

Regular Meeting Minutes
Jenkins County Board of Commissioners
Tuesday, August 8, 2023
4:00 P.M.

1. The Jenkins County Board of Commissioners met for its Regular Monthly Meeting on Tuesday, August 8, 2023 at 4:00 P.M. in the Courtroom at the Jenkins County Courthouse. Commissioners in attendance were Chairman Horace Weathersby III, Hiller Spann, Tracie Coney, Pamela Dwight, and Jonathan Powell. Others in attendance were County Administrator Grady Saxon, County Attorney George Rountree and 206 concerned Citizens (based on the sign in sheets).
2. Chairman Horace Weathersby III called the meeting to order at 4:00 P.M. Commissioner Pamela Dwight gave the Invocation and Chairman Weathersby led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Weathersby welcomed all those in attendance.
3. Chairman Weathersby called for the approval of the AGENDA and asked if any changes needed to be made. Mr. Saxon stated that Mrs. Sue Gillis would not be attending and should be removed from the AGENDA. A motion was made by Commissioner Spann and seconded by Commissioner Dwight to approve the AGENDA as amended. The motion carried unanimously.
4. Chairman Weathersby called for the approval of the Minutes from the June 13, 2023 Regular Meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Dwight to approve the Minutes from the June 13, 2023 Regular Meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.
5. Chairman Weathersby announced that anyone that was not on the AGENDA would not be allowed to speak during the meeting.
6. Under Personal Appearances, Mr. C.J. Green asked if there was any intention to allow Ben Wall or Atlantic Waste to expand the landfill. Commissioner Spann stated that an application to expand the Construction & Demolition portion of the landfill had been filed. Next, Mr. Green inquired about any host agreement with Atlantic Waste that would provide checks and balances or monitor what is being dumped in the current landfill. Commissioner Spann stated that there was a host agreement and that the landfill was being monitored. Next, Mr. Green asked if there was any knowledge of fines or penalties imposed on Atlantic Waste by the EPD at any of its facilities, including Jenkins County. Commissioner Spann stated "No". Finally, Mr. Green asked what phase the County Commissioners was in on determining the acceptance or denial of the Atlantic Waste Proposal. Commissioner Spann stated that the Board had asked the people who spoke at the last County Commission meeting to put their concerns in writing and that those concerns were being addressed. Commissioner Spann stated that no permit had been issued, and that the process could not move forward until the Board votes to issue one.

7. Next under Personal Appearances, Ms. Samantha Coker stated that four other counties had said no to a landfill, so she asked "How did we get here?" She stated that apparently Mr. Wall had submitted an application and that the County was supposed to receive a \$1 million fee that would be received by the County. "Has the County received any money for this?" Commissioner Spann stated that the County had received an application fee of \$100,000, which would cover the costs associated with processing the application. He stated that the County had hired engineer Daniel Muldrew to review the application. Ms. Coker then inquired if the proposed landfill would be exempt from taxes. Commissioner Spann stated that there would not be any tax breaks for Atlantic Waste. Commissioner Spann also stated that the landfill lease saved the County approximately \$600,000 per year. Ms. Coker also asked why the County was collecting the fees on the tax bills since Allgreen hauled the trash. Commissioner Spann stated that the County has to pay Allgreen to haul the trash out of the County.
8. Next under Personal Appearances, Mrs. Cheryl Tatum stated that Ben Wall had stated that two Commissioners (Hiller Spann and Horace Weathersby) had approached him about the idea of a landfill, and she asked the Board if that was true. Chairman Weathersby stated that he did not reach out to Mr. Wall. Commissioner Spann stated that he told Mr. Wall that he personally didn't have a problem with looking into putting a solid waste landfill in the County. Mrs. Tatum also expressed concerns about methane gas, ammonia, and hydrogen sulfide, all of which can be present in a landfill. Could the local fire department handle a landfill fire should one start? Mrs. Tatum also expressed concerns about leachate, stating that eventually, a liner would leak. She stated that the Ogeechee River is only 2.5 miles from the current landfill, and that the citizens want to see that resource protected. Regarding the SWMP, the working document proposes the minimum standards as required by the State. Mrs. Tatum stated that the people of Jenkins County deserve more than minimum standards. Commissioner Spann asked that all concerns be put in writing, and that the Board would be happy to look at all concerns.
9. Next under Personal Appearances, Mrs. Vondesa Lee inquired about the Solid Waste Ordinance. She wanted to know if the bidding process was followed. She was also concerned that the new landfill would not have road frontage and that the traffic would have to cross county property to access it. Mrs. Lee also inquired if the ordinance was made available to the Public before its adoption. Commissioner Spann stated that the ordinance was discussed in public meetings, with multiple readings, before being voted upon in May. She also inquired if the ordinance provided any protections to the County in the event the proposal is granted. Commissioner Spann stated that the host agreement would provide a number of protections for the County. Mrs. Lee then asked who wrote the proposed solid waste management plan, if Atlantic Waste had any input in the proposed plan, and who else may have had input. Attorney Rountree stated that he had consulted with

other attorneys to help in the development of the plan. Mrs. Lee stated that some of the proposed plan are contradictory to other parts, and that there seems to be a rush to adopt the plan. "Why?" Commissioner Spann stated there was no particular rush, but the County had to have a plan. Mrs. Lee feels that there is a sense of mistrust in the community, with the community questioning everything that the Board does. The proposed plan is very vague. She stated that people are wondering about kickbacks. Mrs. Lee inquired how much it cost the County for the additional lawyers and engineers. Commissioner Spann stated that the application fee covered all those costs. She concluded by saying that "We don't want the trash in Jenkins County from anyone other than us."

10. Next under Personal Appearances, Mr. David McMillan presented a list of tonnage dumped through 2022. It stated that the landfill should last until 2080. He stated that there's no way that the current landfill will last that long. He said that it's not all about the money. He stated that it is the duty of each Commissioner to represent the citizens of the County. Mr. McMillan expressed concerns for the water quality near the landfill. He stated he was not in favor of receiving trash from other counties and that we need to decide what to do with our trash, since we all have to be responsible for the landfill. Mr. McMillan discussed an incident at a landfill in Tennessee which will cost \$22 million to clean up. He stated that Jenkins County needs to develop a long term plan.
11. Next under Personal Appearances, Mr. Johnny Neal showed a picture of the Ogeechee River in Jenkins County and a picture of a landfill in Murfreesboro, TN. He stated that citizens don't want to sacrifice the natural resources of the County. Mr. Neal stated that landfills give off many hazardous substances, as well as bad smells. Mr. Neal stated that private landfills are money makers. He requested that the citizens of Jenkins County be allowed to help develop the County's SWMP. He presented a list of 4 names for consideration for the citizen group, which included George Hall, Johnny Neal, Robin Scott, and Cheryl Tatum. Mr. Neal stated that the citizens wish to have a quality plan that will help Jenkins County.
12. Next under Personal Appearances, Mr. W.T. Wasden III doesn't want to see other counties' trash coming to Jenkins County. He also stated that the tax credits are not going to offset the decrease in land values.
13. Finally under Personal Appearances, Mrs. Christa Hendrix stated that she lives on Paramore Hill Road. She stated that once a landfill is created, it can't be used for anything else. If a landfill is installed, it will cost a lot of money to maintain it forever. She stated that she would rather pay more taxes than have a landfill in Jenkins County. Mrs. Hendrix stated she was disappointed in Commissioner Spann and she thinks he ought to apologize to the citizens of Jenkins County.

14. Under Old Business, Mr. Saxon presented quotes for the County's Property and Liability Insurance Renewal. Chairman Weathersby stated that the County had received two quotes:

Chatham Insurance: \$128,693
ACCG: \$132,822

He stated that the recommendation from the County Administrator was to accept the bid from Chatham Insurance in the amount of \$128,693. A motion was made by Commissioner Spann and seconded by Commissioner Dwight to accept the quote from Chatham Insurance in the amount of \$128,693 for the County's Property and Liability Insurance. The motion carried unanimously.

15. Finally under Old Business, Chairman Weathersby presented two quotes for the County Employees Health Insurance Renewal:

Anthem: \$585,697
Benecon: \$645,911

He stated that the recommendation from the County Administrator was to accept the bid from Anthem in the amount of \$585,697. A motion was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Coney to accept the quote from Anthem in the amount of \$585,697. The motion carried unanimously.

16. Under New Business, Mr. Saxon briefly explained the state's LMIG program, and the County's allocation for 2023-2024 will be \$544,936.02. He stated that these funds, combined with \$885,063.98 in TSPLOST funds would be used to repair and resurface LB Hall Road from Lewis Church Road to the Emanuel County Line and Lane Road from Lewis Church Road to W. Old Savannah Road. Mr. Saxon stated that the total project is estimated at \$1,430,000.00, and would require various levels of milling, deep patching, base reconstruction, leveling, and resurfacing. A motion was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Coney to proceed with the 2023-2024 LMIG Application. The motion carried unanimously.

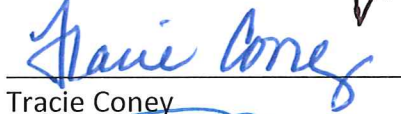
17. Next under New Business, Mr. Saxon presented a request for a 30ft. electronic gate for the County Shop tin order to prevent unauthorized access to the County Shop property and to keep Old Sylvania Road unimpeded while the gate is being opened and closed. He had received two quotes (Central Fence-\$19,619 and N&P Fence-\$13,250). Mr. Saxon recommended the quote from N&P Fence in the amount of \$13,250, stating that the gate would be purchased with TSPLOST funds. A motion was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Spann to approve the quote from N&P Fence in the amount of \$13,250.00 plus the cost of remotes. The motion carried unanimously.

18. Finally under New Business, Mr. Saxon stated that the County was in need of a new tractor and boom mower. The quote from John Deere was \$122,171 for the 6110M tractor and \$70,010 for the Diamond Boom Mower, for a total of \$192,181. Mr. Saxon stated that this purchase would be made through TSPLOST as well. A motion was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Dwight to purchase the tractor and boom mower in the amount of \$192,181. The motion carried unanimously.
19. There was no Field Director's Report.
20. There was no County Attorney's Report.
21. Under Administrator's Report, Mr. Saxon informed the Board that the Sales Ratio Study from the Georgia Department of Revenue should be sent out this week. This report allows for comparisons with other counties in the state and can help determine if Jenkins County's values are consistent with the state average.
22. Next under Administrator's Report, Mr. Saxon stated that the Board would need to schedule 2-3 budget work sessions over the next couple weeks to review the proposed budget so the proposal may be officially presented at the September Board meeting.
23. Next under Administrator's Report, Mr. Saxon stated that there were three upcoming projects that the Board needed to be aware of. First, GDOT will be resurfacing Highway 25 from Highway 23 to the Bulloch County Line. This project is scheduled to begin on August 22, 2023. Second, GDOT will be replacing the bridge over Horse Creek on Harrison Road. This project is likely to begin in late September or early October. Last, the railroad crossing at Scarboro will be repaired. Plans are for late August, but no date has been set yet.
24. Next under Administrator's Report, Mr. Saxon stated that there will be a Ribbon Cutting and Open House for the new Physical Therapy Building at the hospital on Thursday, August 10, 2023 from 5pm-7pm, and that the Board Members' attendance has been requested.
25. Next under Administrator's Report, Mr. Saxon reported that Requests for Qualifications had been sent out for the Recreation Department Grant and there was a due date of September 5, 2023 for them. He stated that the County and the CSRA Regional Commission will review the RFQs and will make a selection. Bid requests for the project will follow.
26. Finally under Administrator's Report, Mr. Saxon stated that the new County Credit Cards for Department Heads had been received and that he was awaiting training on the web platform before issuing the cards. He stated that this step should be completed before the end of August.

27. There was no Chairman's Report. However, Chairman Weathersby inquired about the BB Lane project. Mr. Saxon stated that a drainage easement would be necessary before the project could continue, and that Parker Engineering was working on that. Chairman Weathersby also inquired about the work at the Airport. Mr. Saxon stated that the contractor was currently preparing for the slab and taxiway for the next hangar building.
28. A motion was made by Commissioner Spann and seconded by Commissioner Coney to enter Executive Session at 5:17 P.M. The motion carried unanimously.
29. A motion was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Coney to exit Executive Session at 5:38 P.M. The motion carried unanimously. All Commissioners signed an affidavit stating that only three personnel matters were discussed. The real estate matter that was listed on the AGENDA was not discussed today.
30. A motion was made by Commissioner Powell and seconded by Commissioner Coney to employ Shakenya Adams as Recreation Department Administrative Assistant at \$12 per hour, to employ Irene Cummings as Custodian at \$14 per hour, and to increase the hourly rate of James Walton to \$14 per hour. The motion carried unanimously.
31. Commissioner Spann adjourned the meeting at 5:42 P.M.



Chairman Horace Weathersby III

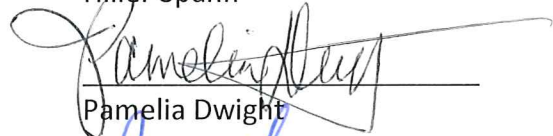


Tracie Coney

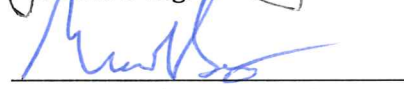


Jonathan Powell

Hiller Spann



Pamela Dwight



Attest: Grady Saxon, Administrator