

**JONES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Virtual Meeting

Third Tuesday Business Meeting

May 19, 2020

6:00 PM

The Jones County Board of Commissioners met for their Third Tuesday business meeting at 6:00 p.m. May 19, 2020, by virtual meeting. Members present were:

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

Chairman Weidner called the meeting to order at 6:09 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 a motion to approve the agenda. Comm. Pitts made the motion to approve the agenda. Comm. Kitchens seconded. Vote – unanimous.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE:** Chairman Weidner gave the invocation.

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS: None**

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

1. First Tuesday - May 5, 2020

Comm. Kitchens made the motion to approve the minutes. Comm. Martin seconded. Vote – unanimous.

**VISITORS - Three minutes limit –**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Comm. Pitts spoke to the Board about the importance of emergency vehicles and the importance of giving EMA the vehicles needed to serve the community, especially in life and death situations. Comm. Pitts made the motion to purchase 3 new trucks. One will be paid from

- money already allocated in the General Fund Budget and 2 will be paid for with SPLOST funds. Comm. Kitchens seconded. Vote – unanimous.
2. LaVita Crutchfield, Finance Director, spoke to the Board about the upcoming budget process and asked for guidance on how to handle the process due to the COVID-19 situation. Comm. Martin asked how the revenues were looking and Mrs. Crutchfield stated that the revenues were not slacking. Comm. Martin made the motion to keep the same budget as last year and make amendments when needed. Comm. Kitchens seconded. Vote – unanimous.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Matt Goins, Parks, Recreation & Golf Director, spoke to the Board about reopening the Hwy. 18 Recreation Department and the Hwy. 49 Recreation Department for the baseball and softball leagues. Mr. Goins named the surrounding counties that have cancelled the season and said it was for several different reasons; not enough time to get a meaningful season in, not enough players, or public relations issues. Mr. Goins made the recommendation to open the recreation departments back up and to start softball and baseball. Mr. Goins asked for guidance on how to handle the people who do not comply with the rules that will be in place. Jamie Sark from the JCNL and James Schoepf for the JCAL both stated that rules and social distancing will be put in place and that both parks were ready to start play. The only concern was the timeline and being able to start June 1, 2020.  
Comm. Pitts stated his concerns with the new illness that is hitting children hard due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Pitts did not think that starting the season would be safe for the children. Comm. Robinson stated we should start play when the executive order was over on June 12, 2020 and have a shorter season. Mr. Robinson also stated he did not want to pay for extra security at the parks. Comm. Martin stated that it was risky to open the parks for baseball and softball, but if we allow the Golf Course to be open then the parks should be open as well. Chairman Weidner stated that we needed to move forward and allow the kids to play. Comm. Kitchens stated he was ready to play ball. Comm. Kitchens made the motion to open the parks and allow the baseball and softball season to begin while enforcing social distancing. After discussion, Comm. Kitchens amended the motion to include opening Mattie Wells Gym as well. Comm. Martin seconded. Vote 4-1. Comm. Pitts opposed.
2. Ashley Brodie, County Attorney, spoke to the Board about the executive order for the medically fragile and employees 65 and older. Mrs. Brodie went over the Families First Coronavirus Response Act and the guidelines for paying these employees. Comm. Kitchens made the motion to follow the guidelines of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. Comm. Pitts seconded. Vote – unanimous.

3. Jason Rizner, County Administrator, spoke to the Board about the Howard Roberts Road Bridge Right of Way. Mr. Rizner gave a recap of his discussion with the GDOT Chief Engineer who had indicated that if the County could contribute \$25,000, GDOT could fund the remainder. After discussion of the cost, Mr. Rizner made the recommendation that the Board put \$25,000 towards the right of way which will come out of contingency. Comm. Martin made the motion to approve. Comm. Kitchens seconded. Vote – unanimous.
4. Jason Rizner, County Administrator, spoke to the Board about the Vehicle Replacement Policy. Comm. Robinson made the motion to approve the policy and to allow Mr. Rizner to enforce that Department Heads to give him the maintenance records of their vehicles for the policy. Comm. Kitchens seconded. Vote – unanimous.

(Non- Agenda Item) Chairman Weidner spoke to the Board about how to handle the next meeting, if it should be in person or virtual. After discussion, Comm. Kitchens made the motion to have the First Tuesday Business Meeting in June at the Knox Civic Center so everyone can social distance. Comm. Robinson seconded. Vote – unanimous.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

Don Graham, EMA Director, thanked the Board for approving the purchase of the new rescue trucks.

Matt Goins, Parks, Recreation & Golf Director, thanked the Board for supporting the baseball and softball leagues.

Jason Rizner, County Administrator, spoke to the Board about the water and sewer fees being reinstated. Ashley Brodie, County Attorney, stated this would have to be added to the next meeting's agenda.

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

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS: -**

Comm. Robinson stated he was looking forward to getting back to normal.

Comm. Martin spoke about drive thru testing for the coronavirus.

Comm. Kitchens stated he was praying for everyone and to stay safe.

Comm. Pitts thanked the Board for approving the purchase of the rescue trucks and asked everyone to stay safe.

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

**ADJOURNMENT:** Comm. Pitts made the motion to adjourn. Comm. Robinson seconded. Vote – unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 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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Jonathan Pitts, District II Commissioner

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Tommy Robinson, District III Commissioner

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Jason Rizner, County Administrator

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Shannon Wagner, HR Director/ Interim County Clerk