

FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Monday, May 20, 2024

Meeting Called to Order at 6:00 P.M. with Pledge to the Flag. Present: Bryan Lewis, Rick Ranstead, David Sommers, County Attorney Holli Shorter-Pifer. and Auditor Rep. Casey Jones.

Christine Walsh-Community events updates

Boofest- Oct 25th 4:00PM-6:30PM

Holiday Stroll- Dec 6th 6:00PM-8:00PM

Nickel Plate Arts and Music Festival- Aug 31st 11:00 AM-11:00 PM

Commissioners state that they had planned for the land where the old jail used to be located to become a public area for festivals and those kinds of things. The Nickel Plate festival in years past has used the courthouse lawn, but due to damage to the lawn the commissioners would like to move it. Christine asked for permission to keep the festival located on the courthouse lawn this year due to constraints in time to reorganize. Commissioners agreed to this, but stated moving forward they request that the stage and other activities be relocated to the old jail lot. Commissioner Ranstead also confirmed that Madison Street will be closed during the day of the festival. It was also discussed that there will be a parade before the festival this year.

Ordinance No. 03182024 Vacating Public Alleyways-Read by Commissioner Lewis. Community member was present to ask about how much this would affect her property taxes, Commissioner Lewis explained to her it should be minimal and she would be gaining land. Commissioner Ranstead motioned to approve, Commissioner Sommers seconds; motion carries 3-0.

EMS Update-Barry Ritter-Surveys and Studies done in community about ambulance service in Fulton County. Lutheran Executives were "non-responsive" to negotiating a contract, so the county was forced to look elsewhere. The county then moved on to the next responsive provider which was Heartland EMS services, but due to Heartland's increased annual subsidy of a half million dollars the county found that unsustainable. The county then decided to move on to the other party involved which was Parkview. What we ended up with was a three-and-a-half-year deal, which included a 45-day ramp up time. Akron, Rochester, and Kewanna will each have one ambulance stationed and manned 24/7, with one spare ambulance kept in Rochester. The cost of this service is \$600,000 from July 2024 thru December 2024, \$1.2M for 2025 and 2026, and \$950,000 for the final year being 2027. The county also must come up with up to \$1.2M to purchase ambulances and the equipment to supply them. If contract is terminated the county will retain the ambulances and equipment as capital assets. Commissioner Ranstead motions to approve, Commissioner Sommers seconds; motion carries 3-0.

Jail Ordinance No. 04162024A-Read by Commissioner Lewis. After referring to County Attorney Holli Shorter-Pifer, Commissioner Lewis read the ordinance for a second and third time as required before passing. A question from a community member that arose is are the inmates we are housing federal inmates, or where do they come from? Commissioner Lewis referred the question to Travis Heishman. Travis explained to the community member that they are a mixture of federal inmates as well as inmates from other local counties that are overpopulated. He also explained that federal inmates are of no greater risk than local inmates. Travis explained also that he doesn't have to accept inmates, if they become a



problem he can refuse to house them within our jail. Commissioner Lewis explains the reason for this ordinance is to help with debt reduction. Commissioner Ranstead motions to approve, Commissioner Sommers seconds; motion carries 3-0.

Ordinance No. 05082024 “False Alarms”-Read by Commissioner Lewis. Commissioner Lewis asks if there’s any questions, there were none. Commissioner Sommers motions to approve, Commissioner Ranstead seconds; motion carries 3-0.

Ordinance No. 04162024 “Jail Commissary Fund”-Read by Commissioner Lewis. No questions or comments. Commissioner Lewis motions to approve, Commissioner Ranstead seconds; motion carries 3-0.

Ordinance No. 05062024 “Speed Limit”- Read by Commissioner Lewis for second and third reading. No questions or comments. Commissioner Sommers motions to approve, Commissioner Ranstead seconds; motion carries 3-0.

TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION-Commissioner Lewis motioned to approve travel authorization requests, Commissioner Ranstead seconds; motion carries 3-0.

HIGHWAY – John Grier- Permit Requests

Permit No. 2422-Commissioner Lewis motions to approve, Commissioner Ranstead seconds; motion carries 3-0.

Permit No. 2423- Commissioner Lewis motions to approve, Commissioner Ranstead seconds; motion carries 3-0.

Permit No. 2425- Commissioner Lewis motions to approve, Commissioner Ranstead seconds; motion carries 3-0.

Permit No. 2426- Commissioner Lewis motions to approve, Commissioner Ranstead seconds; motion carries 3-0.

John updates Commissioners on the Highway Dept. activities. They started chip-sealing, and are making good progress on that. Rough draft given to commissioners of the road program for this year. John explains to the public how our roads are graded, and given an order in which to repair them. John tells commissioners that he has requested quotes to buy a flail mower, which he had been built into this year’s budget. Asks for their approval to purchase mower. Commissioner Ranstead motions to approve, Commissioner Sommers seconds, motion carries 3-0. John gave commissioners the year end report which they had yet to receive, and it must be signed by June 1st. Commissioners wanted to review it so they stated they’d reconvene on Friday May 24th.

SHERIFF –Travis Heishman-Gave commissioners inmate details. Jail capacity is sitting around 57%. Issued two scholarship recently for \$750 each. Thanks community for their support over the last few weeks during law enforcement events.

Jail Maintenance-Chad-Asks commissioners’ approval to move forward with a 40x80 jail maintenance building. This will be “self-funded” through the jail maintenance fund. Commissioners give chad their Okay.

EMA-Gail Karas-Grant for \$18,000 is deposited in County General. Asks for permission for Dawn to use the Mobile Time Clock to increase efficiency. Commissioner Lewis motions to approve, Commissioner Sommers seconds; motion carries 3-0. Liberty Baptist reached out about purchasing shelter that Gail had purchased that ended up being too small. County Attorney Holli Shorter-Pifer stated that we would have to open that for bids.

FEDCO-Michael-Informs commissioners housing study is finished, and they are in the development phase now. Two sites with four developers fighting over each sight. The state has removed a bunch of restrictions for tax credits for smaller counties with a deadline of July 31st. This will cause a lot of activity to meet that deadline. The industrial park is still negotiating properties. Project at the school is going great. We were awarded grants from Duke Energy, \$10,000 for the industrial park and \$5,000 towards marketing and a website.

MINUTES-Commissioner Ranstead motioned to approve the minutes of May 6th, Commissioner Sommers seconded; carries 3-0.

CLAIMS- Approved as presented

Election Pay	\$ 2,490.00
LIT Distribution	\$ 743,615.08
EMA Performance Salary Grant Reimbursement	\$ 18,000.00
Splitting of accounts for Inmate Housing	\$ 56,485.35
Utilities	\$ 7,267.89
May 20 Misc. Claims	\$ 614,981.68
Disbursements for 4/18/2024 thru 4/24/2024	\$ 79,460.68
May Fees	\$ 51,810.49
Disbursements for 4/25/2024 thru 5/1/2024	\$ 22,231.90

TRANSFERS – Approved as presented

Department	Fund	From Account	To Account	Amount
Superior Court Budget Shortfall	County General	Copier Maintenance	Contracts	\$404.00
Health Budget Shortfall	Local Public Health Services	Health Dept Liaison	Machinery & Equipment	\$18,745.00
Health Budget Shortfall	Local Public Health Services	Repair & Maintenance Supplies	Contractual Services	\$2,494.00
Health Budget Shortfall	Health	Maintenance Equipment	Reimbursement	\$100.00
Prosecutor's Office Budget Shortfall	Computer Maintenance Software	Computer Maintenance Software	Office Supply	\$1,200.00
Maintenance Budget Shortfall	County General	Snow Removal	Landscaping	\$5,000.00
Maintenance Budget Shortfall	County General	Snow Removal	Fire Systems	\$3,000.00


ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS- None

OLD BUSINESS – Alisha Sturgis with Guardian Advocates introduced herself and gave brochures to commissioners. She updated the commissioners on the status of her program. Alisha will return around September. County Attorney Holli Shorter-Pifer updates us that the house went into newspaper Saturday/Wednesday for public sale.

NEW BUSINESS – Wed. 23rd schools getting new AEDs

RECESS – -Commissioner Lewis motioned to recess at 8:52 p.m., Ranstead seconds; motion carries 3-0.

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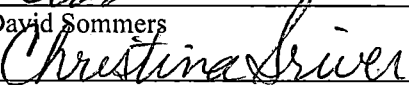
Bryan Lewis



Rick Ranstead



David Sommers



Attest: Christina Sriver, County Auditor

I affirm under penalties of perjury, that I have taken reasonable care to redact each social security number in this document, unless required by law: Christina Sriver

Prepared by: Casey Jones

