

**MINUTES**  
**CALLED MEETING OF THE**  
**COLQUITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2015**  
**5:00 o'clock p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5:00 o'clock p.m. by Chairman Terry R. Clark. The meeting was duly called and advertised. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss feasibility study results regarding a county municipal solid waste facility and any other county business deemed necessary.

**PRESENT:** Those present were Commissioners Luke Strong, Winfred Giddens, Marc DeMott, Donna Herndon, Paul Nagy, Johnny Hardin, Chairman Terry R. Clark, County Administrator Chas Cannon, County Clerk Melissa Lawson, and County Attorney Lester M. Castellow.

**ALSO PRESENT:** TTL, Inc. Representatives James R. Smith and Keith H. Reaves, Solid Waste Manager Stacy Griffin, Chief Compliance Officer Justin H. Cox, and Alan Mauldin, Reporter with the Moultrie Observer.

**LANDFILL DISCUSSION:** Mr. Cannon projected that it would cost the county approximately \$4,900,000.00 over the next five years to transfer solid waste out of the county.

Due to a lack of available competition, Mr. Cannon stated that landfill rates in surrounding counties were trending upwards, resulting in significant costs.

Mr. Cannon stated that the current landfill was approximately 350 acres, including several acres with the capacity to accommodate additional usage.

Mr. Cannon declared his belief that the landfill was an unused resource for the county, and stated that transfer costs alone cost the county \$670,000.00 a year, with an additional \$60,000.00 being allocated for closure and monitoring costs.

Including all associated costs, Mr. Cannon stated that a 15 acre landfill would cost the county approximately \$3,500,000.00 to establish.

Mr. Cannon stated that the first step in exploring the possibility of opening a landfill would be to consider the feasibility of the project.

**TTL, INC. PRESENTATION:** At this time, Keith H. Reaves, Branch Manager, began the presentation regarding waste management needs of Colquitt County and the siting process for a municipal solid waste facility.

Mr. Reaves gave a brief overview of the history of landfill operations in Colquitt County, stating that the current landfill was opened in 1972 and operated for 21 years. Mr. Reaves noted that the landfill was closed in 1993.

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Mr. Reaves stated that the closure of the landfill necessitated certain expenses, mainly to include the administration of post closure care and environmental monitoring. Mr. Reaves stated that these tasks were expensive to perform.

Mr. Reaves stated that TTL, Inc. has been serving Colquitt County for over 22 years, assisting with landfill closure in 1993 and performing post closure care monitoring since that time.

At this time, James R. Smith, Geologist, presented present day solid waste management operations within Colquitt County.

Mr. Smith stated that due to the closure of the solid waste landfill, there were extensive costs to operate a transfer station, and to transfer the solid waste collected at the transfer station out of Colquitt County.

Mr. Smith stated that approximately 360 acres of unused county owned property, adjacent to the closed landfill, presented another solid waste management option for the county to consider.

Mr. Smith presented a map of the Colquitt County landfill, emphasizing the existing closed landfill area and the location of the transfer station. Based on certain criteria, Mr. Smith stated that TTL derived a 120 acre tract to consider for siting a landfill.

Mr. Smith explained that criteria for siting a new landfill is governed by the Georgia Department of Environmental Protection Division (EPD) rules and regulations.

At this time, Mr. Smith reviewed a list of criteria to be met, compiled, and submitted to EPD, including:

- Conforming to Zoning Ordinance
- Public Meeting to Comply with O.C.G.A. 12-8-26(a)
- Proximity to Airport
- Proximity to 100 Year Old Flood Plain
- Proximity to Streams and Wetlands
- Proximity to Fault Areas
- Proximity to Seismic Impact Zones
- Proximity to Unstable Areas
- Proximity to Most Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas
- Proximity to County boundaries and National Historic Sites
- Performing Hydrogeological Assessment
- Providing Site Recommendations for Design and Environmental Monitoring

Mr. Smith explained that once EPD approved the site, the next step would be to design a Subtitle D landfill.

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Mr. Smith stated that there were also design requirements in place that must be met in order to protect the environment, including buffers, a site survey control, and a liner and leachate collection system.

Mr. Smith discussed the leachate collection system, stating that the liquid would be pumped and disposed of at an off-site facility.

Mr. Cannon questioned the difference in the proposed liner and the one at the closed landfill.

Mr. Smith explained that the closed landfill was never in possession of a liner.

Commissioner DeMott inquired as to the disposal location of the liquid collected as a result of the leachate collection system.

Mr. Cannon suggested contacting the City of Moultrie regarding their wastewater treatment plant as a potential disposal location.

Mr. Smith reviewed additional requirements in order to protect the environment, including but not limited to, erosion and sedimentation control, access roads for ingress/egress, and groundwater, methane, and surface water monitoring plans.

Mr. Smith presented a preliminary evaluation of associated costs, specific to a 47 acre site. He stated that total preliminary budgetary costs would be approximately \$11,800,000.00, with the estimated lifespan of the 47 acre landfill to be approximately 34 years.

Mr. Smith stated that included in these costs were site suitability studies, wetlands mitigation, gas control, groundwater and methane monitoring well installation, and landfill construction costs.

Mr. Smith further stated that gas control could be augmented, captured, and converted into electricity to generate another revenue source for the county.

Norman Watson, adjoining landowner, questioned exactly where the 47 acre tract would be located.

Mr. Smith stated that typical construction for a landfill consisted of starting out with a modest sized cell, with the revenue generated from this operation funding the construction of any additional cells.

Mr. Cannon stated that the plan would be to start out with 7 acres initially, at a cost of \$1,600,000.00. Mr. Cannon questioned the lifespan of this acreage.

Mr. Reaves stated that, based on current calculations, the lifespan would be approximately 7 years.

Mr. Smith stated that the next step was for the county to choose between continuing with current waste operations, or evaluating the site for a new landfill.

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If the board chose to proceed, Mr. Smith explained that the next steps would consist of performing a site suitability study, submitting the study and permit application to the EPD, and upon approval, proceeding with public notification requirements.

Mr. Smith opened the floor for questions.

Mr. Watson questioned if the system would be a mountain type system.

Mr. Smith stated that it would be, with the top evaluation being approximately 50 feet above the ground surface.

Mr. Watson questioned if the mound would be visible from his son's home.

TTL staff stated that they would provide an exact estimate of these measurements as quickly as possible.

At this time, Mr. Cannon introduced Mr. Norman Watson to the board, stating that he was an adjoining landowner. Mr. Cannon stated that if the board chose to move forward with the project, he would work closely with Mr. Watson to answer questions and provide information.

Mr. Watson questioned if the potential landfill would accommodate only solid waste generated within Colquitt County. Mr. Cannon stated that this would be the board's decision.

At this time, Mr. Watson suggested that the board not construct the new landfill.

Commissioner Nagy questioned why the landfill was closed in 1993. Mr. Reaves stated that during this time period, the state was incentivizing closure of unlined landfills, such as the one in Colquitt County.

Commissioner DeMott questioned the rate of methane currently measured at the landfill. Mr. Reaves replied that it was not enough to utilize in any way, stating that methane gas production peaks approximately three years after closure.

Mr. Cannon requested TTL's professional opinion regarding the feasibility of constructing a new landfill in Colquitt County.

Mr. Reaves stated that with any landfill were positives and negatives, but stated that with the operation of a county landfill, the county would not be at the mercy of the market in regards to transfer costs, etc.

Commissioner DeMott requested clarification regarding the amount including in the budget for transfer fees. Mr. Cannon replied that \$670,000.00 was budgeted for this purpose.

Mr. Cannon reminded the board that this was just the first step in the process, and urged the board to consider the feasibility of the project.

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Commissioner Nagy questioned if environmental impact studies included impacts upon adjoining landowners.

Mr. Reaves stated that this was not included in the study, stating that the study was site specific.

Mr. Watson questioned if drilling would be performed to ascertain the particular type of soil in the area.

Mr. Reaves stated that if the board decided to move forward, this would be a step, stating that information such as groundwater flow and the subsequent rate of this flow must be reported to EPD. Mr. Reaves stated that this was performed so that groundwater and methane monitoring wells could be constructed in strategic locations.

Mr. Watson questioned, regardless of the soil type discovered, if adjustments could or would be made to facilitate the construction of the landfill.

Mr. Reaves replied that, in most instances, this was the case.

Commissioner Hardin stated that the county had no control over transfer costs, or what a county deemed permissible for hauling into their landfill. Commissioner Hardin suggested considering transfer costs and what the future might hold regarding these costs.

Mr. Reaves noted that the total price was not inclusive of capital equipment costs and personnel, stressing that the figure quoted consisted solely of construction costs.

Mr. Cannon stated that if the board deemed it feasible to do so, the next step would be to determine impacts, both financially and economically, while maintaining sensitivity to adjoining landowners.

Commissioner Herndon entered the meeting at 5:25 p.m.

Commissioner Hardin requested clarification regarding the next step in the process.

Mr. Smith stated that the next step would be to perform a site suitability study, which must be approved in order to proceed with design plans.

Mr. Reaves stated that the permitting process would be lengthy, lasting anywhere from 18 to 24 months total.

Mr. Cannon announced that this was an informational meeting, stressing that the board could vote upon the issue at a later date if they chose to do so.

Commissioner DeMott stated that he would like to obtain Mr. Norman Watson's opinion regarding the situation.

Mr. Watson stated that, as an adjoining landowner, he was not in favor of the project.

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Commissioner Herndon requested more information regarding the credentials of TTL, Inc.

Commissioner Nagy questioned the cost of the site suitability study. Mr. Reaves stated that the cost would be \$60,000.00.

Commissioner Herndon questioned what steps, if any, would follow upon completion of the site suitability study.

Mr. Reaves explained that following the site suitability study, public notice requirements would commence, as well as the design process. Mr. Reaves noted that all of this was contingent upon approval by the EPD.

Mr. Cannon recommended that the board consider the costs associated with the both the proposed and current solid waste management systems, while maintaining sensitivity regarding adjacent landowners.

Commissioner DeMott questioned if the lifespan of the proposed landfill was based on population or current volume. Mr. Reaves responded that it was based on the current population, and included a 3% annual increase.

Commissioner Herndon questioned if the lifespan included solid waste generated only by Colquitt County, or if it included surrounding municipalities.

Mr. Reaves stated that the lifespan included solid waste generated by Colquitt County only.

**APPROVAL OF MOTION TO PROCEED WITH SITE SUITABILITY**

**STUDY**: Commissioner Nagy made the motion to proceed with the landfill site suitability study to be performed by TTL, Inc. Commissioner Hardin made a second. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cannon questioned if resulting impacts on adjacent landowners would be included in the study.

Mr. Reaves replied that this was normally not included, but stated that they could perform this task if requested. Mr. Reaves proposed generating projections of how the landfill would be viewed from a specific site, specifically Mr. Watson's property.

Chairman Clark thanked TTL, Inc. for their presentation.

At this time, Mr. Cannon addressed a request from Captain Julius Cox of the Sheriff's Department to purchase a crew cab, four door truck in order to replace a previously wrecked vehicle. Mr. Cannon stated that two bids were received, with the lowest and recommended bid received from Edwards Motors in the amount of \$24,777.00.

Captain Cox briefly discussed the purchase with the board, stating that insurance recovery funds and Confiscated Assets funds would be combined to fund the purchase.

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**APPROVAL OF BID FOR FOUR DOOR, CREW CAB TRUCK – SHERIFF’S**

**DEPARTMENT:** Commissioner Hardin made the motion to approve the low and recommended bid from Edwards Motors, in the amount of \$24,777.00, regarding the provision of a four door, crew cab truck to be utilized by the Sheriff’s Department. Commissioner DeMott made a second. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cannon presented pictures of county vehicles marked with decals designating them as SPLOST purchases. He stated that it was important for the citizens of Colquitt County to know how their SPLOST dollars are being utilized and suggested continuing this practice on all SPLOST purchases, including machinery, vehicles, and equipment.

Captain Cox explained that the SPLOST decals were recently placed upon two new vehicles, a Chevrolet Caprice and a Dodge Charger.

Commissioner Herndon agreed that this was a good practice, but questioned if it would be applied to vehicles purchased with SPLOST funds that are driven out of the county.

Mr. Cannon replied that very few of these vehicles were driven out of the county, and further noted that all county equipment remains within the county.

Mr. Cannon also suggested performing the same task when a road is paved with SPLOST funds, stating it was imperative for citizens to see improvement resulting from their tax dollars.

**REVENUE DISCOVERY SYSTEMS (RDS):** Mr. Cannon stated that a meeting was recently held between Revenue Discovery Systems, Finance Director Wayne Putnal, and the Compliance Office regarding services provided by this company. Mr. Cannon explained that the proposal submitted by RDS included an audit of county business licenses, and also included the recommendation that Colquitt County restructure business licenses to be based on gross sales or employees rather than a flat fee. Mr. Cannon called upon Justin H. Cox, Chief Compliance Officer, to elaborate further upon the proposal.

Mr. Cox informed the board that RDS submitted two proposals for the county to consider. The first option was to obtain a list of county business licenses and perform their own research.

Commissioner Nagy questioned how RDS would perform this research.

Mr. Cox stated that RDS would perform their research online and would charge 40% of the license fee as their compensation. Subsequently, in a few years, Mr. Cox explained that RDS would turn over a database of information for the county to manage from that point forward.

Mr. Cox stated that the second option consisted of turning all data over to RDS, with them performing all associated collection efforts and maintaining all information.

Mr. Cannon noted that RDS would also perform an audit of E-911 to verify if any outstanding fees were owed to the county. Mr. Cannon stated this could possibly be a significant amount.

The remittance of E-911 fees from telecommunication companies was briefly discussed.

Mr. Cannon stated that the proposal sounded favorable, and stated more research would be performed regarding this venture.

**ABM PROJECT FINANCING OPTIONS:** Mr. Cannon stated that he was currently composing a list of competitive financing options for the board to consider in regards to the upcoming county energy audit proposal. Mr. Cannon further stated he would schedule a called meeting in which the board could discuss and vote upon these options.

**FIREWORKS ORDINANCE:** Mr. Cannon stated that the Compliance Department developed some initial guidelines in regards to the legalization of the sale of fireworks that would go into effect July 1, 2015.

Justin H. Cox, Chief Compliance Officer, stated that House Bill 100 would go into effect July 1, making the sale of fireworks legal in the state of Georgia. Mr. Cox stated that until July 1, 2016, the only structure that would be legal for the sale of fireworks would be a permanent structure.

Mr. Cox informed the board that he had recently received one inquiry of a permanent facility to facilitate the sale of fireworks, but stated that it did not meet zoning requirements.

Mr. Cox declared that the Compliance Department would work diligently to assure that licenses to sell fireworks are properly obtained.

Commissioner DeMott requested clarification that fireworks had to be sold in a permanent building, stating that he had recently seen a temporary tent in another county.

Mr. Cox stated that temporary tents could not be licensed until January 2016, and stated that his office was working contingently with law enforcement to ensure enforcement of this rule.

Mr. Cannon stated that the issue would continue to be researched in order to be able to articulate the necessary rules and regulations to the public.

**DAUGHTERS OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION – JOHN BENNING CHAPTER:** Mr. Cannon informed the board of a speaking engagement with the John Benning Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution scheduled for July 2, 2015 in honor of Independence Day. Mr. Cannon stated that he would be speaking on the sacrifices of military spouses during deployment.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Commissioner DeMott made the motion at 5:56 p.m. to go into Executive Session to discuss the disposition of real estate and personnel. Commissioner

Nagy made a second. The motion carried unanimously. (An affidavit, as required by Georgia Law, was executed by all Board members present stating under oath that the subject matter of the closed meeting was devoted to matters within the exception provided by law and identified the specific relevant exception as provided by law. The affidavit is hereby made a portion of the minutes by reference thereto.)

**REGULAR SESSION:** Commissioner DeMott made the motion to reconvene into regular session at 6:18 p.m. Commissioner Hardin made a second. The motion carried unanimously.

**KEY DATES:** Mr. Cannon reviewed a list of key, upcoming dates with the board.

**RECREATION DISCUSSION:** Commissioner Herndon stated that, to her knowledge, the board had not voted on anything concerning the Parks and Recreation program and requested an overview of the current situation.

Mr. Cannon explained that the Parks and Recreation program was funded via the Special Service District, as was the Volunteer Fire Association, the Economic Development Authority, and E-911 services.

Commissioner Herndon mentioned correspondence that was recently generated by city personnel in regards to a reduction in funding of the Parks and Recreation program.

Mr. Cannon stated that the City of Moultrie managed the Parks and Recreation program, and explained that the county provided funding for the program and appointed three county commissioners to serve on the Recreation Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Nagy suggested a briefing in regards to the current Parks and Recreation program, and further stated that the City of Moultrie was not in compliance with the Service Delivery Strategy for Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Cannon stated that per the Service Delivery Strategy, the city should provide the county with a geographical representation of all participation information. Mr. Cannon explained that the county only received this information for 3 out of the 11 recreation facilities involved in the program.

Mr. Cannon stated that the county desired to receive an auditable figure annually, and would use this information to “true up” costs. Mr. Cannon noted that this information had not been provided in recent years.

Discussion ensued regarding the Parks and Recreation program.

Commissioner Herndon and Chairman Clark both stated that they had received several calls regarding the reduction in funding to the Parks and Recreation program.

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Mr. Cannon stated that he and Mike Scott, City Manager, would continue to work together to obtain an equitable solution.

Commissioner Nagy mentioned a recent conversation with a library employee who stated that the majority of internet users at the library were utilizing the computer in order to apply for certain government benefits such as Food Stamps and Medicaid.

Chairman Clark stated that while serving on the Library committee, he became aware of the substantial abuse of computer usage at the Library.

Mr. Cannon urged the board to consider board member to board member discussion, stating that his main focus was the day to day operations of the county. Mr. Cannon urged commissioners to reach out to school board members, city council, and other boards and committees in order to facilitate discussion regarding important issues.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Terry R. Clark  
Chairman

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Melissa Lawson  
County Clerk

Approved:

# AFFIDAVIT

This is to certify that the Colquitt County Board of Commissioners held an Executive Session Meeting (closed meeting) on June 25, 2015, at 5:50 o'clock a.m./p.m. The majority of the quorum present voted in the open meeting to go into Executive Session (closed meeting). The subject matter discussed was applicable under the following code section(s):

- O.C.G.A. 50-14-2(1) - Consultation with an attorney regarding pending or potential legal action.
- O.C.G.A. 50-14-3(4) - Discussion of future <sup>disposition</sup> acquisition of real estate. (Notice was given as required and minutes taken.)
- O.C.G.A. 50-14-3(6) - Discussion of personnel matters.

I further certify that the subject matter of the Executive Session (closed meeting) was devoted to matters within the exception provided by law and the above checked identifies the specific relevant exception.

This 25th day of June, 2015.

Terry Clark  
Terry Clark, Chairman

Winfred Giddens  
Winfred Giddens, Commissioner

Donna Herndon  
Donna Herndon, Commissioner

Johnny Hardin  
Johnny Hardin, Commissioner

Luke Strong  
Luke Strong, Commissioner

Marc DeMott  
Marc DeMott, Commissioner

Paul Nagy  
Paul Nagy, Commissioner

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 25th day of June, 2015.

Melissa Lawson  
County Clerk or Notary Public  
My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

