

## Stewart County Commission Meeting Minutes *for April 14, 2020*

The Stewart County Commission met for a regular session beginning at 4:30 pm on April 14 in the Courtroom of the Stewart County Courthouse. Chairman Joseph B. Williams presided, with Vice Chair Arcola Scott and Commissioners Tyrone Nelson and Joe Lee Williams in attendance. Commissioner Ernie Brown did not attend. County Manager Mac Moye attended as well.

The meeting convened under special guidelines set out by County Attorney Bin Minter as provided by Governor Brian Kemp, the CDC, the ACCG, and the Georgia Department of Public Health for gatherings during a time of health emergency. The state is under a "social distancing" health-emergency order in response to the novel coronavirus pandemic. All in attendance, including the Commissioners, were spaced at least six feet from the next person in the courtroom. Prior to the meeting, the courtroom had been sanitized, and access had been restricted until the meeting time. All attendees' temperatures were measured by EMT personnel, and each attendee answered questions about general health.

The Commission and audience began the meeting with a recitation of the "Pledge of Allegiance" to the flag of the United States of America.

In public appearances, Sheriff Larry Jones was not present.

Road Superintendent Gene Haynes reported on various county issues, including the misuse by a citizen of the county waste-dumpsters and the wrongful placement of hay bales by an unidentified citizen on Moore's Store Road. Superintendent Haynes reported that Evergreen Timber started and then stopped repair of the damage it had caused on Mill Bethel Road in a logging operation during the March 3<sup>rd</sup> monsoon. The Road Department had to cut a small section of Singer Pond Road following the major rainstorm of April 13 in order to repair a hole. Concerning the Philadelphia Road repair grant, we have provided all the needed documentation. Superintendent Haynes asked the Commissioners to approve the purchase of "moclay," a special road-repair material which is found on the property of Robert Lee in this county.

EMS Director Ed Lynch reported that he is looking into a laundry service for EMT uniforms. He reported that he has received word that his application for funds from Golden Triangle for gas detectors for the firetrucks has been approved.

County Manager Moye deferred to his report which is attached to these minutes.

Chairman Williams reported that work is almost complete on the Wims Center roof, and the repaired roof did successfully prevent rain leaks in yesterday's storm. The Commission is working on plans in order to get bids for the Omaha precinct building.

The Commission voted on the proposed building permit forms prepared by the county attorney. Motion was made by Commissioner Williams and seconded by the Chairman. The motion passed unanimously at 4-0. Those forms are attached to these minutes.

Commissioner Williams moved that the county should purchase "moclay" from Robert Lee as needed. Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously at 4-0.

Vice Chair Scott moved that the meeting be closed while the Commission goes into executive session to discuss personnel. Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion, which subsequently passed at 3-1, with Commissioner Williams voting "nay." At this point, Commissioner Williams excused himself from the meeting. Others in attendance waited outside.

The regular meeting was reconvened following the executive session by motion of Vice-Chair Scott and upon the second of Commissioner Nelson. The motion carried unanimously at 3-0. No action was taken in the executive session.

At Vice-Chair Scott's request, the County Attorney, Bin Minter, explained the law as it relates to paying county employees during the pandemic. Attorney Minter provided a subsequent email to summarize his comments, and this email is attached to the minutes.

Commission Chair Joseph B. Williams declared that there would be no more work sessions of the Commission until the pandemic is finished. County Manager Moye should notify the newspaper of this announcement.

In his closing comments, Chairman Williams asked the people of Stewart County to take the pandemic seriously and not to gather in groups.

Vice-Chair Scott asked that the courthouse and road department should measure temperatures of staff and visitors each day and keep a secure record of these measurements. She asked Chief Lynch to assist in providing the proper forms for documentation.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned by motion of Commissioner Nelson and second by Vice-Chair Scott. The motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.



Joseph B. Williams, Chair  
Stewart County Commission



Mac Moye, Manager  
Stewart County Commission