. Cofty stated I think it's done the first level the first day and then they'll maybe it's a two-day but then they'll come back, and do they they'll get certified in all three levels of motor grading. Chairman Calhoun stated he's going to show them some on hand stuff plus some kind of book classroom kind of stuff. Mr. Cofty stated I think yeah first day like class, and they get certified in in level one and then level two and level three then after that we'll discuss and see what else they've got any kind of training that we can get. Commissioner Worsley stated are they going to teach them how to not leave that pile of dirt beside the road? Mr. Cofty stated I hope so. Commissioner Edwards stated and at the end of the road when they take up the plow, I've been getting calls about that. Commissioner Worsley stated they are cutting people's yards up. Commissioner Edwards stated and my reason is well we got to get somebody trained right now is well.

Mr. Cofty stated if you all do get a complaint just call me because what we're doing is we're using Diamond Maps which is a work order system and we've actually put a QR code out there now so the public can use it I mean when they get them in I put them on there, Andy takes care of it, it's actually there's a system that we've never had that we have now and it seems to be working. It seems to be speeding up everything. Commissioner Edwards stated good. Chairman Calhoun stated all right moving on to the shooting range

### **DNR Shooting Range**

Mr. Cofty stated there's really not much going on there's still. The national shooting sports foundation or something that does the market analysis is working with the DNR you know DNR is kind of I guess it's a big outfit so one person thought the other one paid for the survey and the other one thought the other one so now they just finally got it paid for so that's we're just waiting for the survey to come in, it's still on the go everything's still, we're just we're just waiting on them. Commissioner Worsley asked have you talk to about other spot out there. Mr. Cofty stated yes, I sent them an email and they just said they have to get their Engineers to look at it. Chairman Calhoun stated so we just waiting on them to do their market analysis all right. On to new business.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Beer and Wine License**

Chairman Calhoun stated ok beer and wine license for SGA Meats LLC. We have got to vote on that. Mr. Cofty stated yes. Chairman Calhoun stated so we need a motion. Mr. Cofty stated yes you need to make a motion to approve it, the Sheriff's already signed off on it and all we need is just to approve to get you to sign. Commissioner Edwards asked where is that? Commissioner Worsley stated the meat house on 27. Chairman Calhoun stated any questions, we need a motion to approve. Commissioner Worsley made motion to approve. Seconded by Vice Chairman Cox. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **EMS RFPS**

Chairman Calhoun asked how about the update on the EMS. Mr. Cofty stated all right so with the board's approval I submitted the RFP to the Georgia procurement site, and I had three companies respond back, willing to put in a bid. On the 25th of April if you all. I'll remind you that we're going to have a workshop and we're going to invite those three companies to come down and tell you who they are, tell you a little bit about each company at that time. I'll release the numbers of what the bids are. Chairman Calhoun asked Commissioner Edwards do you what he's talking about you know, like we are bidding out the ambulance service. Commissioner Edwards stated oh okay. Chairman Calhoun stated that's what that is. Mr. Cofty continued then what we'll do is I've got the

committee already in place, which is all the department heads, which is the sheriff, the police chief, EMA director, 911 director, all the public safety department heads. I will contact those three companies and have them come in and we'll kind of question them give them scenarios and all that and find out which are the best ones and then at the May meeting we'll kind of just give you a recommendation on which way we would go. Chairman Calhoun asked what if it isn't cheaper than what we are doing. Mr. Cofty stated well that's something I need to talk to you about so there's three companies one is Ameripro, Amerimed and Survival Flight so just looking at their salaries just their base salaries we would have to raise our salaries up \$235,000 on the EMS budget so at that point in time our budget is going to probably be 1.2 million, so we're basically tapped out as far as being able to afford. Commissioner Worsley asked does it look like going to fall in line like what me and you talked about. Mr. Cofty stated yes in that area I mean we'll save some money on it I can't believe the cost which is kind of good for employees because you know EMS they didn't really get paid for a long time but now with the private surrounding us I mean if you don't raise the rates you're not going to have any staff so that's what we just got and then again it also listed in there that you know the Board of Commissioners has the right to refuse any and all proposals you don't have to if you feel that that we don't need to do it then we we'll stay like we're doing.

Chairman Calhoun asked are we the only local County that has our own ambulance service. Mr. Cofty stated well Calhoun County but then you got your bigger ones like Thomas County, Dougherty County but see they have all the businesses and the industries and taxes coming in. Chairman Calhoun asked so we are the only small County still, Early County Seminole County. Mr. Cofty stated that Survival flight has have the contract for Decatur County, Seminole County and Baker County. Chairman Calhoun asked Early county has their own. Mr. Cofty stated Early County's private that's I don't know what the name of their parent company. Chairman Calhoun asked is it like gold star or somebody like that. Mr. Cofty stated no, it's a hospital based it was Pioneer, but I don't know if that's still the name of it. Clay County, Quitman County and Randolph County are all privatized um that's pretty much the way it's going it's either going Fire EMS or r it's going private. Commissioner Worsley stated just so it don't hurt service you know what I mean we don't need to drop the quality of service. Mr. Cofty stated no. Chairman Calhoun stated we put Doug in a truck. Commissioner Worsley stated are they like the fire department right don't really think much. Mr. Cofty asked what that was. Chairman Calhoun stated we'll put you in a truck if service goes down. Mr. Cofty stated the service has kind of already went down all right.

## **Departments**

Chairman Calhoun stated next is departments anything with departments. Mr. Cofty stated no but I do want to throw this in under departments, I was kind of hoping the

sheriff would be here, I had somebody contact me about the ordinances that we were working on I've sent him the ordinances for like the speed ordinance, I'm wanting to say there was an illegal dumping ordinance, but this this person wanted us to look at doing an RV ordinance which is parking an RV at the house and running power and septic to it. I talked with Ms. Gail we do with joint with the City County in our in our policy or in our actually ordinance for the building ordinances there is an RV one in there I just don't know because it says City of Colquitt if we need to adapt that to say the county but it's basically just like everywhere else you can do a short term for 180 days. Chairman Calhoun asked can we look at that when we do that joint meeting with the city? and see Mr. Cofty stated that but as far as that the other one is just waiting on the sheriff to get them they'll go back to the attorney and then when he approves then you all just you all just approve because it's ones that we needed in place the whole time, that's what we're working on I told her I would mention that about the ordinances. Commissioner Worsley stated where we are at with the ordinances? Mr. Cofty stated the sheriff's got them he's reviewing them to make sure they're like he wants them and then once they do that they'll go to the attorney, he'll sign off on them and you come back, and you all sign off on them but. Commissioner Worsley stated I don't know about you all, but I have been catching it about dogs. Mr. Cofty stated yeah that's in there the barking, the loud music all that stuff's in there. Commissioner Worsley stated what about end guns gun. Mr. Cofty stated no I need to find that ordinance. I need to get that, I need somebody to write that one for us because I couldn't find that in our old policy our old ordinance book and that's all I got and then the rest of them in the Departments you've got the list I think the sheriff department was only ones that didn't get a list to me the rest of them are there.

Chairman Calhoun stated anything else, that looks like about it. How about the radio system. Mr. Cofty stated the p25 radio system, so we did hear back from the Regional Commission they are giving us the 1.25 million so we're just going to have to go back and refigure how we can spend it, it all has to be done on truck radios, handheld radios anything radio. Chairman Calhoun stated we won't have to come out our pocket with any money. Mr. Cofty stated no we will not have to pay none of it. Chairman Calhoun stated that sounds great. Mr. Cofty stated Cory talked to Ms. Suzanne the other day and she said it will be done by the end of the year, we should have it up and running. Commissioner Worsley stated what about the generator around the new tower. Mr. Cofty stated it's been taking care of we got it we got it up and running its power and I believe it's powering the EMS building. It's up and running. They're just now installing the antennas on top. Chairman Calhoun stated it's already all that's in place isn't it. Did they ever turn on the radio frequency, what they were doing was they were moving the radios from here to move to that new tower, and they wanted to see what kind of connection we would get with that if it was a good coverage and then they knew if that

was good the p25 would be okay I know the sheriff, he's been after that, and I know they were doing it, but I guess they hadn't finished it yet. Commissioner Worsley stated are they going to take this time down? Mr. Cofty stated the Sheriff said to leave it up he wanted because he talked to the pilots with survival flight, and they said it's like a field goal they know when they see a red light here and a red light there they know to land right in the middle of it so. Commissioner Worsley stated that makes sense, I didn't know if it was safety problem for them. Mr. Cofty state we may have to do some work on it then if it do we need to take it down it's getting old. Chairman Calhoun stated any other business no questions. I did have a fellow told me that he'd like to see some striping on Twilight Church Road maybe the yellow lines I don't never go that way. Commissioner Worsley stated I will get up with Andy because most time the state will offer you know money for that. Commissioner Edwards stated I know I got to get with Andy I was going down there by St Mary, there is a hole in the road, if you hit it, you will about tear up your whole car, I mean it's that big. Commissioner Worsley stated Andy is trying to find some better asphalt packs because that stuff they have been getting. Commissioner Edwards stated it is no good, it's wearing down so fast, the Cooktown Rd is still terrible. Chairman Calhoun asked when we going to start paving that do you know Mr. Cofty stated LMIGs been turned in we're just waiting on that to come back. Chairman Calhoun stated so I mean probably July. Mr. Cofty stated then we put in an additional letter because there's additional money that they're going to possibly issue us Commissioner Worsley stated Doug we need to also contact that Kathy Williams up in Atlanta, the one I talked to last year when they turned all that traffic loose over and destroyed it because she told me that they would step in. Chairman Calhoun stated they put some extra money in LMIG, I don't know if that's some of it. Mr. Cofty stated I don't think that's it, but I'll get with them I'll get Mr. Gerald too yeah talk with Mr. Gerald but he was in the middle of it so he should know who talk to and get something going. Chairman Calhoun stated you got anything else, any about nothing. I need a motion to adjourn. Vice Chairman Cox made motion to adjourn, Commissioner Worsley seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

SIGNATURE PAGE:

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Cristene Edwards, Commissioner – District 1

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Jeff Cox, Commissioner – District 2

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Allen Worsley, Chairman – District 3

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Niki Nixon, Commissioner – District 4

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Ladon Calhoun, Vice Chairman – District 5

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Douglas Cofty, County Manager