

CALHOUN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY 15, 2000
MINUTES

PRESENT AND ACTING:

EARL HUNT
FRED ATTAWAY
S. DONNELL WHITFIELD
DUANE CAPPS
TRUMAN GRANT

MATT FUQUA, ATTORNEY
WILLIE D. WISE, CLERK
JANICE HOLLEY, DEPUTY CLERK

The meeting was called to order by Deputy Vickery, prayer by Commissioner Whitfield and pledge of allegiance to the flag.

The minutes of February 1, 2000 were approved as amended. The minutes of January 18, 2000 were amended and approved by consensus.

Ms. Phyllis Branton Lord addressed the Board in reference to the renaming of the Bill Baggett Road. Ms. Lord stated her father had lived on this road for several years prior to the Baggetts and she would like for the board to reconsider and name the road after her grandfather (Henry Branton), or compromise and name the road Bill Baggett/Branton Road. Ms. Lord presented a petition from several concerned citizens in the community. After a lengthy discussion a motion was made by Commissioner Hunt, seconded by Commissioner Capps to table request until Commissioner Hunt to research the naming of the road and report back to the board.

Ms. Dorene Barker, Florida Legal Services, Inc. addressed the Board in reference to a Calhoun County Title Loan Ordinance. After a lengthy discussion a motion was made by Commissioner Capps, seconded by Commissioner Grant and carried to prepare a Title Loan Ordinance with an 18% interest rate for review at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Don A. O'Bryan, Emergency Mgt./Grants coordinator presented an amended agreement for execution with C.W. Roberts to delete Ocheessee Creek Road and Lee farm Road Paving and add Broad Branch and CR- 287A/ Gray Road.

Mr. O'Bryan presented the Visit Florida Contract (Tourism Grant) in the amount of \$1,000.00 for signature.

Mr. O'Bryan recommended to the BCC to hold Waste tire Amnesty Month in the month of April. Mr. O'Bryan stated there was \$5,714.00 of Waste Tire money. Mr. O'Bryan stated the Board had contracted with Cumbaa Enterprise for three (3) years at \$95.00 a

ton to dispose of waste tires. 58.7 tons was collected in Fiscal Year 1998-99. Mr. O'Bryan stated the advertisement would be the same as last year except for the dates. A motion was made by commissioner Attaway, seconded by Commissioner Hunt and carried for Mr. O'Bryan to advertise Waste Tire Amnesty month to be held in the month of April, 2000.

Mr. O'Bryan presented a draft of competitive bids on demolition for houses. After discussion the Board agreed by consensus to table until the March 7, 2000 board meeting.

Mr. O'Bryan spoke with Chris Adkinson, Tallahassee Mack. Chris stated that Mack had a program going now, if the trucks were purchased by March 31, 2000 they could be purchased for \$78,000 each, which is \$2,500 less than the ones purchased in 1998. After March 31, 2000 add \$1,500. It is recommended that the Board hold a Public Auction with a minimum bid of \$74,000 per truck and the Board would retain possession for 60 (60) days after sale or until the Board receives the new Mack Trucks, whichever is less. Mr. O'Bryan recommended advertising in the paper for March 2, 2000 and March 09, 2000 and hold the auction Friday, March 17, 2000 at 1:00 p.m. CST and the high bidder be tied to a contract of 5% of the purchase price in certified funds. After discussion a motion was made by Commissioner Capps, seconded by Commissioner Hunt and carried to advertise in the paper, March 2, 2000 and March 09, 2000 and hold auction on March 17, 2000 at 1:00 p.m. CST at the road yard with a minimum bid of \$74,000. A motion was made by Commissioner Capps, seconded by Commissioner Grant and carried to waive standard bidding procedures for purchasing of trucks and authorize the purchase of three (3) new Mack Trucks under the procurement policy as written.

Due to the large crowd attending the meeting regarding the 911 issue, the Board recessed and moved the meeting to the courtroom to accommodate the large crowd.

The Board reconvened in the courtroom and the 911 issue began with Ms. B.J. Bailey asking Sheriff Smith question on the 911 Satellite System. After discussion Ms. Bailey stated her questions were answered and Commissioner Whitfield stated the citizens of Calhoun County voting 911 into effect by an 8/1 margin. Chairman Whitfield stated through a grant and local funds from Fine and Forfeiture had put a little less than \$100,000.00 into 911. \$46,000 came from the 50 cents surcharge on the phone bill, the purchase of a recorder for \$23,786.00, installation charges of \$46,000.00, \$2,076.00 monthly charges and \$29,553.00 from CDBG funds used for equipment to do a BFE study (Basic Flood Elevation Study). Commissioner Whitfield stated the 911 System was one of the best in the state.

At this time the Sheriff came forward to answer any questions concerning 911. Ms. B.J. Bailey asked Sheriff Smith, why do we have a convicted felon working in the Sheriff's dept. handling fire calls and using the NCIC Computer when he was a convicted arsonist? Sheriff Smith stated, when the BCC appointed him to coordinate 911, he thought about the mapping system and looked at several avenues on how to come up with the best system. Sheriff Smith stated he contract with Mr. Harry Greene to use his E-911 Program. They went to every house and building and shot them from the satellite. After

reviewing all avenues Sheriff Smith decided to hire Ronnie Stone to do the mapping for 911 because he knew the area and the people of Calhoun County. Sheriff Smith stated that Ronnie Stone was not connected with Corrections or Law Enforcement. Ms. Bailey asked what expertise this gives Ronnie for mapping and using the Satellite Computers? The Sheriff stated he placed Ronnie Stone with Mr. Harry Greene from day one until the project is complete.

Ms. Bailey asked the Sheriff how long 911 would need Ronnie Stone, and he replied, "forevermore." Ms. Bailey asked the Sheriff why Ronnie Stone is wearing a jacket with the Sheriff's emblem on it. The Sheriff stated he is working out in the County and he wants everyone to be able to identify him (Ronnie) as working with 911.

Ms. Bailey asked the Sheriff if the other Deputies liked working with Ronnie Stone? The Sheriff stated he made the decision whom to hire in 911. Ms. Bailey asked the Sheriff if Ronnie Stone battered David Tatum. Sheriff Smith stated that was a personal problem and did not have any thing to do with the 911 issue.

Ms. Bailey asked if the job was advertised. The Sheriff stated no. After more discussion, Ms. Bailey left the Board meeting at the request of the Sheriff. At this time, Chairman Whitfield stated he thought enough was said regarding 911 at which time the Sheriff told Chairman Whitfield this issue had been discussed at an earlier board meeting without him being present and was going to finish answering the questions.

Ms. Joann Harriman addressed the Board in reference to the 911 issue asked by Ms. Bailey. Sheriff Smith stated that if Ronnie Stone was good enough to work for the Senior Citizens he was good enough to work for 911. Sheriff stated that Ronnie had been trained for almost two years, he was doing a good job and he was going to continue to do the job for 911.

Rodney Smith, Liberty County Sheriff's Dept. addressed the Board to answer questions regarding the arrest of Ronnie Stone.

Clerk Wise stated he felt since the Sheriff was not at the February 1, 2000 meeting the minutes should be revisited.

After several more questions from Ms. Bailey and Ms. Heriman, the Board decided to recess the meeting and continue with the regular board meeting back in the Commission Room.

Attorney Fuqua stated he had sent a letter to J.D. Sellers in reference to the legal cost of closing Mauldin Road.

Attorney Fuqua stated the Health Dept. would like to be on the March 7, 2000 agenda in reference to reducing the water sample from \$10.00 to \$8.00.

Attorney Fuqua addressed the Board in reference to rehabilitation on Dolly Morris house. He stated the house is not owner occupied. After discussion the board directed Attorney Fuqua to write a letter to Ms. Morris stating the if the house was not owner occupied by June 15, 2000 the board would proceed with a foreclosure. The board agreed by consensus.

Attorney Fuqua presented a letter from Juvenile Justice stating they will be at the March 7, 2000 Board Meeting.

The Board agreed to write a letter to David Belanger, Catfish Processing Plant requesting payment in full for the electrical bills.

Martin Sewell, Supervisor of Elections requested the Board make a motion to scrap the old 3.2 lever Shoup voting machines. After discussion a motion was made by Commissioner Hunt, seconded by Commissioner Capps and carried to scrap said machines.

Commissioner Attaway requested all old culverts at all pits be brought to the Road Dept. for auction.

Commissioner Grant requested a bathroom be built at Clay Mary Park, wheelchair accessible. After discussion a motion was made by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Commissioner Hunt and carried to build the bathrooms.

Commissioner Grant requested Sheriffs Dept. block-off River Street for the Black History Parade from 11:00 – 4:00. A motion was made by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Commissioner Capps and carried for the Sheriff's Dept. to do so.

A letter was presented from the Health Dept. asking for a Commissioner to serve on the interviewing committee for the vacant administrator. After discussion a motion was made by Commissioner Capps, seconded by Commissioner Grant and carried to appoint Chairman Whitfield to this committee.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Calhoun County Library – Grant Program
2. Fla. Association of Counties – 2000 Joint Legislative Program
3. N.W. Fla. Water Management
4. Letter – Grayson Snyer – IDA
5. Health Dept. – Appointee to hiring committee
6. Petition – Phyllis Lord

There being no further business, the Board did adjourn.

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ATTEST:

Willie D. Wise

WILLIE D. WISE, CLERK

Donnell Whitfield

DONNELL WHITFIELD, CHAIRMAN

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