

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on **Thursday, January 10, 2019, at 6:00pm** in the courtroom. Those present were Chairman Walker T. Norman; Commissioner Brian Henderson, District One; Commissioner Larry Collins, District Two; Commissioner Cooper Cliatt, District Three; Commissioner H. Lamar Wade, District Four; Mrs. Penny Arnett, Finance Director; Mr. Ben Jackson, County Attorney and Ms. Sherry E. McKellar, County Clerk.

1.

Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Norman called the meeting to order.

2.

Invocation

Director Casey Broom opened the meeting with prayer.

3.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Following the invocation Commissioner Collins lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

4.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Collins, the Board approved the minutes as presented.

5.

Approval of Agenda

On a motion by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Henderson, the Board approved the agenda as amended by Chairman Norman who added Sheriff's Vehicle as #19 and Speed Limit on Ashmore Barden Road as #20.

6.

State of the County

Commissioner Henderson, Commissioner Collins, Commissioner Cliatt, Commissioner Wade, Department Heads and my fellow Lincoln Countians, it gives me great pleasure and a distinct honor to present to you my 27th State of the County.

As always, I want to recognize our county department heads as they direct each department of county government on a day to day basis with professionalism and enthusiasm.

Tonight we welcome a new commissioner to this body which is the governing authority of Lincoln County. Commissioner Henderson, as you begin your new duties I want you to know that this board and county department heads, as well as I, look forward to working with you and are available to help you in any way we can. I realize that after a week of newly elected commissioners training that you attended in Athens in early December, presented by the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia, and the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government, and the day-long orientation by the county, you are ready, willing and able to begin your duties as a county commissioner representing District One.

To the other members of the board and staff, I have enjoyed working with you as we continue to work together to make Lincoln County an attractive destination that will make people want to call Lincoln County home and provide a reason for them to want to be a part of a county with a vision. For those that have called Lincoln County home for just a few years or a lifetime, we will continue to strive to provide the service you have grown to expect of your commissioners as economically as we can realizing that we must be good stewards of our tax

dollars. Lincoln County government operates with less than 40% of our 7.2 million dollar General Fund Budget paid with property taxes.

In my 2017 and 2018 State of the County addresses, I mentioned several county buildings that needed immediate attention and together we have accomplished some of those improvements. Just a few months ago this board voted to replace the 23 year old roof that has continued to leak after many areas were repaired. The bid has been awarded at a cost of approximately \$200,000 and the new roof work will begin in the next few months as the weather permits. We have received complaints on the lack of space and client privacy in the office of the Probate Judge. With the consolidation of the Probate Court and Magistrate Court several years ago, the office has outgrown the current office space. We have been asked several times by Judge Moss and his staff to find adequate office space for this office. We have debated over the last year as to what can be done, and we have concluded that we would renovate the bay area of the old EMS Building located behind the courthouse on School Street which will become a Courthouse Annex. The office will also include a courtroom as well as offices for personnel and attorneys. The upstairs will be the records retention area where records are scanned into a computer system for easier access and original records will be stored in a controlled climate. This has been a project that has been in the making for several years and will be very useful for all county records for many years to come. The other part of the building which was the former office and living space for the county's EMS personnel until the headquarters were moved to the new facility in 2016 was renovated in the spring of 2018 to house the Sheriff's Patrol and Investigation Division, and the Morgue.

Later tonight the board will vote on awarding the bid to update the county's aging computer system including hardware and software. These funds were approved in the Fiscal Year 2018/19 budget. We are also doing major updates to bring back the full potential of the county's Geographical Information System which is also an integral part of our 911 communications system.

In 2018, under Director Dockery, the county updated and made changes to the county website which offers directions and current information on all county government offices and departments. I encourage you to check it often at www.lincolncountyga.com.

Under the leadership of Director Broom, the Office of Emergency Services responded to 1,193 EMS calls, which averages just over three ambulance calls a day. OES personnel were also called to 67 fire-rescue calls as well as 82 emergency medical responder calls. The Emergency Operations Center was activated three times last year to advise local government officials as well as the school system on weather-related conditions. The building also hosted a monthly meeting of the EMA Area One, EMS Region Six meetings, Federal Flood Insurance Planning meeting, Lincoln County Sheriff Office Training seminars, Lincoln County Fire Services Advisory Board meetings, CSRA Transportation Board meeting as well as various other meetings.

The Department of Public Works, under Director Seymour, has provided statistical information that I want to present to you at this time. In 2018, Lincoln County performed 1,599 building inspections, issued 658 building permits, including 38 new residential housing permits for a total of \$9,259,203.00 for an average of \$243,663 per house built in Lincoln County for the year 2018. This is up from 26 new housing permits for the year 2017. Ladies and Gentlemen, Lincoln County is in no way comparable with Columbia County which issues approximately 1,000 new housing permits per year. But, Lincoln County's 38 compared to McDuffie County's 31 and Wilkes County's 8 certainly inspire me to believe that Lincoln County has begun to improve in many areas as we look to the future. Lincoln County was also able to secure USDA funding of approximately two million dollars to expand water into two areas of the county that are not currently served. The project would include 16,900 linear feet of

water lines as well as six new wells that would provide additional water supply to the counties system. We anticipate starting the project in the spring.

Lincoln County Fund Balances for year ending as given to me by Director Arnett of the Finance Department are:

General Fund	\$ 833,761.45
Payroll	\$ 87,947.83
Emergency Fund	\$ 321,599.54
Drug Education Fund	\$ 27,283.34
E-911 Fund	\$ 129,442.32
SPLOST Fund	\$ 561,652.69
Solid Waste Fund	\$ 315,976.69
T-SPLOST Fund	\$ 909,894.08
Water Fund	\$ 67,462.96
Water Reserve Fund	\$ 118,887.28

As I conclude my 2018 State of the County I want to be very clear that what I am presenting tonight is a long range plan that I hope can be a goal that we envision for our county in the future, and when I say future I am talking of at least 10 years if not longer. I consider it my job as well as a commissioner's job to plan not only for today but for tomorrow. I expect some of our citizens to be opposed, but again this will be left to a board years to come to move this forward. Again this is long range planning. I would suggest that funding for the project could come from future Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax Referendums approved by the voters.

With this said, please unveil the rendering of what our courthouse could look like in the 2030's.

7.

Departmental Reports

A. Office of Emergency Services Department

Director Broom presented his monthly report. OES responded to 142 calls and the average response time was 8.8 minutes. E-Bill Gross billing for November was \$53,127 with total revenues of \$25,929. OES will conduct an EMR (Emergency Medical Responder) Course starting this month.

B. Recreation Department

Director Glaze was attending events at the Recreation Department. He had previously submitted his monthly report.

C. Finance Department

Director Arnett presented her monthly report and stated the 2019/20 Budget process will begin soon.

D. Public Works Department

Director Seymour presented his monthly reports. They serviced 2,076 water/sewer customers; installed two (2) service connections; repaired five (5) leaks on system; continued maintenance on hydrants, valves and meters; preformed locates for utilities; and maintaining Savannah Bay water system and Pointe Shores water system. They issued one (1) new and 56 renewal business licenses; issued 50 building permits and performed 65 building inspections, 16 on-site evaluations; three (3) plan reviews; 16 solid waste activity; nine (9) code violations site visits and issued nine (9) notices of violation and three (3) citations.

8.

Public Hearing

On a motion by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Cliatt, the Board voted to go into Public Hearing.

A. Applicant: H. Cooper Cliatt

Rezoning Request: Map 54 / Parcel 063

The Planning & Zoning Board recommended the Board of Commissioners approve Cooper Cliatt's rezoning request from A-3 to C-2 on Map 54 / Parcel 063 located on Augusta Highway to operate an Office-Warehouse combination. On a motion by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Collins, the Board approved the request. Commissioner Cliatt abstained from voting because he owns the property.

On a motion by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Henderson, the Board voted to come out of Public Hearing.

9.

RFP-18-005 Computer Hardware & Laptops **

On a motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Collins, the Board voted unanimously to accept the recommendation from Director Dockery to award the bid for RFP-18-005 Computer Hardware & Laptops to SHI International Corporation as they are the apparent low bidder with a total amount of \$75,504.47 to be paid on a five year lease in the amount of \$1,496.64 a month. The bid opening was December 20, 2018 at 2pm.

10.

RFP-18-006 Office 365 & Antivirus **

On a motion by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Cliatt, the Board voted unanimously to accept the recommendation from Director Dockery to award the bid for RFP-18-006 Office 365 & Antivirus to SHI International Corporation as they are the apparent low bidder with a total amount of \$11,993.73. The bid opening was December 20, 2018 at 2pm.

11.

RFP-18-007 IT Services

On a motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Henderson, the Board voted unanimously to accept the recommendation from Director Dockery to reject all bids as they were higher, but thousands of dollars, than our current provider.

12.

Authorization to Sign County Checks

On a motion by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Henderson, the Board voted unanimously to approve Commissioner Collins to be authorized to sign county checks.

13.

Approval of Generator for Jail

On a motion by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Cliatt, the Board voted unanimously to approve the purchase of a generator for the jail in the amount of \$17,800 from J&T Service Center. Director Seymour stated that this generator operates the jail offices and the cell blocks and they are currently using the Public Works generator. Director Arnett stated that the funds to purchase the generator will be \$15,800 from the Jail Fee Fund and \$2,000 from SPLOST General Infrastructure.

14.

Recommend Policy Change for Re-Hires

On a motion by Commissioner Henderson, seconded by Commissioner Collins, the Board voted unanimously to approve a policy change for re-hires stating, "All re-hire employees will continue years of service from previous employment once they have completed one year of employment from date of re-hire." Chairman Norman stated that we have good employee leave and come back, that are currently starting as a new employee, and this will allow them to continue their service with the county.

15.

County Attorney Appointment

On a motion by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Cliatt, the Board voted unanimously to re-appoint Benjamin Jackson as the County Attorney.

16.

Vice-Chairman Appointment

On a motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Henderson, the Board voted unanimously to re-appoint Commissioner Larry Collins as Vice-Chairman.

17.

Committee Appointments

Chairman Norman made the following committee appointments for 2019.

Finance Committee:

Commissioner Collins, Chairman
Commissioner Wade, Vice-Chairman.

Recreation Committee:

Commissioner Wade, Chairman
Commissioner Henderson, Vice-Chairman.

Public Works Committee:

Commissioner Cliatt, Chairman
Commissioner Collins, Vice-Chairman.

General Government Committee:

Commissioner Henderson, Chairman
Commissioner Cliatt, Vice-Chairman.

18.

Board Appointments

Development Authority Board-District Two

On a motion by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Cliatt, the Board voted unanimously to re-appoint Bruce Turner to the Development Authority Board.

Development Authority Board-At Large by Chairman Norman

Chairman Norman did not appoint someone at this time.

Development Authority Board-At Large by Board of Commissioners

On a motion by Commissioner Henderson, seconded by Commissioner Wade, the Board voted unanimously to re-appoint Guil Mattison to the Development Authority Board.

Library Board-District One

On a motion by Commissioner Henderson, seconded by Commissioner Cliatt, the Board voted unanimously to re-appoint Evelyn Norman to the Library Board.

Library Board-At Large by Chairman Norman

On a motion by Commissioner Wade, seconded by Commissioner Collins, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Beth Beggs to the Library Board.

Planning Commission-District Two

On a motion by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Cliatt, the Board voted unanimously to re-appoint Ann Scott to the Planning Commission Board.

Tax Assessors-At Large by Chairman Norman

On a motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Collins, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Margaret Burg to the Tax Assessors Board.

19.

Sheriff's Vehicle

On a motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Wade, the Board voted unanimously to accept a 2016 Ford Interceptor Sedan Police Vehicle from the Georgia Governor's Office of Highway Safety given to the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office.

20.

Speed Limit on Ashmore Barden Road

On a motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Wade, the Board voted unanimously to reduce the speed limit on Ashmore Barden Road from 55mph to 45mph.

21.


Adjourn

On a motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Collins, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm.



Walker T. Norman, Chairman

Attest:



Sherry E. McKellar, County Clerk

**** Note:** See minutes from January 22, 2019 Board of Commissioners Called Meeting