

Candler County Board of Commissioners

October 16, 2023

5:00 p.m.

The following is a summary of the subjects acted on during the Monday, October 16, 2023 meeting (Summary of an open meeting in compliance with O.C.G.A. §50-14-1 (2)).

Chairman Glyn Thrift presided with Vice-Chairman Brad Jones, Commissioners Gregory Thomas, David Robinson and Blake Hendrix in attendance. Also attending were County Administrator Bryan Aasheim, County Clerk Kellie Lank and attorney Cindy Delgado sat in for County Attorney Kendall Gross. Jerri Goodman represented the Metter Advertiser.

Guests attending this meeting included: Candler County Sheriff John Miles and Captain Justin Wells, Daniel Case and Mr. and Mrs. Mike Goldman (Janet).

1. Call to Order

Chairman Thrift called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

2. Invocation and *Pledge of Allegiance* –

Commissioner Thomas delivered the invocation and Chairman Thrift led the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

3. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Aasheim requested the agenda be amended to modify and add the following items:

8. New Business

- h. Consideration of proposals for a “mule” vehicle for the Recreation Dept. with a SPLOST appropriation of \$15,000**
- i. Consideration of proposals for repair of damage to the Recreation Department caused by hurricane Idalia**
- j. Consideration of an invoice submitted by the City of Metter to the Candler County Board of Commissioners for \$99,000 for ½ of the cost to purchase a 2003 KME Ladder Truck**
- k. Consideration of a request from the County Administrator for a SPLOST appropriation of not more than \$1,500 for the replacement of one (1) workstation in the Administration division (1510)**
- l. Consideration of a request from the Candler County Sheriff for a SPLOST appropriation of \$5,183.15 for the replacement of a transmission in a 2017 Chevrolet Tahoe (asset #9991)**
- m. Discussion regarding the Metter-Candler Recreation Department, the Recreation Advisory Board, and events which have occurred during the recreation football season in 2023**

Vice-Chairman Jones made a motion to approve the agenda as requested. Chairman Thrift provided a second. The motion carried 4-0.

*****Commissioner Hendrix entered the meeting at 5:13 p.m.*****

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4. **Citizens wishing to address the Commission** – *Citizens will be allowed to address the commission individually for a period of up to 5 minutes.*

a. Goldman, Janet – Request for the Board of Commissioners of Candler County, Georgia to adopt an ordinance to restrict the discharge of firearms

Administrator Aasheim called on Mr. and Mrs. Goldman to express their concern about gunfire within the boundary of the subdivision, Southern Manor located off of Salem Church Road. The Goldman's requested the Commission consider adopting an ordinance to restrict the discharge of firearms. Ms. Delgado spoke to the existing legal regulations on the state level in place that would prohibit discharging a firearm or weapon across someone else's property. She mentioned two concerns with the County adopting such an ordinance; first, limitations placed on a citizen's rights and property. Secondly, enforcement of the ordinance. Mrs. Goldman stated the deputy who came to their property suggested she start with the County Commissioners. She also stated the deputy would like to have a 50' from the road restriction placed on deer stand. Ms. Delgado will contact the Sheriff's Office and the deputy to find out what their position is on such a regulation. Ms. Delgado then documented Mr. and Mrs. Goldman's contact information so that she could follow up with them after consulting with the Sheriff's Office on this matter.

5. **Application for Commission approval, permit or variance –**

a. Radio Jones, LLC; Dennis Jones – Request for a variance to the Candler County Telecommunications Tower Ordinance, Section 4.3 Setbacks and Separation, to allow a radio communication tower to be erected on parcel #069 033 located off Cal Maine Rd.

Administrator Aasheim stated Dennis Jones was unable to appear again before the Commission to make his request. Therefore, Administrator Aasheim requested this item be removed from the agenda until Mr. Jones makes another request to have the item added to a future agenda.

Vice-Chairman Jones made a motion to remove the item Radio Jones, LLC; Dennis Jones – Request for a variance to the Candler County Telecommunications Tower Ordinance, Section 4.3 Setbacks and Separation, to allow a radio communication tower to be erected on parcel #069 033 located off Cal Maine Rd. Commissioner Robinson provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

6. **Approval of Minutes –**

a. October 2, 2023 1st Regular Monthly Meeting

Commissioner Robinson made a motion to approve the October 2, 2023 1st Regular Meeting minutes. Commissioner Thomas provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

7. **Old Business**

a. Consideration of the proposed zoning ordinance, zoning board, zoning administration and timing of public hearings

Administrator Aasheim requested this item be tabled until the November 6, 2023 meeting. Commissioner Hendrix made a motion to table the item Consideration of the proposed zoning ordinance, zoning board, zoning administration and timing of public hearings until the November 6, 2023 Meeting. Commissioner Thomas provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

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8. New Business

a. Consideration of a proposed standard form of agreement between the owner (Candler County Board of Commissioners) and the constructor (Pope Construction Company, LLC) for the construction of the Candler County Jail facility

Administrator Aasheim presented a copy of the proposed standard form of agreement between the Candler County Board of Commissioner and Pope Construction Company, LLC for the construction of the Candler County Jail facility. The agreement has been reviewed by the County Attorney. Pope Construction's pre-construction fees are set at \$33,000.00 and the construction management fees are set at \$415,000.00. The County's one request of change to the agreement that allowed for litigation rather than arbitration in the event of a dispute is included in this proposed agreement. Administrator Aasheim recommended the County enter into this agreement with the constructor, Pope Construction Company, LLC for the construction of the Candler County Jail facility.

Commissioner Hendrix made a motion to approve a proposed standard form of agreement between Candler County Board of Commissioners and Pope Construction Company, LLC for the construction of the Candler County Jail facility. Commissioner Thomas provided a second. The motion carried 5-0. (Exhibit A)

b. Consideration of a request from the County Administrator to create the position of Zoning Administrator, to assign the position to the Special Service District (270), to appropriate funding for the position and to adopt a job description and training requirements as proposed

Administrator Aasheim requested the Board consider creating a position of Zoning Administrator, to assign the position to the Special Service District under Fund 270, to appropriate funding for the position and to adopt a job description and training requirements as proposed. He proposed to make a change to the minimum qualifications job within the description to read "associates degree, more than five years of related experience as a code enforcement officer or experience in a similarly complex business or local government position". Administrator Aasheim stated the reason for this requested change is that there may be employees in the County who are familiar with the job requirements or have been doing a job within the County who may wish to apply and who may have suitable experience that we may want to consider. He also mentioned there may be employees from other Counties who do not have a college degree, but who may have work experience the County Commissioners would consider as applicants. Administrator Aasheim requested the Commissioners consider a salary range for this position. Commissioner Thomas requested that Administrator Aasheim collect comparable data from surrounding counties with similar Zoning Administrator positions. Administrator Aasheim will collect and prepare the data requested.

Commissioner Hendrix made a motion to approve a request from the County Administrator to create the position of Zoning Administrator, to assign the position to the Special Service District (270), to appropriate funding for the position and to adopt a job description and training requirements as proposed. Vice-Chairman Jones provided a second. The motion carried 4-1, with Commissioner Robinson voted against the motion.

c. Consideration of proposed Work Order No. 48 from EMC Engineering for engineering services at a proposed cost of \$11,000 related to the repair of the stormwater drainage for Cal Maine Rd

Administrator Aasheim presented proposed Work Order No. 48 from EMC Engineering Services, Inc. for engineering services at a proposed cost of \$11,000.00 related to repair of the stormwater drainage for Cal Maine Road. The funding source for the repairs will be paid from TSPLOST discretionary funds, and there may be a partial reimbursement from GEMA/FEMA considering the damage was caused from Hurricane Idalia.

Commissioner Thomas made a motion to approve the proposed Work Order No. 48 from EMC Engineering for engineering services at a proposed cost of \$11,000 related to the repair of the stormwater drainage for Cal Maine Road. Vice-Chairman Jones provided a second. The motion carried 5-0. (Exhibit B)

d. Consideration of a proposal from Metter Ford for a 2023 Ford F150 4X4 work truck at a price of \$38,320.32 to appropriate SPLOST funding not to exceed \$40,000 for the purchase of the vehicle and equipment

Administrator Aasheim presented a proposal from Metter Ford for a 2023 Ford F150 4x4 work truck at a price of \$38,320.32 and to appropriate SPLOST funding not to exceed \$40,000.00 for the purchase of the vehicle and equipment.

Commissioner Thomas made a motion to approve the purchase of a 2023 Ford F150 4X4 work truck at a price of \$38,320.32 to appropriate SPLOST funding not to exceed \$40,000 for the purchase of the vehicle and equipment from Metter Ford. Vice-Chairman Jones provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

e. Consideration of a proposal from Dominion Voting for on-site support services for the early voting and voting day election on November 7, 2023 at a cost of \$7,500

Administrator Aasheim presented a proposal from Dominion Voting for on-site support services for early voting and voting day election on November 7, 2023 at a cost of \$7,500.00. He explained this is the routine agreement Dominion Voting is required for every election to perform on-site services of their voting equipment the County purchased from Dominion Voting to ensure the equipment is performing correctly.

Commissioner Hendrix made a motion to approve the proposal from Dominion Voting for on-site support services for the early voting and voting day election on November 7, 2023 at a cost of \$7,500. Commissioner Thomas provided a second. The motion carried 4-1, with Commissioner Robinson voting against the motion. (Exhibit C)

f. Consideration of a request from the Election Superintendent for an appropriation for the proposed annual cost of EasyVote check-in systems at a cost of \$1,500 for a year beginning July 1, 2023

Administrator Aasheim presented a request from the Candler County Election Superintendent for an appropriation for the proposed annual cost of EasyVote check-in systems at a cost of \$1,500.00 for a year beginning July 1, 2023. The budget for EasyVote was eliminated from the Elections division because it was going to be replaced by a new PAD System. However, the PAD System is not ready for this election. Administrator Aasheim explained the County is required to go back to EasyVote and he then requested the Commission approve the \$1,500.00 appropriation to be added to the Election Division's budget.

Commissioner Hendrix made a motion to approve the request from the Election Superintendent for an appropriation for the proposed annual cost of EasyVote check-in systems at a cost of \$1,500 for a year beginning July 1, 2023. Commissioner Thomas provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

g. Consideration of the proposed inflation pay supplement as authorized in the FY24 Candler County budget

Administrator Aasheim presented the proposed amounts and timing of the inflation pay supplement as authorized in the FY24 Candler County Budget. There is an appropriation of \$85,000.00 from the ARPA Fund. The prorated amount graduates down from the full \$1,000.00 payment for employees before May 1, 2023; 50% for employees hired between May 1 and September 30, 2023; 25% for employees hired between October 1 and November 30, 2023; and 0% for employees hired after December 1, 2023. Part-time employees must work an average of 20 hours per week to be eligible and will receive ½ of the full-time eligibility amount.

Commissioner Hendrix made a motion to approve the proposed inflation pay supplement as authorized in the FY24 Candler County budget with the appropriation of \$85,000.00 to be paid from the ARPA Fund. Vice-Chairman Jones provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

h. Consideration of proposals for a "mule" vehicle for the Recreation Dept. with a SPLOST appropriation of \$15,000

Administrator Aasheim requested the Commissioner consider a proposal for a side-by-side vehicle for the Recreation Department with an approved SPLOST appropriation of \$15,000.00. Three brands were priced: a Kawasaki Mule SX for \$8,064.00, a Kubota RTV-X900 Full size Diesel for \$19,576.86, a Kubota RTV520 Gas for \$14,076.86, a John Deere HPX615E for \$14,000.00 and a John Deere HPX615E for \$12,500.00. Vice-Chairman Jones requested information regarding Coach Robins' preference of the John Deere for \$14,000.00. A discussion was held.

Commissioner Robinson made a motion to approve the purchase of the John Deere HPX615E for \$14,000.00 funded by SPLOST. Commissioner Thomas provided a second. The motion carried 4-1, with Vice-Chairman Jones voting against the purchase.

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i. Consideration of proposals for repair of damage to the Recreation Department caused by hurricane Idalia

Administrator Aasheim presented a proposal for repair to damage to the Recreation Department caused by hurricane Idalia. ACCG IRMA insurance provided an estimate of repairs in the amount of \$18,770.86. An initial payment of \$14,639.78 for damages from ACCG IRMA has been received. This amount is less the depreciation. However, the remaining depreciation amount will be paid upon repair. Three contractors provided bids:

	Coastal Plains Home Improvement, LLC	Professional Roofing & Industrial	Harrison Home Innovations & Improvements, LLC
Baseball Backstop Repair	\$ 550.00	\$ -	\$ 820.00
Bleacher Roof Repair	\$ 3,150.00	\$ 4,970.58	\$ 5,824.73
Walking Trail Bridge Repair	\$ 1,320.00	\$ -	
South Bridge			\$ 6,348.68
North Bridge			\$ 6,320.86
TOTAL COST	\$ 5,020.00	\$ 4,970.58	\$ 19,314.27

*Recommends replacment
of S. Bridge at a cost of
\$7,441.95

Vice-Chairman Jones made a motion to accept the bid and recommended replacement of the South Bridge from Harrison Home Innovations & Improvements, LLC for a total cost total of \$24,407.54. Commissioner Thomas provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

Vice-Chairman Jones then requested a copy of the contractor's business license be provided.

j. Consideration of an invoice submitted by the City of Metter to the Candler County Board of Commissioners for \$99,000 for ½ of the cost to purchase a 2003 KME Ladder Truck

Administrator Aasheim presented an invoice submitted by the City of Metter to the Candler County Board of Commissioners for \$99,000 for ½ of the cost to purchase a 2003 KME Ladder Truck to be paid from SPLOST funds.

Commissioner Hendrix made a motion to approve the payment of the invoice of \$99,000.00 submitted by the City of Metter for the 2003 KME Ladder Truck from the County's 2018 SPLOST account. Vice-Chairman Jones provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

k. Consideration of a request from the County Administrator for a SPLOST appropriation of not more than \$1,500 for the replacement of one (1) workstation in the Administration division (1510)

Administrator Aasheim requested the Commissioners consider a SPLOST appropriation of not more than \$1,500 for the replacement of one (1) workstation in the Administration division. He explained the payroll clerk's computer is over five years old and has been malfunctioning and is at the end of life.

Chairman Thrift made a motion to approve the \$1,500.00 SPLOST appropriation to replace one computer workstation in the administration office. Commissioner Hendrix provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

l. Consideration of a request from the Candler County Sheriff for a SPLOST appropriation of \$5,183.15 for the replacement of a transmission in a 2017 Chevrolet Tahoe (asset #9991)

Administrator Aasheim presented a request from the Candler County Sheriff to change the funding source for the payment made to Daniel Bishop Chevrolet in the amount of \$5,183.15 for the replacement of a transmission in a 2017 Chevrolet Tahoe (asset #9991). The original payment for the transmission repairs were paid from the General Fund operating account and charged to the Sheriff's budget under equipment repairs and maintenance. Administrator Aasheim requested the funding source be a SPLOST appropriation and reimburse the General Fund for this capital purchase.

Commissioner Hendrix made a motion to approve a request from the Candler County Sheriff for a SPLOST appropriation of \$5,183.15 for the replacement of a transmission in a 2017 Chevrolet Tahoe (asset #9991) Vice-Chairman Jones provided a second. The motion carried 5-0.

m. Discussion regarding the Metter-Candler Recreation Department, the Recreation Advisory Board, and events which have occurred during the recreation football season in 2023

Administrator Aasheim summarized the events leading up to the need for a discussion regarding the Metter-Candler Recreation Department, the Recreation Advisory Board, and a number of issues which have occurred during the recreation football season in 2023. The issues have primarily centered around the 10U football program that have to do with interactions between coaches and coaches, parents and coaches, parents and referees, or coaches and referees. These issues have more consistently than they should led to comments and/or threats which are inconsistent with the goals of the Candler County Recreation Department. These situations resulted in several meetings between the Recreation Department Director and coaches and/or other participants. However, Administrator Aasheim informed the Commissioners that those meetings did not have the intended effect and ultimately staff made the decision to hire off-duty Sheriff's Deputies to be on campus during recreation events. The County Attorney has been consulted, and there are some issues the Board of Commissioners and the Recreation Department Advisory Board need to consider going into the next seasons. The costs of \$135.00/ per off-duty Deputy recently incurred is not budgeted and would add significant costs to the recreation program. A revenue generation to offset these costs is needed considering the inability for the adults to represent behavior reflects of the department's goals.

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Vice-Chairman Jones asked for input from Sheriff Miles and Captain Wells would suggest to help resolve the issues. Sheriff Miles stated law enforcement is on site for school athletic programs in the event of criminal activity and to keep the peace. The school administration and high school staff enforce the policies on the school campus. A discussion was held about suspending the programs for a season. However, this suggestion was not favorable. Administrator Aasheim recommended developing policies for participant and/or public behavior at the recreation department, but this may have enforcement limitations due to staff shortage. Further, he suggested the Recreation Advisory Board meeting more regularly and provide input to help resolve these problems. Administrator Aasheim concluded with suggesting that volunteers that work with children at the recreation department go through a screening process that includes a criminal background and drug screening for coaches, assistant coaches and referees. Article II: Section 1 of the Candler County Recreation Advisory Board By-laws allows for the County Administrator and one County Commissioner to be appointed by a majority vote the full Board of the County Commissioners to serve as ex-officio members of the Advisory Board. Administrator Aasheim explained he attended the meetings prior to relocating, and suggested the involvement of the commission would be good at this point. Chairman Thrift nominated Commissioner Hendrix to be the ex-officio member of the Advisory Board. Commissioner Hendrix agreed to serve in this capacity.

Chairman Thrift made a motion to create and begin background check policy on Coaches, Asst Coaches, Referees. Blake Hendrix as ex-officio member of the Recreation Department Advisory Board. Commissioner Thomas provided a second. The motion carried 4-1, with Commissioner Hendrix abstaining from voting on this item.

9. Report from Chairman

Chairman Thrift reported on attending the Georgia Ports Meeting. He reminded everyone of the Annual State of the Community Address.

10. Report from County Administrator

Administrator Aasheim reported on the following topics:

- Fall at 25 Daniels Street reported to insurance carrier.
- Continued issues with IBG Network repricing. Working with Glenn Davis to resolve issues, but may have to consider dropping IBG Network.
- The City of Metter Fire Department submitted the FY2023 Fire Budget Surplus check in the amount of \$41,276.50. The County agrees to pay the \$99,000.00 invoice for the ladder truck from SPLOST.
- Bulloch County paid \$300,000.00 for their jetta to clean out the culvert and sewer pipes. Requested feedback from the Board to set up a demonstration. Vice-Chairman Jones suggested continue to utilize the City of Metter Fire Department so long as they continue to perform this service at no cost to the County.

11. Report from Attorney

Ms. Delgado had nothing to report.

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12. Reports from the Commissioners

Commissioner Thomas representing Commission District 1, reported on Rec Dept complaints.

Vice-Chairman Jones representing Commission District 2, requested road repairs be made to Ellis Road and Jones Road.

Commissioner Robinson representing Commission District 3, reported on the ACCG LLC training and provided cards of contractors who may have information on funding sources for road projects. Also provided a card from GDOT regarding the repairs to the shoulders of the road on Hwy 46 and Hwy 57.

Commissioner Hendrix representing Commissioner District 4, a citizen reported noise complaints on Cartwright Road.

Commissioner Hendrix exited the meeting at 6:18 p.m. and did not attend the executive session.

13. Executive Session – Personnel and litigation

Commissioner Robinson moved to exit into Executive Session to discuss personnel and litigation at 6:18 p.m. Vice-Chairman Jones provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Robinson moved to exit Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting at 7:10 p.m. Commissioner Thomas provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Thrift moved to authorize the signing of the *Closed Meeting Affidavit* certifying that executive session was for personnel. Commissioner Robinson provided the second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Thrift made a motion to authorize Recreation Department Director Robins to hire Bobby Cheley as a part-time, temporary landscape employee. Commissioner Thomas provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

14. Adjournment

Commissioner Thomas moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. Commissioner Robinson provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.



Kellie Lank, County Clerk