

**JONES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Jones County Government Center  
Charlotte C. Wilson Conference Room  
First Tuesday Business Meeting  
August 6, 2019  
6:00 PM

The Jones County Board of Commissioners met for their First Tuesday business meeting at 6:00 p.m. August 6, 2019, in the Charlotte C. Wilson Conference Room at the Jones County Government Center. Members present were:

Chris Weidner – Chairman  
Sam Kitchens- Vice Chairman / District I Commissioner  
Tommy Robinson – District III Commissioner  
Daylon Martin - District IV Commissioner  
Ashley Brodie – County Attorney  
Jason Rizner – County Administrator  
Shannon Wagner- HR Director

Chairman Weidner called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Attachments to the minutes are filed separately from the minutes in a clasp envelope labeled by meeting in the commissioner’s vault.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Chairman Weidner asked for approval of the agenda. Comm. Kitchens made the motion to approve the agenda. Comm. Robinson seconded. Vote – Unanimous. Comm. Pitts was not present.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE:** Gary Thomas, Pastor of Elam Baptist Church, gave the invocation followed by the leading of the pledge.

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS:**

Chairman Weidner asked for a motion to approve Clifford H. Bowen being reappointed to the Historic Preservation Board for a new 3 year term beginning September 1, 2019 and ending August 31, 2022. Comm. Kitchens made the motion. Comm. Robinson seconded. Vote – Unanimous. Comm. Pitts was not present.

**CONSENT AGENDA AND FOR APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

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|----------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Third Tuesday     | - | July 16, 2019           |
| 2. Executive Session | - | July 16,2019            |
| 3. Work Session      | - | July 26, 2019 1 p.m.    |
| 4. Call Meeting      | - | July 26, 2019 5:15 p.m. |
| 5. Executive Session | - | July 26, 2019 5:20pm    |

Comm. Kitchens made the motion to approve the minutes. Comm. Martin seconded. Vote – unanimous. Comm. Pitts was not present.

**VISITORS - Three minutes limit –**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Jason Rizner, County Administrator spoke about the Jones County/ City of Gray Service Delivery Strategy (SDS) Water Service Area Update. Chairman Weidner pointed out an error on the map from Huckabee Road to Camelot Road. The Chairman stated that the City needed to be contacted to discuss their future plans for that area. He stated that the City had indicated that they were interested in a connection to Macon Water Authority at Camelot Road, but that his understanding was that they were no longer interested in connecting directly to them at that location. Comm. Kitchens made the motion to table. Comm. Robinson seconded. Vote - Unanimous. Comm. Pitts was not present.
2. The City of Gray Fire Chief, Keith Eisele spoke about the county partnering with the city to purchase a ladder truck. Comm. Kitchens wanted to look into a lease option. Jones County EMA Director, Don Graham, spoke about the replacement price for the County fire truck that was involved in a wreck. The newest truck the county has right now is 21 years old. Don Graham spoke about purchasing 5 new trucks with a lease option. With the lease option there would be no payment for one year after delivery, and it would cost \$256,804/year for the remainder of the lease. When the lease is up, the county would have the option to purchase the trucks or trade the trucks in and get credit for new trucks. Comm. Martin made the motion to partner with the City of Gray to purchase the ladder truck 50/50 and to purchase the 5 new trucks with the lease options for Jones County. Motion failed for lack of a second. Chairman Weidner wanted to get more information. Comm. Robinson suggested a committee be formed to look more into the options for the trucks. Comm. Kitchens stated he did not feel it was fair for the county to pay half for a ladder truck for the city.
3. The 2020 5311 Department of Transportation Transit Agreement was not ready and this item was skipped.
4. Shannon Wagner, HR Director, asked to go out for bid to do a salary study on all employees. Comm. Robinson made the motion. Comm. Kitchens seconded with the amendment that 4% per employee be earmarked to go towards the changes that need to be made. Vote – Unanimous. Comm. Pitts was not present.
5. Shannon Wagner, HR Director, spoke about the plan that was currently in place with GEBCorp that allowed employees to retire and continue working. She spoke about the problems with “sham retirements” and the trouble it can cause with the IRS. Ashley Brodie, County Attorney, recommended amending our policy to give a time frame of at least 6

- months before hiring a retiree back. Comm. Kitchens made the motion to have GEBCorp come in and give options for a new policy. Comm. Martin seconded. Vote - Unanimous. Comm. Pitts was not present.
6. Matt Goins, Parks, Rec. & Golf Director, presented the bids for a single outdoor basketball court at Mattie Wells Community Center. He received 6 bids and made the recommendation to award the bid to Middle Georgia Hydroseeding for the labor and material for \$21,450.00. Comm. Kitchens made the motion. Comm. Martin seconded. Vote – 3-1. Comm. Robinson opposed. Comm. Pitts was not present.
  7. Matt Goins, Parks, Rec. & Golf Director, presented the bids for lighting improvements at Morris Bank Recreation Complex. He recommended awarding the bid to Middle Georgia Electric for \$89,242.00. Comm. Kitchens made the motion. Comm. Robinson seconded. Vote – 3-1. Comm. Martin opposed. Comm. Pitts was not present.
  8. Jason Rizner, County Administrator, presented the board with the equipment lease purchase agreement and the financing resolution for Schneider Electric. He made the recommendation to approve the resolution and lease purchase agreement. Comm. Kitchens made the motion to approve. Comm. Robinson seconded. Vote – Unanimous. Comm. Pitts was not present.
  9. Jason Rizner, County Administrator, presented the options for setting the tentative millage rate for advertising purposes. He made the recommendation to use the millage rates from the current year, 16.197 for unincorporated areas and 17.649 for incorporated areas. Comm. Robinson made the motion to approve. Comm. Kitchens seconded. Vote -3-1. Comm. Martin opposed. Comm. Pitts was not present.
  10. Comm. Martin presented the board with information on the Land Bank Authority and ways to take dilapidated houses and return them to the market to increase tax revenue. Comm. Martin made the motion to start the process to have a land bank in Jones County. Comm. Kitchens seconded with an amendment to the motion to look into creating a land bank or partnering with another county who already has an established land bank. Vote – Unanimous. Comm. Pitts was not present.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

Matt Goins, Parks, Rec. & Golf Director, participated in a grants class with the Department of Natural Resources. There are 2 grants that Jones County can try to get. A stewardship grant or a recreational trails grant. Matt thought the recreational trails grant would better serve the county. He asked the board to decide on what area and what program they would like to do. He gave options for a bike trail, a revitalization of the Jake Woods area, or a river walk trail.

Jennifer Allen, Animal Services Director, presented the board with the change of hours of the shelter. The new hours are as follows:

Monday – Wednesday 7am -5pm

Thursday – Closed

Friday- 7am-5pm

Saturday – 9am – 3pm

Sunday – Closed

Don Graham, EMA Director, invited the board to the annual volunteer appreciation dinner.

Jason Rizner, County Administrator, told the board that the grant for the historic resources survey was approved but the money was not enough to survey the county. He stated that it would not be feasible at this point to accept the grant money.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS: (3 MINUTES – SIGN IN) –**

Mr. James Crutchfield spoke about the real need for a ladder truck for the county and if there was a water supply for the truck. He did not feel we needed to pay half for a truck for the city.

Mr. R Vann Collins spoke about the fire department needing other things instead of a ladder truck. He did not speak against having a ladder truck, but the need for more important things at this time.

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS: -**

Comm. Kitchens spoke about the water needs of the county and proposed that we give a half a mill of our taxes towards capital projects to get these projects done.

Comm. Robinson agreed with Comm. Kitchens.

Comm. Martin spoke about the service delivery strategy and that it shouldn't matter if you live in the city or county. He spoke about the importance of economic development and bringing business to Gray. He said we spend more money on concrete for dogs than we do on basketball courts for the youth. He spoke about the importance of our fire department and funding the department and the fire fighters.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS: (1 MINUTE – NOT SIGNED IN) –**

Karl Zimmer of 182 Estelle Drive spoke about the ladder truck which is also a pumper truck and how it could be used to service the county buildings that are located in the city. He also stated that the residents in the city also pay county taxes.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Comm. Martin made the motion to adjourn to go into executive session for personnel. Comm. Kitchens seconded. Vote – Unanimous. Comm. Pitts was not present. The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

**RECONVENE:** Comm. Martin made the motion to reconvene. Comm. Kitchens seconded. Vote – unanimous. Comm. Pitts was not present. Meeting reconvened at 7:54 p.m.

Comm. Kitchens made the motion to offer the County Clerk position to Connie Hattaway at a grade 19 step 10. Comm. Martin seconded. Vote – Unanimous. Comm. Pitts was not present.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Comm. Martin made the motion to adjourn. Comm. Kitchens seconded. Vote – unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

**MINUTES APPROVED**

Jones County Board of Commissioners

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Chris Weidner, Chairman

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Sam Kitchens, Vice Chairman / District I Commissioner

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Tommy Robinson, District III Commissioner

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Daylon Martin, District IV Commissioner

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Jason Rizner, County Administrator

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Shannon Wagner, HR Director