

THE BULLOCK COUNTY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

9:00 A.M.

Call of Roll to Establish Quorum: All members present, namely: Chairman Alonza Ellis, Jr., District One Commissioner Don Larkins, District Two Commissioner John L. Adams, District Three Commissioner John G. McGowan, District Four Commissioner Henry Barnett and County Administrator Patrick D. Smith, who recorded the minutes; County Attorney John Waters was also present. A quorum was established.

The Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance was done by Sheriff Raymond Rodgers.

On a motion from Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner McGowan to approve the agenda. All in favor; motion carried.

On a motion from Commissioner McGowan, seconded by Commissioner Larkins to approve the September 2020 Regular Meeting minutes. All in favor; motion carried.

On a motion from Commissioner Larkins, seconded by Commissioner Barnett to approve the September 2020 Expenditures, including payroll totaling \$562,537.76. All in favor; motion carried.

County Administrator Patrick D. Smith approached the commission to discuss the direct deposit for county employees. Smith state that the local banks require atleast three (3) years of audited financials and approval from the local bank's board of directors. After a thorough discussion, the commission decided to table the direct deposit discussion to a later date. On a motion from Commissioner McGowan, seconded by Commissioner Adams to table the direct deposit discussion to a later date. All in favor; motion carried.

Bullock County Healthcare Authority Chairman William Hodge came before the commission to get approval to advertise for the vacant seats on BCHA Board of Directors. On a motion from Commissioner Barnett, seconded by Commissioner McGowan to approve the advertising for the vacant seat on the Bullock County Healthcare Authority's Board of Directors. All in favor with one abstention from Commissioner Adams as he has vested interest in the local newspaper that advertise the above vacancies. Motion carried.

Bullock County Development Authority Executive Director David Padgett came before the commission to seek approval for site prep funding to Sawara, LLC. in the amount of \$10,000 to create eight to ten jobs in Bullock County. On a motion from Commissioner Barnett, seconded by Commissioner Larkins to approve the \$10,000 site prep funding to SWARA, LLC. All in favor; motion carried.

David Padgett also came before the commission to seek approval regarding a resolution from the Franklin Field Authority to purchase property to expand the airport. The cost of the

property to be purchased will cost \$1,600 for the .28 acres. On a motion from Commissioner Barnett, seconded by Commissioner McGowan to approve the purchase of .28 acres from Lawrence Penn in the amount of \$1,600. All in favor; motion carried.

Bullock County Sheriff Raymond Rodgers came before the commission to request an extension regarding the jail inmate phone system. The jail inmate phone system provider is currently NCIC; County Administrator Patrick D. Smith stated that the county needs to bid out the services and at this juncture only two vendors, NCIC and Combined Public Solutions have shown interest. Smith also stated that the bid specs have been completed. After a thorough discussion, the commission decided to allow for an extension on the current contract with NCIC until bids have been advertised and submitted. On a motion from Commissioner McGowan, seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve the inmate phone system extension until bids are advertised and submitted. All in favor; motion carried.

County Administrator Patrick D. Smith came before the commission to discuss a renewal of the AVENU contract in regards to lodging tax; Smith stated that County Attorney Waters had some concerns regarding the section of the contract renewal that is related to the lodging tax audit and compliance services. He stated that the commission should add a provision to the contract that states no audits/compliance services are to be performed unless there's prior written approval from the Bullock County Commission. On a motion from Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Barnett at approve the provisions above regarding the lodging tax audit and compliance services. All in favor; motion carried.

County Administrator Patrick D. Smith approached the commission with an engagement letter from the Public Building Authority regarding the proposed issuance of the Lease Warrants for the Schneider Electric project. Smith stated that County Attorney Waters had some concerns regarding the contract. Waters stated that he talked with Brian Cash of Spain & Gillion regarding the proposed issuance of the Lease Revenue Warrants. Mr. Cash stated that the county needs to submit audited financials before they can finalize any warrants issuances. After a thorough discussion, the commission agreed to table the discussion until the audit of the 2019 financials are complete. On a motion from Commissioner McGowan, seconded by Commissioner Larkins to table the discussion until the 2019 audited financials are complete. All in favor with one opposition from Commissioner Barnett as he feels that the commission should move forward with the project. Majority vote passed.

County Engineer Jason DeShazo approached the commission to seek approval to hire a part-time employee in the Engineering Department; DeShazo stated that he would like hire Turner Lee, an Auburn University senior seeking his bachelor's degree in civil engineering; Lee will work approximately 20 hours per week at a rate of \$14.00 per hour. On a motion from Commissioner McGowan, seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve the part-time hire of Mr. Turner Lee in the Engineering Department for approximately 20 hours per week at a rate of \$14.00 per hour. All in favor; motion carried.

Engineer DeShazo also came before the commission to get approval regarding the herbicide bid recommendation. DeShazo recommended IVM Solutions for the herbicide contract. On a motion from Commissioner McGowan, seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve the

recommendation from the County Engineer regarding the herbicide bid. All in favor; motion carried.

Furthermore, DeShazo came before the commission to seek approval to purchase CIMS engineering software for the county road projects. The software will be used to track county road projects, labor hours on each project and any other associated cost of each project. The provider of the software is Diversified Computer Systems. On a motion from Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Barnett to approve the CIMS software for the Engineering Department. All in favor; motion carried.

Commissioner Don Larkins came before the commission to discuss disciplinary actions for the County Administrator as he felt the Administrator was insubordinate after a special called meeting. Commissioner Larkins placed on the table that a 3-day suspension without pay should suffice for the administrators actions as well as placing a detailed write-up in his employee's folder. Administrator Smith stated that he felt disrespected by Commissioner Larkins for his actions during and after the special call meeting. However, after a thorough discussion, Commissioner Adams suggested that the commission place a written warning in the administrator's employee file and that the employee acknowledges receipt of the write up but not accepting the write up as completely accurate. On a motion from Commissioner McGowan, seconded by Commissioner Adams to place a written warning in the employee's file and acknowledgment of receipt of the write-up. All in favor with one opposition from Commissioner Barnett as he stated that Commissioner Larkins write-up was only one side of the story and that he will not acknowledge the narrative presented by Commissioner Larkins. Majority vote passed.

The commission decided to have work session regarding the Legal/Compliance examination findings from the Alabama Examiners of Public Accounts. On a motion from Commissioner McGowan, seconded by Commissioner Adams to have a Work Session on Monday, October 26, 2020 at 9 a.m. in the commissioner chamber to discuss the Legal/Compliance examination. All in favor; motion carried.

On a motion from Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Barnett to adjourn the October 13, 2020 regular meeting. All in favor; motion carried

