

The Newton County Board of Commissioners regular board meeting was held on Tuesday, September 20, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners meeting room on the 3rd floor in the Historic Courthouse. This meeting was open to the public and live streamed on the Newton County YouTube Channel Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaelYAOMGdiPaiqUz7SdTfQ>

Present were, Chairman Banes, Commissioners Stan Edwards, Demond Mason, Alana Sanders, J.C. Henderson, Ronnie Cowan, Interim County Manager Jarvis Sims, Attorney Patrick Jaugstetter and Deputy Clerk Susan Nolley. Other administrative staff and the media staff were also present.

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Banes
2. **Invocation:** Commissioner Sanders
3. **Pledge:** led by Commissioner Cowan
4. **Adoption of the Agenda**
Commissioner Edwards motioned to approve adoption of the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Mason and was passed unanimously.
5. **Citizen Comments:** None
6. **Reports from Chairman Banes**
Upcoming events: September 30th Lidl Groundbreaking
BOC Retreat – November 2-4 2022
7. **Reports from ICM Jarvis Sims** Nothing at this time
8. **Unfinished Business** (None to consider)
9. **Consent Agenda**
 - 9a) Minutes: Regular Meeting September 6, 2022
 - 9b) Newton County Resource Court to apply for the FY23 Enhancement and Innovation Grant through CACJ (Council of Accountability Court Judges)
 - 9c) Newton County Sheriff's Office to apply for the Accountability Court Funding Grant.
 - 9d) Board Appointment- Animal Services Board - Ms. Karla Hooper-District 3

Commissioner Edwards motioned to approve all consent agenda items listed 9a – 9d, seconded by Commissioner Mason and was passed unanimously.

Discussion to approve Lose & Associates, Inc. Professional Services Agreement for Yellow River Trail System Phase 1 Amendment #2 to modify previous work plan and add additional work. Pursuant to Section II, the parties agree to amend Section III B of the agreement to establish the maximum contract price by \$30,500.00 increasing the overall Agreement to \$207,000.00. (Parks & Recreation Department)

Commissioner Cowan motioned to approve Lose & Associates, Inc. Professional Services Agreement Amendment #2 for Yellow River Trail System Phase 1, seconded by Commissioner Henderson and was passed unanimously.

Discussion to approve increasing the existing GEFA loan for the Williams Street Project from \$12,000,000.00 to \$22,000,000.00 to support the current construction needs and additional scope of the project.

Commissioner Mason motioned to approve increasing the existing GEFA loan for the Williams Street Project amount from \$12,000,000.00 to \$22,000,000.00 to support the current construction needs and additional scope of the project, seconded by Commissioner Cowan and was passed unanimously.

Discussion to approve the SFY 2023 Transportation Services MOU Agreement with Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NEGRC).
Agreement Term: July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023.

Commissioner Henderson motioned to approve the SFY 2023 Transportation Services MOU Agreement with Northeast Georgia Regional Commissioner, seconded by Commissioner Mason and was passed unanimously.

Discussion of the Adoption of Resolution R092022
Abandonment of roadway at Bailey Drive and Lakeside Drive

**A RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA, TO DETERMINE THAT CERTAIN
COUNTY RIGHT-OF-WAY NO LONGER SERVES A SUBSTANTIAL
PUBLIC PURPOSE; TO INITIATE ABANDONMENT PROCEDURES;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Commissioner Henderson motioned to approve Adoption of Resolution R092022 Abandonment of roadway at Bailey Drive and Lakeside Drive, seconded by Commissioner Mason and was passed unanimously.

Discussion to purchase wetland credits for Access Road @ Crowell Road and I-20 Project. Cost: \$613,600.00/Funding Source: 2017 SPLOST

Commissioner Sanders motioned approval to purchase wetland credits for Access Road @ Crowell Road and I-20 Project, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and was passed unanimously.

Discussion to approve the 2022-2023 Property & Casualty Insurance renewal Proposal and approve the budget transfer to increase in revenue to offset the additional insurance expense.

Scott Thomason of Gallagher Insurance/Risk Management/Consulting presented the Executive Summary of Property & Casualty Insurance renewal proposal of the Self - Protected Insurance Program for board approval.

Chairman Banes opened the floor for discussion from the board.
Commissioner Sanders expressed concern to clauses of the terms as it relates to settlement cases.

Commissioner Mason expressed concerns of the cost increase, and how will it impact the budget, and the ability for the county to move forward.

Commissioner Cowan commented, decisions should be made based on good legal authority.

Scott Thomason commented, this is the best long term solution and he has seen success with other entities.

The Self-Protected Insurance Program will protect the constitutional officers in addition to the Board of Commissioners. The Law Enforcement liability is a separate policy and is not included.

ICM Sims and Brittany White, Finance Director worked together for a solution to resolve the increase.

The solution is to amend the budget to increase the LOST revenue (budget transfer) to offset the additional unexpected insurance expense.

Commissioner Edwards motioned to approve the 2022-2023 Newton County Board of Commissioners Property & Casualty Insurance renewal proposal and to amend the budget transfer increasing the LOST revenue to offset the additional unexpected insurance expense, seconded by Commissioner Mason and was passed unanimously.

* a copy of the executive summary of the Property & Casualty Insurance renewal proposal and the budget transfer is attached and officially a part of these minutes.

Consideration of Resolution R092022A - Terminating License Agreement authorizing existing encroachments on 25- foot unnamed road in favor of Hazelrig Family Trust (160 Birch Road).

Commissioner Edwards motioned to approve Resolution R09022A authorizing termination of license agreement of 25-foot unnamed road (160 Birch Road), seconded by Commissioner Cowan and was passed unanimously.

Discussion to approve iParametrics Task Order #1 (ARPA) American Rescue Plan Act Grant Management Services. *a copy of the iParametrics Task Order #1is attached and officially a part of these minutes.

Shannon Kennedy of iParametrics presented Task Order #1 (ARPA) American Rescuse Plan Act Grant Management Services. The Task Order will include physical audits of the organizations that have already received funds.

iParametrics recommendation is that each Commissioner put their allocated ARPA funds into a general structured countywide grant program and be made available for any non-profit to apply. This program would alleviate perception of any conflicts of interest and allow fair opportunity. There will be a defined application process to determine how non-profits will be awarded funds. The maximum amount is up to \$20,000.00.

Commissioner Mason motioned to approve iParametrics Task Order #1, seconded by Commissioner Cowan and was passed unanimously.

Alcohol Beverage License

Chairman Banes read the 1st Reading

Convenience Stores Inc. dba J.P. Potts

15524 Highway 36 Covington, Georgia 30014 Licensee: Kenneth Johnson located in District 1

Citizen Comments

Mr. John Dobbs - commented and voice concerns of the increase and cost of insurance.

Board Comments

Commissioner Edwards – commented on potential wetland credits

Commissioner Mason expressed he had opportunity to attend an Economic Leadership Network event in Palm Beach County Florida and shared ideas of interest to potentially implement in the community regarding zoning, private rails and Economic Development.

Commissioner Sanders commented on the lawsuit and video.

Commissioner Henderson commented on the lawsuit.

8:32 p.m.

Chairman Banes called for a motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose to discuss

Land Acquisition. No action to be taken.

Commissioner Henderson motioned to enter into Executive Session to discuss land acquisition, seconded by Commissioner Mason and was passed unanimously.

9:10 p.m. Adjournment of the meeting.

Commissioner Edwards motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Mason.

Marcello Banes Chairman

Respectfully Submitted:

Susan G. Nolley Deputy Clerk