

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

August 16th, 2021

COUNTY OF LOWNDES

MINUTE BOOK 375

BE IT REMEMBERED, that a regular meeting of The Board of Supervisors of Lowndes County, Mississippi, held at the Lowndes County Courthouse, Columbus, Mississippi, Monday, the 16th day of August 2021, commencing at 9:00 a.m.

Present:

Harry Sanders	absent	Supervisor, District 1
Trip Hairston		Supervisor, District 2, President
John Holliman		Supervisor, District 3
Jeff Smith		Supervisor, District 4
Leroy Brooks		Supervisor, District 5
Tim Hudson Esq.		County Board Attorney
Eddie Hawkins		Sheriff
Cindy E. Goode		Chancery Clerk
Jay Fisher		County Administrator
County Staff Members		
Members of News Media		
County Citizens		

The following proceedings were had:

CALL TO ORDER/INVOCATION

- I. Call to Order, Trip Hairston, Board President
- II. Presiding, Trip Hairston, Board President
- III. Invocation, Leroy Brooks, Supervisor, District 5
- IV. Pledge Of Allegiance, Cindy E. Goode, Chancery Clerk

**I
Adopt Agenda**

A. Agenda Review

Motion by Supervisor Brooks to adopt agenda as amended with changes; Second by Supervisor Holliman. Vote 4-0. (Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein.)

II
Board Minutes

- A. Approve August 2nd, 2021 Board Minutes

Motion by Supervisor Holliman to approve August 2nd, 2021 board minutes of the Board of Supervisors; Second by Supervisor Brooks. Vote 4-0. (Exhibit B attached hereto and incorporated herein)

III
Lloyd Price
Lowndes County CFO

- A. County Claims Docket – Period ending August 15th, 2021

Motion by Supervisor Brooks to spread on the minutes the County Claims Docket period ending August 15th, 2021; Second by Supervisor Holliman. Vote 4-0. (Exhibit C attached hereto and incorporated herein)

- B. Financial Reports – July 2021

Motion by Supervisor Holliman to approve and spread on the minutes Financial Reports for July 2021; Second by Supervisor Brooks. Vote 4-0. (Exhibit D attached hereto and incorporated herein)

IV.
Nancy Carpenter
Executive Director
Columbus-Lowndes Convention & Visitors Bureau

- A. New Board Member – Richard Morgan swearing in

Board President Trip Hairston swore in Richard Morgan as Board Member of Columbus-Lowndes Convention & Visitors Bureau.

V.
George Crawford
Golden Triangle Planning & Development District, Inc.
Project Analyst

- A. Corps of Engineers and MEMA Discussion of the construction of the new emergency bypass road in Golden Triangle Industrial Park

Motion by Supervisor Smith to advertise notice for early public review of proposal to support activity in the 100-year floodplain and wetland as directed by MEMA; Second by Supervisor Brooks. Vote 4-0. (Exhibit E attached hereto and incorporated herein)

Motion by Supervisor Brooks to advertise notice for early public review of proposal to support activity in the 100-year floodplain and wetland with regard to proposed construction of traffic bypass loop south of Artesia Road

extending southwest to Manufacturers Road; Second by Supervisor Holliman. Vote 4-0. (Exhibit F attached hereto and incorporated herein)

VI.

**Mayor Jimmy Sanders
Town of Artesia**

A. Siren Reimbursement for Town of Artesia

Motion by Supervisor Brooks to reimburse the Town of Artesia the remainder of the purchase costs of \$3,595.00, on the purchase of their new Emergency siren, through and agreement with Board of Supervisors. Total project \$23,095.00; funding from USDA/Rural Development \$19,500.00; remainder of purchase cost \$3,595.00; Second by Supervisor Smith. Vote 4-0.

VII.

**Greg Andrews
Lowndes County Tax Assessor/Collector**

A. Tax Refund – Michael West

Motion by Supervisor Brooks to approve the tax refund of \$369.04 to Michael Houston West and wife Patricia J West. Patricia J. West became disabled July 28, 2019 and due disability homestead for 2020 taxes; Second by Supervisor Holliman. Vote 4-0. (Exhibit G attached hereto and incorporated herein)

B. Assessor Certificates (Tax Rolls)

Motion by Supervisor Smith to approve and spread on the minutes Assessor Certificate for Real and Personal Rolls 2021 approved by Mississippi Department of Revenue; Second by Supervisor Brooks. Vote 4-0. (Exhibit H attached hereto and incorporated herein)

C. Certification pay Increase (Employees)

Motion by Supervisor Holliman to approve and spread on the minutes continuing education Track II certification status for Patrick Adair, Millard (Eddie) Green, and Ryan Strickland as AE II Tract II designation with an annual compensation of \$2,000 each; Second by Supervisor Smith. Vote 4-0. (Exhibit I attached hereto and incorporated herein)

VIII.

**Sheldon Alston
Caledonia Energy Partners Attorney**

A. Tax Appeal – no action taken

IX.
Leroy Brooks
Lowndes County District 5 Supervisor

- A. Request Authorization to help City of Columbus

Motion by Supervisor Brooks to authorize Lowndes County Road Manager Ronnie Burns to meet with City of Columbus Public Works to assist in cleanup of brush and debris; county owned vehicles driven by county employees; Second by Supervisor Smith. Vote 4-0.

X.
Jay Fisher
Lowndes County Administrator

- A. Sparklight

Motion by Supervisor Smith to authorize an advocacy letter of Sparklight's efforts to bringing high-speed internet service to two (2) specific areas of Lowndes County, Elm Lake and Chan Mar; Second by Supervisor Holliman. Vote 4-0. (Exhibit J attached hereto and incorporated herein)

- B. Constable PERS match reimbursement

Motion by Supervisor Brooks to approve a Resolution, pursuant to Mississippi Code Section 25-11-106, authorizing reimbursement of County's share Constables' PERS contributions retroactive to 2020 new board term; Second by Supervisor Smith. Vote 4-0. (Exhibit K attached hereto and incorporated herein)

- C. COVID-19 Policy Discussion

Motion by Supervisor Hairston to follow CDC and Mississippi Department of Health guidelines to enforce county employees to wear masks in the workplace and everyone wear mask in County owned buildings; Second by Supervisor Brooks. Vote 4-0.

Motion by Supervisor Brooks to provide 80 hours pay to all vaccinated county employees who develops Covid; excluding employees with a valid medical excuse for not being vaccinated, these employees will be entitled to the 80 hours pay; Second by Supervisor Smith.

Vote: Supervisor Brooks	aye
Supervisor Smith	aye
Supervisor Holliman	aye
Supervisor Hairston	abstained

- D. American Rescue Plan Discussion – discussion no action taken.

- E. FY 22 Budget Work Session following the August 31st meeting.

- F. Approve Labor Day Holiday Observance on Monday, September 6, 2021

Motion by Supervisor Brooks to approve and observe Labor Day Holiday, Monday, September 6, 2021; Second by Supervisor Smith. Vote 4-0.

- G. New Hire – Juvenile Detention Center

Motion by Supervisor Brooks to hire of Shantae Miller as Juvenile Detention Officer beginning 23 August 2021, rate of pay \$13.00 per hour; and Cornell Gandy as Juvenile Detention Officer beginning 24 August 2021, rate of pay \$13.00 per hour; Second by Supervisor Smith. Vote 4-0.

XI.

Bob Calvert

Lowndes County Engineer

- A. Cspire Utility Permit Old West Point Road

Motion by Supervisor Brooks to approve and spread on the minutes Cspire Utility Permit for a fiber along and across Old West Point Road; Second by Supervisor Smith. Vote 4-0. (Exhibit L attached hereto and incorporated herein)

- B. Town of Crawford Water Utility Permit George Bridges Road

Motion by Supervisor Smith to approve and spread on the minutes the Town of Crawford Utility Permit for water service along or across George Bridges Road; Second by Supervisor Brooks. Vote 4-0. (Exhibit M attached hereto and incorporated herein)

- C. AT&T Utility Permit

Motion by Supervisor Holliman to approve and spread on the minutes the AT&T Utility Permit for residential fiber optic network along or across Pleasant Hill Road, Rivendale Dr., Hutcherson Rd., Michaela Dr., N/S Isaac Dr., Lockhart Rd., Benny Weeks Dr., Crestview Cir., Brewer Rd., Eubanks Rd., Terraceview Ln., and Meadowview Ln.; Second by Supervisor Smith. Vote 4-0. (Exhibit N attached hereto and incorporated herein)

XII.

Cindy E. Goode

Lowndes County Chancery Clerk

- A. Surety Bond

Motion by Supervisor Brooks to approve and spread on the minutes Surety Bond for Devin Michael Strong as Deputy Sheriff; Second by Supervisor Smith. Vote 4-0. (Exhibit O attached hereto and incorporated herein)

B. Justice Court Reports

Motion by Supervisor Holliman to approve and spread on the minutes Justice Court Reports for the month of July 2021, interest earned \$24.49; Criminal Collection for \$93,395.82, Civil Collections for \$13,654.03; Second by Supervisor Brooks. Vote 4-0. (Exhibit P attached hereto and incorporated herein)

XIII.

Eddie Hawkins
Lowndes County Sheriff

A. Meal Log – July 2021

Motion by Supervisor Holliman to approve and spread on the minutes the July 2021 meal log; Second by Supervisor Smith. Vote 4-0. (Exhibit Q attached hereto and incorporated herein)

Request for closed determination by Supervisor Hairston.

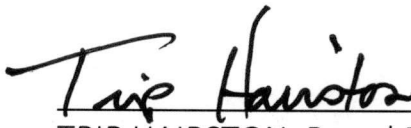
Motion by Supervisor Smith to go into executive session to discuss a legal matter. Second by Supervisor Holliman. Vote 3-0. (Supervisor Brooks stepped out)

Motion by Supervisor Brooks to come out of executive session, Second by Supervisor Smith. Vote 4-0.

Motion by Supervisor Hairston to authorize counsel for Board of Supervisors to appeal the ruling by Judge Faver in lawsuit with Lowndes County School District; Second by Supervisor Holliman. Vote 4-0.

Motion by Supervisor Brooks to recess until Tuesday, August 31st, 2021; seconded by Supervisor Hairston. Vote 4-0.




TRIP HAIRSTON, Board President


Cindy E. Goode, Chancery Clerk