

Regular Meeting of the Stewart County Commission

June 9, 2020

The Stewart County Commission met on June 9, 2020 at 4:30 pm in the courtroom of the Stewart County Courthouse.

The meeting convened under the special protocols for the COVID-19 pandemic as described in last month's minutes.

Chairman Joseph B. Williams noted that all Commissioners were present, other than Commissioners Ernie Brown and Tyrone Nelson, representing a quorum. The meeting began with a recitation of the "Pledge of Allegiance" to the flag.

Vice Chair Arcola Scott moved and Commissioner Joe Lee Williams seconded that the minutes for the May 12 meeting be approved, with the correction that the monthly work sessions had already been suspended indefinitely in a previous meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Appearances.

Lumpkin Police Chief Ron Jackson discussed the possibility of activating the old county prison and developing it into a jail. He suggested that it could be a profitable hundred-bed facility with set-aside space for Federal and area cities and counties. Chief Jackson's purpose for attending the session was to discuss the possibility of an intergovernmental agreement between the county and the city and perhaps Richland for animal control.

Reports.

Stewart County Roads Superintendent Gene Haynes was delayed by bad weather and a road meeting in the county and was unable to attend. County Manager Mac Moye presented the May list of work orders for the Roads Department.

Stewart County EMS Director Ed Lynch indicated that he has had a meeting with the new CoreCivic Warden, and they have agreed to meet quarterly to discuss solutions for mutual problems. He also announced that he now has a Victory Spray System in hand, which can be used to disinfect any room or vehicle which is contaminated by COVID-19 or other viruses.

The County Manager's Report was submitted in written form. County Manager Moye added a note that the county has just received word that the US Corps of Engineers has responded to our request to re-open Hannahatchee Creek Park by inviting the county to present a plan of activities and impact.

Old Business.

Vice Chair Scott moved to buy a Curis Sanitizing System after the advertising requirement is fulfilled. Upon a second by Commissioner Williams, the motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chair Scott moved to transfer \$31,000 from Commissioner's Office – Salaries in order to cover the cost of the River Valley Regional Commission's normal contracts for services. Upon a second by Commissioner Williams, the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Williams moved that we continue our ACCG Liability Policy at the annual premium rate of \$68,796. Upon a second by Vice Chair Scott, the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Comments.

Commissioner Williams commented that the Commission should be willing to allow the City of Lumpkin to explore establishing a jail. The City can either lease the property or establish a Jail Authority.

Vice Chair Scott concurred with Commissioner Williams's comment about allowing the city to explore establishing a jail. The county attorney can review, but the cost and risk for the county to operate the jail is significant. Vice Chair Scott also instructed the county manager and county clerk to get started with the 2021 budget.

Chairman Williams spoke favorably of recent efforts to establish a formal animal control program in the county. He also asked the citizens to continue with social distancing, since the county's infection rate continues to increase.

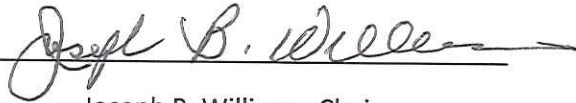
Commissioner Williams moved and Vice Chair Scott seconded that the county should explore an IGA with the cities for animal control. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment.

There being no further business, the Commission meeting adjourned upon a motion by Commissioner Williams and a second by Vice Chair Scott.



Mac Moye, County Manager



Joseph B. Williams, Chair