Baldwin County Commissioners
Regular Meeting
August 18, 2020
6:00 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Baldwin County Commissioners was held Tuesday, August 18, 2020, at 6:00 p.m., Suite 319, Baldwin County Courthouse, Milledgeville, Georgia with Chair Henry Craig presiding.

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

Also Present: David McRee
Dawn Hudson
Jill Adams
Cindy Cunningham

Call to Order

Chair Henry Craig called the August 18, 2020 Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Craig called for a motion to approve minutes. Commissioner Emily C. Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2020 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting and August 12, 2020 Called Meeting as submitted. Commissioner John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Amendment to Agenda

Chair Craig requested an amendment to the Agenda to add item #6 – Discussion on COVID Procedures and Face Coverings.

Commissioner Emily C. Davis made a motion to amend the Agenda to include discussion on COVID Procedures and Face Coverings. Vice Chair Tommy French seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

CARES Grant Award

Assistant County Manager Dawn Hudson reported Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act on March 27th to provide vital resources to governments, businesses and individuals in combating COVID-19. She stated Title V of the CARES Act provides financial resources to state and local governments. Five local governments with populations over 500,000 received direct allocations; leaving approximately $1.23 billion for additional allocations. Ms. Hudson reported the first phase of funding will allocate 30% of the $1.23 billion to local governments based on population and those that did not receive a direct allocation and are not located in a county that received a direct allocation. The remaining 70% will be available on a reimbursement basis. Ms. Hudson reported this funding may only be used for eligible expenses and must be used by September 1, 2020. She stated once the application and certifications are processed and the advance is received, governments must begin providing documentation to support qualified expenditures.

Commissioner Davis asked if these funds could be used for hazardous pay. Ms. Hudson responded she would look into this matter; however, the Treasury has provided very strict guidelines for funding and such funds would be subject to recoupment by the Treasury Department if they have not been used in a manner consistent with section 601(D) of the Social Security Act.

Commissioner John Westmoreland made a motion to authorize the Chair to execute necessary documents for CARES Act funds. Commissioner Sammy Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Baldwin County Procurement Policy

Assistant County Manager Dawn Hudson stated the Department of Transportation has issued a requirement that all County procurement with funds received/reimbursed with federal grant funds, such as GDOT Transit funds, shall be subject to specific thresholds. Ms. Hudson discussed the required thresholds which will be included in the Baldwin County Procurement Policies and Procedures Handbook.

Vice Chair Tommy French made a motion to approve the amendment to the Procurement Policies and Procedures Handbook as presented. Commissioner Emily C. Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Landfill Hunting Lease

Commissioner Sammy Hall asked the Board to consider leasing the landfill property for hunting. He stated the landfill is closed; however, Baldwin County must continue to monitor the landfill for compliance with EPD regulations. The continued monitoring is costly, and the money from a hunting lease would help the County. He reported the portion of the landfill that is covered by turf will not be included in the lease. Mr. Hall stated the lease agreement should include requirements for the lessee to provide liability insurance and other hold harmless clauses to protect the County.

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to put the landfill property up for bids for hunting rights. Commissioner John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Contract Service and Financial Agreement for Workforce Development Area 11 and Middle Georgia Consortium

Finance Director Jill Adams presented a Contract Service and Financial Agreement between Baldwin County and the Executive Committee of Chief Elected Executive Officials for Middle Georgia Workforce Development Area 11 and the Workforce Development Board of and for the Middle Georgia Consortium. She stated this is the same agreement the County currently has to serve as grant recipient and fiscal and administrative agent for the Workforce Development Act in Area 11. The term of the contract is July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Ms. Adams stated no county funds are required for this program.

Commissioner Emily C. Davis made a motion to approve the Contract Service and Financial Agreement for Workforce Development as presented. Vice Chair Tommy French seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

WIOA Grants

Finance Director Jill Adams presented two (2) grant award renewals for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program. She reported the adult program renewal is in the amount of $105,481 for the period July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022. The dislocated worker award is $143,760 for the same grant period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022.

Commissioner Emily C. Davis made a motion to approve the Adult Program and Dislocated Worker Program grant award renewals as presented. Vice Chair Tommy French seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

COVID Procedures and Face Coverings

Chair Craig reported the Governor issued an Executive Order on August 15, 2020 which makes changes to previous Executive Orders. The new order specifically offers guidelines for local governments implementing mask mandates. Chair Craig stated at the July 7, 2020 meeting, the Board voted to require facial coverings in all County facilities. Subsequently the Governor suspended local governments' authority to impose a mandatory mask ordinance because it was in conflict with his Executive Order. Chair Craig stated the new Executive Order lifts the suspension so the previously adopted face covering policy on County property remains in effect. The latest Executive Order allows local governments to adopt and enforce ordinances requiring face coverings throughout a county if the prevalence of confirmed cases of COVID-19 over the previous fourteen (14) days is equal to or greater than one hundred (100) cases per one hundred thousand (100,000) people according to the Georgia Department of Public Health. He discussed some of the exceptions outlined in the Executive Order such as polling places, outdoors when social distancing, private property posted that a particular location does not consent to enforcement of any local face covering requirement upon the property, bona fide religious objection; personal vehicles and residential property.

Chair Craig urged Commissioners to consider the adoption of an Ordinance requiring the use of face coverings in public during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Commissioners discussed a proposed ordinance requiring the wearing of masks in Baldwin County and expressed their views on the subject.

Chair Craig called for a motion to authorize the County Attorney to develop a policy requiring face coverings in Baldwin County.

Vice Chair Tommy French made a motion to authorize the development of a face coverings policy in Baldwin County. Commissioner Emily C. Davis seconded the motion for further discussion.

Commissioners Hall and Westmoreland stated they feel this action is overreaching on the County's part and stated they were not in favor of the policy at this time.

Commissioner French stated he is very much in favor of a policy requiring face coverings; however, he would like for the County Attorney to bring back to the Board further clarifications regarding the face covering requirement. He stated COVID is a serious disease and thinks a policy is necessary for the community.

Commissioner Davis stated Commissioners should not dictate to people that they must wear a mask.

Chair Craig reported this County is in the top thirty percent (30%) statewide in the number of cases. He stated experts with the DPH and CDC recommend wearing masks because it is proven they help with deterring the spread of the disease.

Chair Craig called for a vote to the motion to authorize the development of a face coverings policy for Baldwin County.

The motion failed by the following vote:

Aye: Craig, French
Nay: Hall, Davis, Westmoreland

Old Business

There was no old business to come before the Board.

New Business

There was no new business to come before the Board. Commissioner Davis stated this is the 100th Year Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote. She also introduced District 2 Commissioner Elect Kendrick Butts.

County Manager's Report

Assistant County Manager Dawn Hudson stated she had nothing to report.

Adjournment

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:50 p.m. Commissioner John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry R. Craig
Chair

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk