

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners held a called meeting on **Thursday, March 15, 2017, at 3:00pm** in the commissioner's conference room. Those present were Chairman Walker T. Norman, Commissioner Virginia T. Williams, District One; Commissioner Larry Collins, District Two; Commissioner H. Lamar Wade, District Four; Mr. Ben Jackson, County Attorney; Mrs. Traci Bussey, Finance Director; Mr. Roby Seymour, Director Planning & Zoning/Public Works; Mr. & Mrs. Kermit Laney; Attorney Troy Lanier; Attorney Drew Hill and Ms. Sherry E. McKellar, County Clerk. Absent: Commissioner Cooper Cliatt, District Three;

1.

Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Norman called the meeting to order.

2.

Invocation

Attorney Jackson opened the meeting with prayer.

At this time the Chairman moved item #3 on the Agenda to item #5 and moved items #4 and #5 up to #3 and #4.

3.

Sublease Campgrounds Contract

On a motion by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Wade, the Board voted unanimously to approve Chairman Norman to sign an agreement with Premier Property Preservation to sublease Broad River, Clay Hill and Hester's Ferry Campgrounds from the County. Attorney Jackson has met with the attorney for the Laney's and informed the Board of some of the concerns they addressed. They asked about expenses over a certain dollar amount and whether the County would share the cost. Chairman Norman stated that the County wants to get out of all expenses and that there is to be no liability to the County under this sublease.

4.

Legal Issues

On a motion by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Williams, the Board voted unanimously to ask Attorney Bill Keogh with Hull Barrett to work with Attorney Jackson on legal issues with the City. Mr. Keogh's normal rate for governments is \$220/hour. Chairman asked Attorney Jackson to see if he will reduce the hourly fee to \$200/hour.

Chairman Norman stated that the Lincoln Journal story from the City, the first paragraph is very misleading. The County has met with the City repeatedly and has gotten nowhere. All the County asks is that the City charges the same price for water on ALL the county meters. What the County filed was an Injunction and that was only because we received a letter to shut off water to County customers. We are willing for Attorney Jackson and Attorney Fleming to work this out ... but it is not happening. The only thing in litigation is the water meter at Saddlebrook, not the Service Delivery Strategy! This is not personal, we are not mad at anyone. If it (the litigation) can be stopped, we are willing to work on it.

5.

Opioid Class Action Lawsuit


On a motion by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Wade, the Board voted unanimously to give the Chairman, Attorney and Clerk authority to sign a Resolution and Agreement for Lincoln County to employ certain law firms to represent the County in potential litigation against contributors of Opioid Addition Crisis.

Commissioner Cliatt and Attorney Jackson met with Troy Lanier and Drew Hill several weeks ago to discuss the Opioid Class Action Lawsuit. Opioid use is more and more prevalent. 115 people die every day due to Opioid use and Georgia ranks #11 in the U.S. Lawsuits against drug manufacturers and distributors will help to fix this problem. If we win the lawsuit the funds would be split 70/30 with 70% to the County. The 30% would pay for all legal fees and part of expert expenses.

6.

Adjourn

On a motion by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Williams, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10pm.



Walker T. Norman, Chairman

Attest:



Sherry E. McKellar, County Clerk