



Miller County

Board of Commissioners

179 S. Cuthbert St.
Colquitt, Ga 39837



REGULAR SESSION MEETING
07/11/2022, 6:00 P.M., County Government Complex
MINUTES

Present: Chairman Kreg Freeman, Vice Chairman Ladon Calhoun, Commissioner Worsley. Others Present: Douglas Cofty, Faye Whittaker, Austin Lambert, Keith Bowen, Josh Suggs.

Chairman Freeman calls the meeting to order. Regular session 07/11/2022 and called for a moment of silent prayer then the pledge of allegiance.

HOUSEKEEPING:

Chairman Freeman stated first thing we need to do is approve the agenda. Chairman Freeman stated we needed to add something and asked Mr. Cofty what it was. Mr. Cofty stated Andy and Mr. Allen had spoke to me about some mowers so there is a mower bid and tractor. I just want you all to review it. Also the Road Ordinance, I got it back from the County Attorney late Friday, you all just need to approve it. He put his resolution on top. Commissioner Worsley stated we needed to add personnel to the agenda and go into closed session as well. Chairman Freeman stated with those additions is there anything else, Chairman Freeman stated with those he needed a motion to approve. Vice Chairman Calhoun made the motion with Commissioner Worsley seconding. All in favor. Motion carried.

Chairman Freeman stated approval of the minutes from the regular session meeting on 5/9/2022 and public meeting for TSPLOST was on 07/01/2022. Commissioner Worsley stated he would make the motion for both meetings, seconded by Vice Chairman Calhoun. All in favor. Motion carried.

FINANCIALS:

Chairman Freeman stated next is the financials and accounts payable. Accounts payable, Any questions on that? If not need a motion to approve. Vice Chairman Calhoun made motion to approve with Commissioner Worsley seconding. All in favor. Motion carried. Chairman Freeman stated Financial report. Any questions on that? If not need a motion to approve Vice chairman Calhoun made motion to approve, Commissioner Worsley seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Chairman Freeman stated on the appearances with have Keith Bowen for elections update..

APPEARANCES:

Keith Bowen – Elections Update:

Mr. Bowen stated I just got you a little bit of information just to keep. I took a few months off trying to get all the crops in the ground, so I finally got all that kind of sort of took care of and come back and touch base with you all. I know we haven't made any decisions yet on about the paper ballots. But I just want to let you all know a few things that's went on since we've talked. I don't know if you all are aware. You all probably are, but like I mentioned earlier, this is not a Democrat or Republican thing. This is straight voting integrity thing what we got going on and in DeKalb County, at the primary on May the 24th, remember it was. They had a, it was a Democrat County Chairman. They had a bunch of folks running for it. A lady wind up in third place. So, she didn't make a runoff. She got looking in it in her home precinct where her and her husband resides. She didn't get any votes. So, she went wait a minute, something's up here. So, he got looking and started doing a recount and it winds up. She was in third and when they counted it with all the craziness that went on, she was actually in first place. So, she's in her runoff with the person that was in second place and the guy was in first, his third and those are kind of things that that we want to try to avoid with Miller County with things that and I give you, you know, update with several other things that's went on and one of the counties that showed where in Raffensperger where he won they said he had 68% of the vote when they did a recount. It looked like he still won but was 53% of the vote. So, there's things like that. It's not building evident confidence in our electoral system.

Chairman Freeman stated the situation you just talked about. I really got time to read this. Is that in here? Mr. Bowen stated It is. The DeKalb County one is in there. It was it was several thousand votes. It was. I think like 1500 votes that was taken away from her and divided it between the other people. The machines did that. They said it was like a coding issue in the machines and this kind of stuff like that. And it could've been, I'm not saying it was any kind of nefarious thing. But what I'm saying is, we've got to get our confidence built back into our system. I talked with Judge Josh earlier today. They had some stuff going on that he can't talk about right now and, but we're still, we're not giving up on the paper ballots. And I just want you all to know we're still pushing that issue. I'm not saying it will happen before June or before November, or it'll happen before for 2024. But it's just something that we, I'm going to keep coming back here so when something comes up, I'm going to keep coming back and keep, oh, I don't like to use the word hounding you all but keep bringing it to attention. Vice Chairman Calhoun stated keep it in the light. Mr. Bowen stated keep it up in front where you keep thinking about it. And Miller County is a perfect place to do. We have one precinct. We do not have a bunch of other precincts you have to involve in. We got one precinct. It'd be an awesome place to try it out for a test drive. So, if you all have any questions or comments that you all might like to address. Chairman Freeman stated not right off top of my head. I mean, I am going to a read this right here and I might see something in here that I want to call you that you may have more knowledge of than it this right here. Mr. Bowen stated Okay.

Chairman Freeman stated we appreciate you coming and keep us updated. I mean, that's not a problem you coming up here like that right there. I think everybody appreciates what you're trying to do and all and I think they're interested in it all. So, you know, they want to know things like this right here. They probably have heard some of it on the news but anyway. Vice Chairman Calhoun stated sometimes you don't know what to believe and. Chairman Freeman stated anything you keep us updated, we're welcome. Mr. Bowen stated well, it's the problem is the people are losing confidence in the election system. That what I'm getting to. If we can get to where, well, I don't believe

it and then you can go and you can count paper ballots. So, this is how many without a QR code on it and it all boils about that QR code. That's the whole thing there. That QR code is what really throws everything else out but like I said, we'll be no dead horse. Thank you all for your time. Did you have any questions? Just give me a call and I'll try to get some information for you. Alright, we thank you again. Thank you.

Sharon Helms – Liberty National

Chairman Freeman stated on the next appearance we get to Sharon Helms. She not here. Mr. Cofty stated she is not here. Chairman Freeman stated Okay. Is there anything we need to discuss about this? Or she just going to update us on we're going to wait on her to talk to it. Is she coming back? Faye Whittaker stated she just wanted you all to know that she's going to go, or they've already gone to the ones that had their Liberty National that wanted to keep it. So they could go and pay it themselves. And so they've talked to these employees and the ones that want to keep that they got there. Chairman Freeman stated before we go, I mean, I jumped this Sharon Helm's thing but anyway, was you needing to talk to us about anything, Josh? You just hear to answer any questions? Josh Suggs state I was here if there were questions about that and to hear about the TSPLOST.

Chairman Freeman states next thing is the old business.

OLD BUSINESS:

Fueling Station Report:

Chairman Freeman stated it's a fueling station report. If everybody's satisfied with that, does it look like it's doing what we wanted to do? I mean, I think what we're coming at now is this is starting to turn. We're not losing, put it this way. We're not losing any money on the thing. So, it's doing what it's supposed to do, I believe and from what do, from what we're seeing and what Doug tells, he's staying on top of it pretty good. I think it was a good move because we're doing okay with it. any questions on that? Okay.

GPS Plan:

Chairman Freeman stated alright the GPS program. That's page forty-six. Mr. Cofty stated I'm waiting on ACCG to get me some policies that we can put in place for this open record requests and then I got two companies I'm talking to. That's basically going to probably fit what we're looking for. We just don't want to monitor ourselves and that's where we are. Chairman Freeman stated right. Mr. Cofty stated whenever I get some more information, I'll bring it back to you. Chairman Freeman stated okay.

Motor grader Plan:

Chairman Freeman stated next, something we've already talked about a little bit and it's underway. Motor grader plan. Mr. Cofty stated Andy said he would was going to try to be here tonight, but his daddy had surgery Friday and he said he wasn't doing the best. So, he may not make it. So, I guess he'll update you on the next round. Chairman Freeman stated is that any questions or anything you need to tell us about that right there that we don't already know. They are parking the things and there's a plan in place that this it may need tweaking kind of way. But I think unless you all got anything to add to it. Think we're okay with that right now.

Library Letter:

Chairman Freeman stated the library letter, page 48 and 50. They're asking, and I guess that's the same amount that they've been asking for in the past. Faye Whittaker stated they are going up \$19,000.00. Vice Chairman Calhoun asked so they want 19,000.00 more. Chairman Freeman stated we haven't adopted the budget yet. We're going to work all that. We'll finalize that. So we just let y'all want to discuss anything on it. We're going to put that on hold for now. And when we go to finalize the budget we'll discuss that.

Spending Resolution:

Chairman Freeman stated Spending Resolution on page 51-52. That's to operate, we do this every year. Vice Chairman Calhoun asked do we need a motion to do that? Chairman Freeman stated yes. We are operating on 2021 budget until we adopt the 2022 budget. Yes, we need a motion to adopt this spending resolution. Vice Chairman Calhoun stated I'll make a motion to adopt the spending resolution. Commissioner Worsley seconded. Chairman Freeman stated I'll vote in favor of it all. Motion carried.

Beer and Wine License Renewal:

Chairman Freeman stated beer and wine license approval page 53 to 56. I think it's just it's one of them just one of them dropped off. Mr. Cofty stated he's the only one that we have. One, my guess you said shut the store down and the other one's just decided not to renew. Chairman Freeman stated alright. This is Dennis Chambers. The name of the place is Quicks Place. Commissioner Worsley made a motion, Vice Chairman Calhoun seconded. Chairman Freeman stated got a motion and second. I'll vote in favor of it. All in favor. Motion carried.

TSPLOST Renewal Resolution:

Chairman Freeman stated we talked Mr. Mills about that, the county attorney. We got TSPOLST Renewal resolution, and LOST certificate of renewal. Mr. Cofty stated on the TSPOLST renewal he wanted you to look that over and make sure that's how you how you wanted it and then we would go, I guess he's going to wait on what the city says tomorrow, and we'll sign off on that. Vice Chairman Calhoun asked so we need to wait until the city signs we don't have to do anything just right now. Mr. Cofty stated if unless you want to. That's how he had it. He just changed the dates. Vice Chairman Calhoun stated so, we can do this next month and it'll be plenty of time to get it. Yeah, I think it's by the end of the year before the LOST is but this we've got to go ahead and we've got get it on the ballot, okay? Vice Chairman Calhoun stated but so the next one. Mr. Cofty stated if you guys want, I mean, it's the same thing. Vice Chairman Calhoun asked yeah, we still have time, right? Mr. Cofty stated I think you will have to sign it twice, you know, Chairman Freeman stated on page 60, that's how it's going to appear on the ballot right there. That block right there and that's basically the same thing I mean, it is the same thing that it was before. Unless you all see any need to change anything, I think we need to just go ahead approved the thing unless they some something that comes up that we have to revisit this. Commissioner Worsley stated I'll make a motion we approve it, and we need to make sure the people know where that money being spent. Vice Chairman Calhoun seconded. Commissioner Wortley stated you know we need to do a little bit of publicity on it. Chairman Freeman stated the City has got a sign on their part. The City got a sign that shows what road, what this money has accomplished on the city's part. Out there on the Bellview Road there was some temporary signs put up. We need a permanent sign. Somewhere there probably the beginning of the county line. Where the city limits cut off and one of the other end there. Do you all want to do that? Commissioner Worsley stated yes. Absolutely. We need to let people know what it being used for. Because without it we would be in a mess it. We

would be in bad shape. Chairman Freeman stated Alright, Doug if you can try to get us a wording for a sign like it, The City, I don't remember exactly how it's worded. It says, this is your tax dollars. Yeah, I spoke to Shelly and Andy about the metal signs. We just need to know what department's going to be paid out of and we can go and get them ordered. Chairman Freeman stated the signs will not cost that much. You are talking about probably \$100. Mr. Cofty asked how many do you think we're going to need? Chairman Freeman stated we just need one at the beginning of the Bellview Road. and one at the county where the city limit starts. Commissioner Worsley stated you need one on Moulton Road. Mr. Cofty stated anything that's working been done, okay. Commissioner Worsley stated we go out of town to buy something we pay it. You know, they TSPLOT. So, people need to realize they keep coming through here to get their stuff, they are stopping. They help us. Mr. Cofty stated Alright, I'll get it done. Chairman Freeman stated we are talking about a total of probably four signs. Is that right?. Two on the Bellview Road, two on the Moulton Road. Commissioner Worsley stated and then you got Enterprise. Chairman Freeman stated Enterprise Road then 6 signs. Vice Chairman Calhoun stated you got to go by the eight. I'd get two extra we're going to keep doing stuff. Mr. Cofty stated ok and the LOST certificate, you just need to sign off on that. That's the figures based on what we talked about with the population. So, we just need to sign that and go ahead and get the city to sign it and then turn that in. Chairman Freeman stated the motion we just made about the TSPLOST. Chairman Freeman asked did that motion it covered the LOST? Mr. Cofty stated it needed to be a separate one. Chairman Freeman stated we covered the TSPLOST. The next motion we need is a motion to continue to renew this certificate for the LOST money based on the 2020-year percentage of the population need a motion on that. Vice Chairman Calhoun stated I'll make a motion for the LOST certificate. Commissioner Worsley seconded it. Chairman Freeman stated I'll vote in favor of. All in favor. Motion carried. Any more discussion on the lost?

Irrigation Pipe Damage:

Chairman Freeman stated next thing we got is the damage to irrigation pipe. That's page 75 thru 78 with some pictures in there. LaDon are you familiar with that is that your district. Vice Chairman Calhoun stated I am. Chairman Freeman can you tell us about it? Vice Chairman Calhoun so, this is a pot that was buried, I do not know who the property is but Israel Houston, Jason Houston, Greg Houston, and it was buried there. they said when they were in high school. So, 30 years ago. They had it marked right there but you know, not too. Commissioner Worsley stated they are supposed to have signs on it because that's one thing when we done it before they had to keep signs on it and you know, you see a metal pipe on one side. I mean, a stob but it definitely was not marked was on the other side, just covered it. Vice Chairman Calhoun stated kind of grow, it kind of grown up too. Looks like a little you know. Chairman Freeman stated I was going to go out there and I haven't been where I could. Vice Chairman Calhoun stated it wasn't buried four foot. I don't know how it was supposed to be buried. But it, you know, like I say, I've been having 30 years since the 90s. So, 25 years. Chairman Freeman stated what other than the pipe, get, I mean, what? Vice Chairman Calhoun stated so, he was going to get, he was going to get somebody to it and install that pipe and they were going to bury it no less than four feet under the ground and so he just wanted, he wants to know where we help with a little bit of the installation. Just, I guess it's. Mr. Cofty stated I spoke to Andy. He said that he is more than welcome to help do it. He said, he knows how to put pipe in. Vice Chairman Calhoun stated I think they done fixed it though. You know what I mean? I. Chairman Freeman stated well, look here. If he's done fixed the pipe, he needs to bring us whatever the quote is up here and let us review that. Vice Chairman Calhoun stated, and we need to get him some signs or he need to get some signs, Chairman Freeman stated at one point in time, they had some signs down there. I think they've all been given out. I am not sure. But now he's got can't

do better at marking than what he's got here. Vice Chairman Calhoun stated well I told him man. I told him it's going to be marked. Chairman Freeman stated you want to handle it? Or You want Doug to handle it? Get him to get a quote up here. Vice Chairman Calhoun stated it doesn't matter. I can call him. You want me to call him? Are we going to get him up some signs to put out there? Mr. Cofty stated yeah they got signs down there. Chairman Freeman stated talk to him. Get him get us the quote on the thing. and we can see you know, what we need to do about that.

Tractor and Mower

Chairman Freeman stated is there anything else we need to go over? With the department heads or Mr. Cofty stated the tractor quotes. That's for you all to look at. Like I said Andy had said He had talked to talk to me and Mr. Allen about the mowers are so in so bad shape. Vice Chairman Calhoun stated I am going to ask, This is a whole another. Commissioner Worsley stated this is an update. Vice Chairman Calhoun this isn't the one that we're trying to get the USDA. Commissioner Worsley stated this is updated. updated price. Mr. Cofty stated I mean, If you guys wanted me to try to talk to the USDA lady and see if we can amend that and maybe. Vice Chairman Calhoun what was it last time I don't remember. Mr. Cofty stated We did one tractor, one mower. Commissioner Worsley stated yeah this is Andy needs two of them because the mowers are just, they're patched beyond they're coming apart and they're. Vice Chairman Calhoun stated so, does he need another tractor too or does he just need another mower? Commissioner Worsley stated he needs another tractor. Vice Chairman Calhoun stated I'd say Doug is going to talk to this lady to see before we go any further with that. Mr. Cofty stated we may have to just start over and do two different ones. Vice Chairman Calhoun stated or just do a separate one for this. You could just do a separate one for this. Mr. Cofty stated yeah, it may be we cannot amend so we just do a second. I'm just waiting to hear back from her.

Chairman Freeman stated alright. Let me run something by you. The mowers, I been around a bunch of this stuff. Those big mowers, they aren't designed to mow stuff like that, when I go to Bainbridge, I seen them mow roads a couple of times down here. They have one big mower and they got two little mowers. Them little mowers are maintenance free. I mean, when the tractor goes over a hill or whatever, the mower goes with it. The other ones aren't doing it. They're digging in the dirt all the time. They're hitting. I want you all to consider that right there. It's doing something a little bit different, and I have done enough of mowing. The right size tractor with the small mower. I could mow just as much as he's mowing with the big mower in a day if you keep it moving. I done a lot of mowing. Commissioner Worsley stated well, one of the bigger problem they face down there is keeping people to run the stuff. Chairman Freeman stated well, what I'm getting at though, the man with the big mower isn't covering for the size of the mower. He isn't covering the ground he needs to cover in the day. Vice Chairman Calhoun stated no, it isn't covering but a foot more than a 14ft, you know, a rigid what I call it. I think that's right. Isn't a batwing 15ft. Chairman Freeman stated something like that. But the mower that goes right behind the tractor. I mean, you don't have the gearbox problems. You don't have the wheel problems.

Vice Chairman Calhoun stated I would say, let's buy a 14ft one of those HX14, one of them or a bush hog or whatever rhino. You know a rigid, you know what I'm talking about. That don't fold up. Chairman Freeman stated well, I don't know where you going to be and you're better off with that right there because it gets so wide. Vice Chairman Calhoun are you're talking like a 10 or 12-foot mower. Chairman Freeman stated I'm talking about when it's about a 7ft mower goes straight behind the tractor. I mean, I would want you all to consider it. Think about it. Because long time ago, when the convicts used to mow, they had mowers out there that was just, they were old, old

mowers and they never did nothing to them except maybe change the bearings and the tail wheel and change the blades on it. They never had the gearbox problem and shaft problem, stuff like that right there that they are having with the big ones but take that into consideration. Chairman Freeman stated We didn't add this. Is this just is this the road ordinance. Did we did we need to add that to the agenda because it isn't? Mr. Cofty stated that's what we added. Vice Chairman Calhoun yeah, we added it. Chairman Freeman stated okay we got that on there?. Mr. Cofty stated yes and what that is, that's the road ordinance that you guys already approved. We sent it to the county attorney. He was going to put some in there for timber, but he did not. He just put the resolution format. Chairman Freeman stated alright, I didn't write it down a while ago, right? Mr. Cofty stated all you have to do is just approve it. Chairman Freeman stated this is what we discussed in previous meetings. And if y'all alright with the thing and you don't see anything I mean, we can change it if something comes up, do I need to read this? Mr. Cofty stated I would because it says you need to read it. Chairman Freeman asked the whole thing. I got three pages.

Mr. Cofty stated just the Resolution part. Chairman Freeman asked is this the number of the resolution 22-0711.0? Anyway, resolution of Board of Commissioners of Miller County, Georgia providing an ordinance for the regulation of county roads in the unincorporated areas of Miller County, Georgia to provide for enforcement. Therefore, and for penalties for failure to comply with the terms of the ordinance and to repeal prior, inconsistent resolutions, and for other purposes. Be it so resolved, the Board of Commissioner Miller County in a meeting duly assembled that it is hereby resolved by the authority of the same to adopt an ordinance of Miller County Georgia as follows and as section one of Miller County adopts road ordinance. And it's got the different articles up here. Just unless I need to read this whole thing there are several pages there. It is here for review for the public. It addresses the problem of anybody doing anything without approval from the Board of Commissioners on the dirt road. So, we need a motion to approve it as presented Commissioner Worsley made motion, Vice Chairman Calhoun seconded. Chairman Freeman stated I'm going to vote in favor of it. All in favor motion carried. Chairman Freeman stated alright anything else we need to go over with any department heads or anything before we go in the closed session? Chairman Freeman stated need a motion to go in the closed session. Commissioner Worsley made motion, Vice Chairman Calhoun seconded, Chairman Freeman voted in favor also, all in favor motion carried. The board exited to the executive board room into closed session.

The board exited closed session with no action taken. No other business. Chairman Freeman called for a motion to adjourn. Vice Chairman Calhoun made motion to adjourn, Commissioner Worsley seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.