

THE BULLOCK COUNTY COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

May 10, 2021

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 McGowan, District Four Solomon Marlow, Jr. 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 Commissioner Larkins.

Commissioner requested that the agenda be amended to add Shirley Brown; on a motion from Commissioner Marlow, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Larkins to allow Shirley Brown to be added to the agenda. All in favor; motion carried.

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

On a motion from Commissioner McGowan, seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve the April 2021 Regular Meeting minutes. All in favor; motion carried.

On a motion from Commissioner McGowan seconded by Commission Marlow, Jr. to approve the April 2021 Expenditures, including payroll totaling \$486,986.68. All in favor; motion carried.

Rob Cameron came before the commission to get approval to seek funding to secure a 60X60 building to house the Bullock County Rescue truck. On a motion from Commissioner McGowan, seconded by Commissioner Adams to authorize Rob Cameron to seek funding to secure a building to house the county's Rescue Truck. All in favor; motion carried.

County Administrator Patrick D. Smith came before the commission to seek approval to hire William Scott of TRISTATZ, LLC to assist the county regarding the 2021 American Rescue Plan funds that the county was allotted. The commission agreed to table the discussion until the County Attorney has analyzed the contract. On a motion from Commissioner Marlow, Jr., seconded by Commissioner McGowan to table the discussion of the TRISTATZ, LLC contract until the County Attorney reviews it. All in favor; motion carried.

Revenue Commissioner Neara Reed approached the commission to get approval of three (3) nominees to sit on the Board of Equalization. The commission stated that Ronald Smith, Shirley Streeter and Christopher Baskin would be a great addition to the Board of Equalization. On a motion from Commissioner McGowan, seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve the above three (3) nominees to sit on the Board of Equalization. All in

favor; motion carried. Administrator Smith will draft a letter stating the three (3) nominees that the county has approved; the letter will be submitted to the State of Alabama for final approval.

Revenue Commissioner Reed also came before the commission to get approval for an increase in pay for one of her employees. Commissioner Reed stated that Saquania Cooper has met her probationary period and she would like to increase her pay rate from \$9.00 an hour to \$10.00 an hour. On a motion from Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Larkins to approve the pay increase to Saquania Cooper from \$9.00 an hour to \$10.00 an hour. All in favor; motion carried.

Bullock County Development Authority (BCDA) Director David Padgett approached the commission to get approval to purchase a vehicle for the BCDA. On a motion from Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Marlow, Jr to approve the vehicle request from the BCDA Director Padgett. All in favor; motion carried.

County Administrator Smith came before the commission to get approval to submit a resolution to ALDOT to be included in the grant award application from ALDOT to secure two new Aging Department vans. Smith is also seeking approval to advertise for a Public Hearing regarding the ALDOT application. On a motion from Commissioner McGowan, seconded by Commissioner Larkins to approve the resolution and the related public hearing notice to be included in the ALDOT grant award application. All in favor; motion carried. Resolution number will be cited 2021-06.

Administrator Smith also approached the commission to seek approval to hire a Part-time Aging Department Van Driver. Smith stated that one of the veteran drivers will be retiring and needs to be replaced. Smith also stated that after the interview process was completed, Mr. Thomas Cook was recommended for the Aging Department Van Driver position. On a motion from Commissioner McGowan, seconded by Commissioner Adams to approve the hire of Mr. Thomas Cook to serve as a part-time van driver for the Bullock County Aging Department. All in favor; motion carried.

Commissioner McGowan briefly discussed the Alabama Transportation Infrastructure Bank Loan Program to fund some county road projects. Commissioner McGowan believes that there is a need for a Work Session to thoroughly discuss the loan program. On a motion from Commissioner McGowan, seconded by Commissioner Marlow to have a Work Session on Friday, May 14th at 9a.m. at the Richard Stone Building. All in favor; motion carried.

Commissioner McGowan discussed the history of the Perote Cemetery in District Three (3) and wishes to place a historic marker at the cemetery. He asked that this request be tabled and that Administrator Smith seek guidance to see can the county purchase a historic marker for the cemetery. On a motion from Commissioner McGowan, seconded by Commissioner Marlow, Jr. to table the historic marker discussion until Administrator Smith has received guidance from the appropriate authorities. All in favor; motion carried.

County Engineer Jason DeShazo came before the commission to get approval to submit a CDBG grant application to pave/repair Sydney and Andrea Lane in District Two. Commissioner Marlow interjected and motioned to reconsider that project and take into consideration projects in District Four; the motion died for lack of a second. Commissioner Adams stated that certain CDBG projects have certain criterion such as income level and road population. He feels that the roads above qualify for the CDBG grant and has a high probability of getting approved. However, the commission moved forward with the County Engineer's recommendation. On a motion from Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner McGowan to proceed with the CDBG application to pave/repair Sydney and Andrea Lane. All in favor with one opposition from Commissioner Marlow, Jr. Motion passed through majority vote.

Engineer DeShazo also approached the commission regarding the County Road 30 project bid date. DeShazo recommended to receive and open bids on June 16, 2021 for County Road/Lee Loop Road The project was approved approximately one year ago and is a major collector road. On a motion from Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Larkins to approve the bid openings for the County Road 30/Lee Loop Road project for June 16, 2021. All in favor; motion carried.

DeShazo approached the commission with a Highway Safety Improvement Plan application to widen and improve the road shoulders on County Road 89 in District One. DeShazo stated that the application deadline is June 30, 2021; the application was brought to his attention the previous week. He further states that the funding is up to \$400,000 with a 10% match from the county. Commissioner Marlow interjected and motioned to reconsider the project on County Road 89 due to him listening to citizens in District Four regarding County Road 165 that needs repairing and paving. Motion died for lack of a second. Commissioner Larkins made a motion to move forward with the HSIP application for County Road 89; motion died for lack of a second. Commissioner McGowan stated that the county needs to apply for these funds before the deadline. He stated that the county needs to use these proceeds on any eligible road in the county. Furthermore, Commissioner McGowan decides that it is in the best interest to table the discussion and recess the regular meeting. On a motion from Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner McGowan to recess the regular meeting until Friday, May 14, 2021 at 10 a.m. in the Richard Stone Building. All in favor; motion carried.

Alonza B. Ellis, Jr.

Chairman

Don Larkins, Commissioner

District One (1)

John McGowan, Commissioner

District Three (3)

John L. Adams, Commissioner

District Two (2)

Solomon Marlow, Jr., Commissioner

District Four (4)