

**THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE
CRAWFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, 17 MAY 2016**

**THE MEETING OF THE CRAWFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:02 P.M.**

The following members were present: Mr. Paul Chapman (Chairman), Mr. Bobby Blasingame (Vice-Chairman), Mr. John Thomas, Mr. Justin Spillers and Mr. Sterling Braswell.

INVOCATION GIVEN BY MR. JOHN THOMAS

AGENDA APPROVAL

Mr. Chapman asked to amend the agenda. He requested that "*Appointment – Health Department*" and "*Discussion – Roads*" be added under "*New Business*". Mr. Spillers made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Mr. Thomas seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

FIRST ON THE AGENDA

Approval of Minutes: *Regularly Scheduled Meeting of 03 May 2016*

Mr. Chapman asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the regularly scheduled meeting of 03 May 2016. Mr. Blasingame made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Spillers seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

SECOND ON THE AGENDA

Announcements: *EMA – Crawford County Storm Ready*

Mr. Kelly stated the US Department of Commerce's National Weather Service division has re-recognized Crawford County as a "Storm Ready Community". Mr. Kelly stated that the County's EMA department was responsible for maintaining this status.

THIRD ON THE AGENDA

Old Business: *Appointment – Georgia Small Business Lender Membership*

Mr. Kelly stated that the Georgia Small Business Lender (GSBL) was established by the Middle Georgia Regional Commission to make loans to small businesses in our region. He went on to say that the County would need to appoint a member to the Board before 9/30/16.

The Board tabled the appointment at this time.

FOURTH ON THE AGENDA

New Business: *Appointment – Phoenix Center Community Service Board*

Mr. Kelly stated that Mr. Harold Dickey's term as board member of the Phoenix Center Community Service Board will expire on June 30, 2016. The Phoenix Center has requested that Mr. Dickey be considered for another three-year term. The term would begin July 1, 2016 and expire June 30, 2019.

Mr. Blasingame made the motion to reappoint Mr. Dickey to the three-year term. Mr. Braswell seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

New Business: *Authorization – Planfirst Application*

Mr. Kelly requested the Board consider authorizing the Middle Georgia Regional Commission to submit a "Planfirst" application to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) on behalf of Crawford County. He went on to say, that once designated as a Planfirst County, Crawford County would have access to multiple incentives like statewide recognition, bonus points on DCA programs, and the ability to apply for CDBG funding annually.

Mr. Spillers made the motion to approve the request. Mr. Braswell seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

New Business: *Macon Judicial Circuit Indigent Defense Agreement*

Mr. Kelly requested the Board enter into a tri-county agreement between Crawford County, Bibb County, and Peach County to provide indigent defense. He went on to say that Crawford County would fund seven (7%) percent, Bibb County would fund eighty one (81%) percent, and Peach County would fund twelve (12%) of the Public Defender Budget. Mr. Kelly added that Crawford County's portion will increase by \$21,227.00 over the same period last year.

Mr. Thomas made the motion to enter into the agreement. Mr. Spillers seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

New Business: *Appointment – Health Department*

The Crawford County Health Department has requested the Board consider appointing Dr. Gatton as the "Physician appointed by the County Commissioners" to replace Dr. Balcos who has retired. They also request that Mrs. Cynthia Simpson be appointed to the "Consumer Advocate" for the County to replace Dr. Gatton who is currently serving in that capacity.

Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve the appointments. Mr. Spillers seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

New Business: *Discussion - Roads*

Mr. Chapman stated he was concerned with the condition of various dirt roads that were lightly traveled and in a state of semi disrepair. These roads are primarily used for logging and hunting but were on the County Road list. He went on to say he was concerned about the liability to the County due to the condition of those roads.

Mr. Mincey stated that the County will usually be protected financially by sovereign immunity. This immunity is typically absolute unless waived. In the absence of strict guidelines, road maintenance is viewed as a discretionary act and therefor no liability stems therefrom. In other words, no specific act of maintenance is mandatory.

Mr. Mincey went on to say that immunity does not always protect the coffers and certainly does nothing for the injured traveler. The County's liability generally stems from a known or reported danger in the roadway that is ignored. Most cases involve a report of a bridge or culvert being washed away or a tree falling across and blocking the roadway and there being no efforts taken to make the situation safe in a timely manner. It is important to understand that we have a responsibility to blockade or repair a road when it becomes impassable for regular travel. It is apparent that some of the roads on our county road list are in need of attention. The County needs to either bring these roads up to a passable standard or close them to thru traffic with signage and a blockade at any creek crossings. This will protect the county from any liability.

The Board requested that Mr. Kelly order "Road Closed to Thru Traffic" signs and place them as needed when circumstances dictate.

Adjourn:

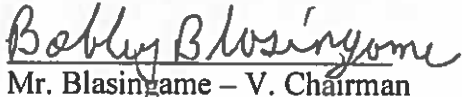
There being no further business, Mr. Chapman asked for a motion to adjourn the 17 May 2016 Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Thomas made the motion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Braswell. Motion carried 5-0 and the Board adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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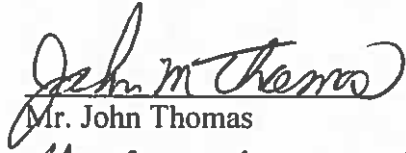


Mr. Paul Chapman - Chairman

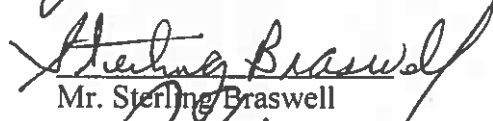


Mr. Blasingame - V. Chairman

Mr. Justin Spillers



Mr. John Thomas



Mr. Sterling Braswell



Attest - County Manager