

Baldwin County Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
June 21, 2016  
6:00 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Baldwin County Commissioners was held Tuesday, June 21, 2016, at 6:00 p.m., Baldwin County Courthouse, Suite 319, 121 North Wilkinson Street, Milledgeville, Georgia with Chair Sammy Hall presiding.

Members Present: Emily C. Davis  
Tommy French  
Sammy Hall  
Henry Craig  
John Westmoreland

Also Present: Ralph McMullen  
Dawn Hudson  
Cindy Cunningham

Call to Order

Chair Sammy Hall called the June 21, 2016, Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Emily C. Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2016, Regular Meeting as submitted. Commissioner Henry Craig seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Oconee Regional Medical Center (ORMC)

Oconee Regional Medical Center Interim CEO Steve Johnson presented an update on hospital activities. He stated he felt significant accomplishments have been made in hospital operations. Mr. Johnson stated Oconee Regional Medical Center is committed to keeping the local hospital in operation to provide services to the community. He reported ORMC is working with consultants to develop a plan of solvency for the hospital, and work continues with four hospital groups to determine the best course for the future of ORMC. He stated new contracts have been negotiated for hospitalists and emergency room services with work continuing on negotiations for a contract for the anesthesiologists. Mr. Johnson introduced Mr. Michael Vaughn, CFO.

Chair Hall and Commissioner Craig stated they are confident this community will continue to have a local hospital in operation. Commissioner Craig asked what timeframe is expected for major operational decisions. Mr. Johnson responded he was confident decisions would be made within six to eight weeks.

Vice Chair Emily C. Davis asked Mr. Johnson to discuss the EMS contract and questioned why Navicent Health EMS was given notice of termination of their contract. Mr. Johnson responded the hospital solicited proposals for Emergency Medical Services, and senior management recommended entering into a contract with Grady EMS. He stated no formal contract is in place at this time; however, details are being finalized for the EMS contract with Grady. He stated the decision to enter into contract with Grady EMS was made in the best interest of the citizens of the community.

He introduced Mr. Bill Compton, Senior Vice President of Grady EMS, to answer specific questions regarding the service including a transition plan for employees,

equipment that will be provided for Baldwin County, and enhanced coordination of services with 911, the Sheriff's Department and the Fire Department.

#### Appointments to Development Authority Board of Directors

Chair Sammy Hall presented letters regarding two appointments to the Milledgeville-Baldwin County Development Authority Board of Directors. He stated Mr. Quentin T. Howell is being recommended by the Authority Board to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Merlin Fechner. Mr. Derek Williams is being recommended by the Authority Board to serve as County representative replacing Mr. Chat Daniel.

Commissioners discussed how nominees and/or recommendations are made for various Boards. Commissioner Westmoreland stated he felt the County should set policies regarding the appointment process. They discussed composition of the Authority Board which is made up of representatives from small business, financial institutions and the industrial base.

Mr. Gregory Barnes stated he felt the Board should not entertain a motion regarding these appointments because blacks are not represented on the Board.

Vice Chair Emily C. Davis made a motion to appoint Mr. Quentin T. Howell to serve as a representative on the Milledgeville-Baldwin County Development Authority Board of Directors. Commissioner Tommy French seconded the motion.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: Davis, French, Hall, Westmoreland

Commissioner Henry Craig abstained from the vote. Abstention is recorded as a vote opposing the motion when no explanation is stated.

Nay / Abstention - Craig

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to appoint Mr. Derek Williams to serve as the member replacing Chat Daniel on the Authority Board. Commissioner John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed by the following vote:

Aye: Davis, French, Hall, Westmoreland

Nay: Davis

#### Update on 4-H Program and County Extension Services

County Extension Coordinator Robbie Jones presented an activity report on 4-H activities stating that one participant is competing at the State 4-H Congress and one is serving as summer camp counselor at Rock Eagle. He reported there has been a 795% increase in 4-H enrollment and a 400% increase from 2015 in 4-H Summer Camp participation.

Mr. Jones discussed agriculture resource activities reporting an increase in contacts and requests from citizens especially regarding soil samples.

#### Public Comment Period for Non-Agenda Items

Mr. Dwayne Morgan addressed the Board regarding his concern of the termination of the Navicent Health EMS contract. He stated he felt that Oconee RMC should not make a decision on this contract until a plan is decided for hospital operations, and he requested the Commissioners' assistance in the matter.

## Old Business

There was no old business to come before the Board.

## New Business

Commissioner John Westmoreland requested that the Board consider adopting a policy for making appointments to various Boards. Chair Hall responded that Commissioner Craig and the County Clerk are gathering information for developing such a policy.

## County Manager's Report

County Manager Ralph McMullen reported on the following:

A press release was placed in each Commissioner's box regarding the County's risk management program. ACCG / IRMA has issued dividends for the program, and this will be credited to the County's premiums.

DOT notified the County that Roberts Road Bridge has been identified as a location for bridge replacement. DOT will fund the replacement of the bridge, and the County is responsible for certifying and acquiring right of way, relocating utilities, providing notification for road closure and rerouting school buses and emergency vehicles.

The Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG) program road list has been put out for bid.

One round of mowing has been completed on the County roads. The second round will begin around the end of June.

Middle Georgia Regional Commission Executive Director Ralph Nix is retiring, and a reception will be held Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Regional Commission.

Notice of a July 19<sup>th</sup> public hearing has been published for the abandonment of right of way on Montpelier Church Road.

June 24<sup>th</sup> ACCG Summer Regional Meeting to be held at GMC.

## Adjournment

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:55 p.m. Vice Chair Emily C. Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sammy Hall  
Chair

Cynthia K. Cunningham  
County Clerk

