

PEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 19, 2021

The Peach County Board of Commissioners held its regular monthly meeting at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 19, 2021, in Commission Chambers at 213 Persons Street, Fort Valley, Georgia, with all members in attendance. Commissioner Bryant and Vice-Chairman Hill attending the meeting via Go-to-meeting virtual platform. This meeting had been rescheduled from Tuesday, January 12, 2021. Chairman Moseley called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with prayer. Chairman Moseley led the Pledge of Allegiance and welcomed those present.

CONSENT AGENDA – January 19, 2021:

1. Authorization to Pay NACO Dues – Michaela Jones, County Administrator, advised that Invoice #267226 has been received from the National Association of Counties (NACO) for County membership dues in the amount of \$544.00, to cover the County’s membership for the period of January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021.

ACTION REQUESTED: To authorize the payment of Invoice #267226 for \$544.00 to the National Association of Counties for payment of annual membership dues for Peach County for the period of January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021.

2. Single County TSPLOST: Commissioner Roy Lewis, advised that with the County having a major problem with roads, he would like to initiate the process for a Single County Transportation Sales Tax. This process would allow the County to allocate additional funding to assist with road improvements and resurfacing. The first step to initiate the process is to meet with the City of Fort Valley and City of Byron to discuss projects and the proposed tax rate. After meeting, the County can then call for a referendum.

ACTION REQUESTED: To authorize the County Administrator to proceed with setting up an Intergovernmental Meeting with the City of Fort Valley and City of Byron to start the initiation process for Single County TSPLOST.

3. Request for Budget Amendment – Uniform & Clothing: April H. Hodges, Assistant County Administrator/County Clerk, has requested the following budget transfer to appropriate funding to purchase uniforms for office staff:

<u>Budget Transfer - General Fund - FY2021 - Commissioners</u>			
100.5.1102.52.3700	From: Martin Moseley - Education & Training	\$	500
100.5.1104.52.3700	From: Roy Lewis - Education & Training	\$	500
100.5.1106.52.3700	From: Wade Yoder - Education & Training	\$	500
		<u>\$</u>	<u>1,500</u>
100.5.1110.53.1110	To: Uniforms & Clothing	\$	1,500

ACTION REQUESTED: To approve the above stated budget transfer as requested by April H. Hodges, Assistant County Administrator/County Clerk.

4. Quote to Clear & Cut Nonconforming Lots in GANO—Planning & Zoning: Rickey Blalock, Zoning Administrator, advised that a quote was received from Cornelious Lawn Care & More, to clear and cut nonconforming lots in the GANO subdivision on the following properties for a fee of \$1,800.00:

- 208 Benjamin Street, Fort Valley
- 210 Benjamin Street, Fort Valley
- 94 King Street, Fort Valley
- 108 King Street, Fort Valley
- 0 Friendship Circle (F01D-130) between 26 & 72 Friendship Circle
- 135 White Street (to include adjoining lot).

Mr. Blalock added that the fees will be presented to the Tax Commissioners’ Office to be added to the property taxes as listed.

ACTION REQUESTED: To accept the quote provided by Cornelious Lawn Care & More, to clear and cut nonconforming lots in the GANO Subdivision, and to approve the following budget amendment to appropriate funding to cover costs:

<u>Budget Amendment - General Fund - FY2021 - Planning &amp; Zoning</u>			
100.5.1599.57.9000	From: Contingency	\$	1,800
100.5.7400.52.1290	To: Other Professional Services	\$	1,800

5. Proposal for Service – Multiple Road Repair/Resurface Projects – Triple Point Engineering: Kent McCormick, Principal Engineer, advised that Triple Point Engineering, Inc visited each of the previously proposed project sites on December 10, 2020, with Commissioner Lewis, Michaela Jones, County Administrator and Wayne Smith, Public Works Director to discuss each of the areas requiring repair. The proposed repair/resurfacing locations include the following:

1. Powersville Road between Highway 247 Connector & Lakeview Road
2. Lakeview Road between Powersville Road & Highway 41
3. Taylors Mill Road between Highway 49 Bypass and Highway 49
4. Clopine Lake Road
5. Preston Road
6. North Peach Park Parking Lot

Mr. McCormick added that the proposal as presented includes work to determine the type of repairs to be made for each road, determining material quantities for the repairs for bidding, preparing bidding documents, assisting Peach County during the bid process, and administering the contract. The proposed fees associated with the proposal are as follows:

Task #1 – Topography Survey	\$3,100.00
Task #2 – Bid Document Preparation	\$8,500.00
Task #3 – Bid Assistance Services	\$4,250.00
Task #4 – Construction Administration Services (Estimated)	\$7,500.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$23,350.00</b>

**ACTION REQUESTED:** To approve the proposal for service from Triple Point Engineering for \$23,350.00 and to allow the Chairman to sign the contract on behalf of the Board. *(A copy of said Contract is attached to Page 475, Minutes Book M, for future reference.)*

6. Quotes for Capital Projects – Peach Public Libraries: Billy Tripp, Director, Peach Public Libraries, presented the following quotes to purchase new shelving for the Byron Library:

Blackstock Equipment Sales, Winder, Georgia	\$12,243.00
The Library Store, Tremont, Illinois	\$12,210.86
Demco, Madison, Wisconsin	\$13,262.53

Mr. Tripp recommended purchasing the shelving from Blackstock Equipment Sales, due to company providing the existing shelving. Mr. Tripp has also advised that the telephone system at both libraries had to be replaced due to the current system software expiring. The new telephone system was purchased through lease-payment from Great American Financial Services for \$8,774.30. Mr. Tripp is requesting the following budget amendment to appropriate funding to appropriate funding to purchase the new shelving and payout the lease for the new telephone system:

<u>Budget Amendment - General Fund - FY2021 - Library</u>			
100.5.1599.57.9000	From:	Contingency	\$ 21,018
100.5.6500.54.2500	To:	Other Equipment	<u>\$ 21,018</u>

**ACTION REQUESTED:** To approve the purchase of shelving from Blackstock Equipment Sales at a cost of \$12,243.00, and new telephone system from Great American Financial Services for \$8,774.30, and to approve the above stated budget transfer to appropriate funding to make the purchase.

7. Engineering Services Department –: Commissioner Lewis requested to dissolve the Engineering Services Department and to move the Stormwater Manager under the Public Works Director. Also, to move the current part-time Administrative Technician position to Human Resources.

**ACTION REQUESTED:** To approve the request from Commissioner Lewis to dissolve the Engineering Services Department and move the Stormwater Manager under the Public Works Director. Also, move part-time Administrative Technician position to Human Resources.

8. Request to Purchase Equipment for Patrol Vehicles: Sheriff Terry Deese, submitted a request to purchase equipment for three (3) Dodge Chargers approved in his FY2021 budget. Quotes were received from the following vendors:

Dana Safety Supply	\$15,750.00
Auto Pro Specialist	\$15,960.00
Georgia Two-Way	\$19,731.00

Sheriff Deese has recommended the low quote of \$15,750.00 submitted by Dana Safety Supply.

**ACTION REQUESTED:** To approve the Sheriff's recommendation to accept the low quote from Dana Safety Supply for \$15,750.00.

**AGENDA:**

Vice Chair Hill moved to approve the Regular Agenda with the following changes:  
 Announcements & Updates, remove Item #1. April H. Hodges – Assistant County Administrator – Introduction of 2021 Peach County Youth Commissioners, add Item #2. Proclamation – Dr. Ira Hicks, Old Business, add Item #4. Michaela Jones – Proposal – Middle Georgia Regional Commission – GIS Data and Services. New Business Item add Item #1. Wayne Smith– Public Works Director – Citizen Request for Speed Bumps on Beeland Drive, add Item #2. – Commissioner Bryant – Community Ethics Concern add Item #3. Vice Chair Hill – Community Ethics Concern and

Executive Session remove Item #5 – Property Acquisition, #3. Commissioner Bryant seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**MINUTES:**

Regular Meeting – December 8, 2020 – Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the minutes as presented. Vice Chair Hill seconded the motion, Motion carried unanimously.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPDATES:**

Chairman Moseley announced that Dr. Ira Hicks, former Peach County Commissioner and Chairman passed away on January 13, 2021. To formally recognize and express deep appreciation to the family of Dr. Hicks for his devoted service as a County Commissioner for Peach County, a Proclamation has been created to be presented at his funeral. Chairman Moseley also advised that flags at all County facilities will be placed at half-staff until Dr. Ira Hicks’ burial.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Commissioner Lewis advised that during the January Work Session the Board discussed reassuring the voters that the County is on their side with holding the line on tax increases. Over the past years, the County has done a great job at maintaining the millage rate, but he would like to allow the voters to have a referendum to place a cap on the millage rate for property taxes. Commissioner Lewis made a motion to call for a referendum to impose a millage rate for the County at 17.5 after the rollback and to send a letter to the legislators to set in motion action by the legislators to allow Peach County for said referendum. Commissioner Bryant seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Michelle Williams, Human Resources Manager presented a proposed COVID-19 Pandemic Policy for employees. After the January Work Session, Ms. Williams advised that all requested amendments were made to the policy.

Vice Chairman Hill advised the Board that she would like to restate her request that the policy addresses that all employees be mandated to wear a mask.

Commissioner Bryant also advised that she would like to restate her request regarding employees being required to wear a mask.

After a brief discussion, Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the COVID-19 Pandemic Policy as presented. Motion died for a lack of a second.

Michelle Williams, Human Resources Manager presented the following proposed Telework Policy:

**PEACH COUNTY TELEWORK POLICY**

Effective: January 1, 2021

*Purpose:*

The purpose of this Policy is to establish requirements and guidelines for employees engaging in authorized teleworking or telecommuting. “Teleworking” or “Telecommuting” is a work flexibility arrangement under which an employee performs their work duties and responsibilities from an approved worksite.

*Scope:*

This Policy applies to all employees specifically authorized by Peach County to perform teleworking or telecommuting. All requests to telework or telecommute shall be made by the employee and be authorized by the Department Head and the County Administrator. In addition, all requests are to have a beginning and ending date. This Policy is effective immediately until rescinded by the County. This Policy may be revoked, changed, or updated at any time.

*Requirements:*

(a) Location of Work

1. The workspace must be safe and free from hazards.
2. The workspace must be reasonably free from interruptions and distractions that would affect work performance.
3. The workspace must allow the employee to preserve the confidentiality of sensitive or non-public information. Any County provided material or equipment shall not be removed from the workspace while the employee is teleworking.
4. For employees who must verbally communicate with others as part of their duties, the workspace must be quiet and

allow for professional communications during those times.

- 5. Teleworking employees shall not conduct in-person, face to face meetings with the public or clients in their home office in any official capacity or connected with the County's business. The County is not responsible for any injuries to family members, visitors, and others in the employee's home.
- 6. The County is not responsible for any loss to the employee's property, whether caused by physical damage or by computer virus attacks or other intrusions via the internet that is or is not related to the County or its equipment, systems, etc.
- 7. Employees utilizing County equipment while teleworking must protect the equipment from damage and follow the Computer and Internet Policy.
- 8. Reliable internet service is a requirement for teleworking. Consistent internet failures will result in loss of teleworking privileges.

(b) Communication and Work Schedules: Employees are authorized to engage in teleworking during the scheduled workdays and hours pre-approved by their supervisor; employees must be reachable by the County during these days and times. If the employee becomes aware of or anticipates any failure of technological communication or equipment that could prevent the employee from being reached by their supervisor and/or performing any of the employee's duties during their normal working hours, they are to immediately notify their supervisor. Employees may not work outside of their approved days and hours without prior supervisor approval. Supervisors reserve the right to phone or email employees at any time during working hours and may require employees to report productivity daily. Supervisors may also ask employees to perform duties outside their job descriptions in an effort to pull together as a team to ensure essential office duties are carried out in the absence of others. The primary mode for meetings for remote employees will take place virtually or telephonically; however, in-person meetings may be scheduled as needed, and the remote employee must attend if directed. At any time, employees may be required to physically report to work. Employees who require sick leave and/or wish to request vacation or comp time leave must follow the current Policy in place to request such leave and have it approved.

(c) Security and Confidentiality: While working remotely, employees must take steps to preserve the security and confidentiality of County information. Employees must keep confidential documents and materials in secure locations. Employees must maintain password protection to the same extent as required at the workplace and keep confidential documents and records securely stored. Any suspected loss or theft of County documents, materials, or information, as well as any suspected malware, hacks, or breaches of security, must be reported to the County immediately.

(d) Policies: This teleworking arrangement does not change the basic terms and conditions of employment, including the rate of pay and benefits. Employees are expected to comply with all County policies, procedures, and performance standards.

(e) The County retains the right to investigate alleged abuse of this teleworking Policy and may cease or modify an employee's approval for telework at any time.

Vice Chair Hill moved to approve the Teleworking Policy as presented. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Michaela Jones, County Administrator, presented a cost proposal from Middle Georgia Regional Commission to provide assistance with the maintenance of GIS mapping functions for the following departments:

- Emergency 911	Annual Cost: \$5,000.00
- Planning & Zoning	Annual Cost: \$5,000.00
- Public Works	Annual Cost: \$5,000.00
- Tax Assessors	Annual Cost: \$12,500.00
	<u>Total Cost: \$27,500.00</u>

Commissioner Yoder asked if this the GIS Mapping System will feed into the E-911 Mapping System. Michaela Jones, County Administrator, responded yes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Wayne Smith, Public Works Director, advised that he received a complaint from a citizen regarding cars speeding on Beeland Drive. The citizen has requested that speed bumps be placed on Beeland Drive to control speeders in the area.

Vice Chair Hill added that she was also contacted by the citizen regarding this issue. The citizen has concerns regarding speeding in the area because she has an autistic child, and her dog was killed by a car speeding in the area.

Commissioner Lewis advised that he was against installing speed bumps because of the liability it could cause to the County.

Commissioner Bryant asked if any other citizens in the area were contacted regarding this issue. Commissioner Hill responded no, but she will the citizen to contact other residents to come to our next meeting to address their concerns.

Commissioner Yoder asked Mr. Smith to use the GPS System that was recently purchased to monitor speed and traffic.

Commissioner Bryant advised the Board that she was contacted by several citizens, concerned about a Facebook comment made by Commissioner Yoder. The comment was made on an article posted by CNN on Facebook and contained wording that many African American citizens of Peach County perceived as hateful speech.

Vice Chair Hill also expressed her concerns stating that she was disappointed because she had contact Commissioner Yoder regarding a prior Facebook post. She contacted Mr. Yoder and addressed her concerns regarding the post that contained the same wording used in the comment made on the CNN Article. Ms. Hill advised that she spoke with Commissioner Yoder for over two hours explaining that “political gallows” and “noose” were deemed offensive to her and other people within the community. She was very disappointed because she felt that Commissioner Yoder ignored her concerns and made the comment using the same words, she expressed was offensive.

Commissioner Yoder apologized to the citizens and the Board for any part of his comment that was offensive. He knows that elected officials need to be held to a higher standard, but his comments were not meant to be hateful, they are words used as an example based on his ancestry and what they went through for religious freedom.

Commissioner Lewis expressed that he felt it was a good time to remind everyone that they need to be careful with what they post on social media. As leaders in the community, everyone needs to take the higher road when expressing themselves.

Chairman Moseley expressed that everyone is living in turbulent times, as leaders we all must take steps to be better and move forward to do what is best for our county.

Commissioner Lewis moved to go into an Executive Session at 7:05 p.m. to discuss two Personnel Matters and one Board Appointment, and one Property Acquisition. Commissioner Bryant seconded the motion.

—EXECUTIVE SESSION—

Vice Chairman Hill moved to terminate Executive Session at 8:05 p.m. Commissioner Bryant seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the step-increase for Human Resources Manager due to added supervisory responsibility. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. Motion carried four to one with Commissioner Bryant voting no due to lack of consistency with salary increases being presented during budget session.

Commissioner Yoder moved to approve the step-increase for Public Works Director due to added responsibility. Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion. Motion carried four to one with Commissioner Bryant voting no due to lack of consistency with salary increases being presented during budget session.

Commissioner Bryant moved to appoint Talisha Moody to fill the vacant position previously held by Dr. Lionel Brown on the Middle Georgia Flint Behavioral Health Board to complete the remaining two-year term due to expire on August 13, 2022. Motion failed for the lack of a second.

Vice Chairman Hill moved to appoint Ms. Jacqueline James to fill the vacant position previously held by Dr. Lionel Brown on the Middle Georgia Flint Behavioral Health Board to complete the remaining two year term due expire on August 13, 2020. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this Regular Meeting on this date, Commissioner Lewis moved to adjourn at 8:58 p.m. Vice Chair Hill seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.

February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

APPROVED: [Signature]  
CHAIRMAN

PEACH COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
BY: [Signature]  
COUNTY CLERK

STATE OF GEORGIA  
COUNTY OF PEACH

AFFIDAVIT OF CHAIRMAN

Martin H. Moseley, Jr., Chairman of the Peach County Board of Commissioners, being duly sworn, states under oath that the following is true and accurate to the best of his knowledge and belief.

The Peach County Board of Commissioners met in a duly advertised meeting at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 19, 2020.

During such meeting, the Board voted to go into closed session.

The Executive Session was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

The subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting was devoted to the following matter(s) within the exceptions provided in the open meetings law:

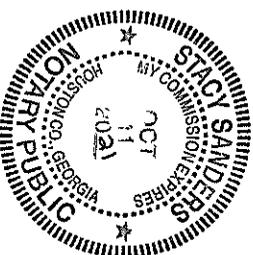
- (1) Discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a county officer or employee as provided in O.C.G.A. §50-14-3(6).
- (2) Discussion of the future acquisition of real estate as provided by O.C.G.A. §50-14-3(4)
- (3) Consultation with the County Attorney or other legal counsel to discuss pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the County or any officer or employee or in which the county or any officer or employee may be directly involved as provided in O.C.G.A. §50-14-2(1)

This 9th day of February 2021.

[Signature]  
Martin H. Moseley, Jr., Chairman  
Peach County Board of Commissioners

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 9<sup>th</sup> day of February 2021.

[Signature]  
Notary Public  
My Commission Expires Oct. 11, 2021



MONTHLY WORK SESSION

Peach County Board of Commissioners  
5:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 2, 2021