

Baldwin County Commissioners
Regular Meeting
October 2, 2018
6:00 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Baldwin County Commissioners was held Tuesday, September 18, 2018, at 6:00 p.m., Baldwin County Courthouse, Suite 319, 121 North Wilkinson Street, Milledgeville, Georgia with Chair Tommy French presiding.

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

Members Absent: John Westmoreland

Also Present: David McRee
Carlos Tobar
Dawn Hudson
Cindy Cunningham

Call to Order

Chair Tommy French called the October 2, 2018 Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2018 Regular Meeting as submitted. Commissioner Emily C. Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Amendment to Agenda

Chair French requested the Agenda be amended in order to allow Dr. Noris Price, Superintendent of Schools, the opportunity to speak to the Board.

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to amend the Agenda for Dr. Noris Price to address the Board. Commissioner Emily C. Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Dr. Price discussed the improved graduation rate which was 66% four (4) years ago and is 92% this year stating this puts the students and community in a better place. She also discussed the REACH Scholarship Program, and five (5) students who will be attending college on scholarships.

Update on Baldwin County Alert System

EMA Director Wayne John made a presentation on the County's Alert System. He stated the County has another provider for the Alert System. He explained how citizens can sign up for the system which sends out notifications for things such as inclement weather, County curfews, chemical spills, boil water advisories and other emergency notifications. Mr. Johnson encouraged everyone to sign up for participation in the system.

Professional Services for Grant Writing

County Manager Carlos Tobar stated Request for Qualifications were solicited for Grand Writing / Administrative Services. He stated the County currently has a grant

writing / administrative firm; however, they do not write housing grants. He is recommending the County hire Gilbert & Associates to prepare a CHIP housing grant for a maximum amount of \$600,000. The cost to prepare the grant will be between \$1,800 and \$3,000. The County will provide in-kind match for the grant by donating surplus property that the County owns through a partnership with Habitat for Humanity. Habitat will qualify applicants for the program, and the prospective homeowner will provide volunteer hours (sweat-equity) which will also be in-kind services for the grant. The program will require no financial commitment from the County except for grant writing services.

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to approve hiring Gilbert & Associates to prepare a CHIP housing grant application. Commissioner Emily C. Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

GDOT Title VI Assurances and Non-Discrimination Agreement

County Manager Carlos Tobar presented the GDOT Title VI Assurances and Non-Discrimination Agreement which is necessary for inclusion in Federal Highway Administration (FHA) grant applications. He stated he will be trying to secure FHA for various projects in the County and requests that the Board adopt the Assurances and Non-Discrimination Agreement.

Mr. Tobar stated these assurances and non-discrimination policies and procedures are language specific to FHA grants; however, the County has adopted similar documents for other grants such as the Section 5311 Transit Grant Program.

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to adopt the GDOT Title VI Assurances and Non-Discrimination Agreement as presented. Commissioner Henry Craig seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

A copy of the GDOT Title VI Assurances and Non-Discrimination Agreement is herewith attached and made an official part of the minutes at pages _____ and _____.

Old Business

There was no old business to come before the Board.

New Business

Commissioner Henry Craig recognized Oconee Community Service Board Executive Director Tyrone Evans. Commissioner Henry Craig reported on the recent Mental Health Summit held to begin to address the mental health problem in our community and all across the nation. This is an effort to begin the process of making well known how mental health issues are handled.

County Manager's Report

County Manager Carlos Tobar presented an update on his activities to include making presentations to various organizations on T-SPLOST; receipt of Department of Agriculture grant for \$5,000 for dog and cat sterilization; completion of all repairs to all parks except the irrigation project at the soccer field which should be completed in November; and the cleaning of the Black Springs water tank on October 11th – 18th.

Public Comment for Non-Agenda Items

Chair French stated the County has prepared a Press Release regarding the financial commitment to Navicent Health Baldwin. Commissioner Henry Craig read the Press Release.

Ms. Thulia Bramlett addressed the Board stating she felt the Board should have raised the millage rate to get the revenue to fund the \$500,000 per year to the hospital. She

stated that the \$32.00 assessment on each property is not an equitable rate since those who own more than one parcel of property is being charged at a different "rate". The property owner with one parcel valued at \$100,000 pays \$32.00 while the person with thirteen parcels with the same value of \$100,000 pays \$416.00.

Ms. Cindy Humphrey stated many people do not attend Commissioners' meetings. She felt the meetings should be broadcast on social media so more people could be informed of things going on in the County.

Mr. Clarence Woodall addressed the Board stating his opposition to the \$32.00 special tax.

Mr. Harvey Palmer asked for clarification as to whether the \$32.00 fee is actually a tax increase. He also stated he felt the elected officials should petition the Governor to accept Medicare expansion.

Executive Session – Property Acquisition and Potential Litigation

Commissioner Emily C. Davis made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session at 6:45 p.m. to discuss property acquisition and potential litigation. Commissioner Henry Craig seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Regular Meeting

Commissioner Emily C. Davis made a motion to reopen the Regular Meeting at 8:00 p.m. Commissioner Sammy Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to adjourn the September 18, 2018, Regular Meeting at 8:00 p.m. Commissioner Sammy Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Tommy L. French
Chair

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk
