



**CAMDEN COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY
BUDGET/REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 21, 2023, 5:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Landreth called the budget meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.

INVOCATION

Chairman Landreth delivered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Landreth led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Chairman Terry Landreth – Present	Alex Blount – Present
Vice-Chairman Stephen Haughn – Present	Jimmy Smith – Present
Commissioner Lannie Brant – Present	June Maxwell – Present
Mayor Kizzi Knight – Absent	Ernesto Herring, Jr. – Absent
Artie Jones, Jr. – Present	

GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC (BUDGET ONLY)

No comments were offered during this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Brant, to adjourn the budget meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn budget meeting at 5:10 PM.

Chairman Landreth called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

Vice-Chairman Haughn called to remove agenda item, discussion on marketing initiatives.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA

Jones made a motion, seconded by Maxwell, to adopt the agenda as amended.

The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Jones made a motion, seconded by Smith, to approve the regular meeting minutes from August 17, 2023.

The motion carried unanimously.

GRANTING AUDIENCE TO THE PUBLIC

William McClain, Kingsland

Mr. McClain is a PSA Employee with Parks/Outside Services. He inquired about receiving a raise in pay. He stated he currently receives \$14.78/hour, last year he received a 28-cent raise. He is presenting this to the board after being told by upper management there is nothing that can be done. Mr. McClain stated we live in a world of uncertainty, and it is hard to plan a budget. However, the employees can't survive on what they are making. He stated employees are not compensated for having to use personal cell phones for PSA business, such as clocking in and out and communication with PSA staff. He stated it is an OSHA violation, not to provide good, clean and cold water to the park's crew.

REGULAR AGENDA

The board voted on the FY2024 Budget.

Blount made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Haughn, to approve the FY2024 budget.

The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued on the annual renewal of the antivirus software, firewall, wifi access points, and camera software. Ealy presented the board with a bid tabulation and recommended going with MLBA, as the sole source bid provider at \$5,525.95. The funding source will be the General Fund.

Commissioner Brant made a motion, seconded by Smith, to approve MLBA.
The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued on a proposed increase in private gymnastics lessons. Ealy stated she is proposing that the rates are not increased. No action was taken.

Ealy proposed that the gymnastics team coaches session fees be raised at the request of the gymnastics coordinator, from the existing rate of \$75 to \$150 per session. One session is divided per team with typically 10 gymnasts. This fee also contributes to the coaches fees. This is a pass through to the parents and increasing this cost will have no material impact on the FY2024 budget.

Blount made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Brant, to increase the gymnastics coaches fees.

The motion carried unanimously.

Ealy provided the board with a proposed surplus list consisting of 2 trailers to be auctioned off. The items will be listed on the PSA Website and Facebook page.

Jones inquired if there was a minimum price listed on the website for the surplus items. Ealy stated there is no minimum price listed. The website provides an email to the accounts payable department, to place a bid and receive contact information.

Maxwell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Brant, to surplus the trailers.

The motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chairman Haughn updated the board on the 50-year agreement between the Board of Education and PSA. Vice-Chairman Haughn and Jones have attended 2 meetings held with the Board of Education concerning the agreement. There was a consensus that the 50-year agreement would be eliminated. Discussion was held on a possible 5-year interlocal agreement between the Board of Education and PSA. This would also include identifying the initial properties that are desired by the Board of Education and the properties and parcels that the PSA would keep in the initial phase. Both sides agree that AKM Surveying needs to survey all the properties to properly identify them. The interlocal agreement will address who will own what parcel, who will be responsible for maintaining said parcels, who will have first right of use on each parcel and outline the conditions and parameters of the second party using the other parties facilities and fields during intermin periods. The explored time frames for possibly initiating the first phase would be in 2-3 months.

Chairman Landreth stated the Board of Education has requested the football stadium and Phase II, which includes the baseball and softball fields. The Board of Education is unable to do deferred maintenance and updates on the stadium, unless they have the property under their privy.

Chairman Landreth asked the board if there were any concerns about not transferring the stadium over to the Board of Education. Commissioner Brant stated the county is 100 percent opposed to transferring it over unless they are refunded the money that was spent for the scoreboard.

Blount stated the PSA owns a football stadium that the conservative projection is that it needs around \$2 million worth of electrical, plumbing and structural reinforcement. That in theory it is the responsibility of the PSA. Blount can't imagine the PSA taking the position that the City of Kingsland needs to get their portion back of \$104,000 versus paying their portion of the \$2 million that is in deferred maintenance of the stadium.

Commissioner Brant stated he is speaking for the county, not the PSA. The Board of Education requested taking ownership of the stadium immediately after the scoreboard was installed. He feels that if the Board of Education has \$2.1 million for deferred maintenance and upgrades to the stadium, they can afford the scoreboard. He will vote against transferring the stadium unless the money for the scoreboard is reimbursed.

Blount said people need to think about the pockets of money that the Board of Education must pull from. They can't make capital improvements to a facility they don't own with operating cash. The Board of Education also has major renovations on the baseball and softball fields. Blount stated they are unable to use ESPLOST money, they would have to use operating cash. Who wants operating capital that is for educating our kids and grandkids to go to stadium or field renovations? Blount stated if he was a school board member, he would be glad to reimburse the money for the scoreboard, as a down payment to the \$2.1 million the PSA will have to pay towards the stadium.

Jones stated he made it clear to the Board of Education that a lot of citizens of St Marys are concerned it was planned by the Board of Education to receive half a million dollars for the installation of a new scoreboard, then request the stadium be transferred to them. Jones feels differently and it will not be a game breaker for him to vote to transfer the stadium over to the Board of Education. He stated in the next year if we don't have to do any repairs to the stadium it will be more than worth the half of a million dollars that was put into the scoreboard installation. Jones understands the Board of Education's reasoning for requesting the stadium, as they will be able to utilize EPSPLOST money. He commended the school for the initiative to request the transfer of the stadium so they can do the repairs and upgrades

Chairman Landreth asked the board members to keep a PSA mindset. PSA board members have brought up the concern of the scoreboard in the Board of Education meetings.

Maxwell has reservations and would like to sit in on the meetings with the Board of Education.

Chairman Landreth requested that Vice-Chairman Haughn and Jones funnel these concerns back to the Board of Education at the next meeting.

Discussion ensued on athletic programs. Vice-Chairman Haughn wanted to readdress the athletic programs after conducting several interviews for the applicants for the Executive Director. All the interviewees stated that they were amazed by the number of programs the PSA has. GRPA puts out a list of programs that are offered to their communities. The programs equal \$75-\$100 per resident. Right now, the \$660,000 that two major cities provide equals out to \$26-\$30 per resident. The PSA programs run at a budget deficient of almost \$250,000. Vice-Chairman Haughn stated we can't keep adding programs at a loss with the income that is coming in. If are going to have first class programs and facilities, we can't continue down this path.

Discussion and vote on Georgia Outdoor Stewardship Grant. This resolution is to support the City of St Marys submission of an application for funding, from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, to construct St Marys Tabby Ruins Trail, with the Winding Road Connector to the East Coast Greenway. This will be an extension of the current trail that has trail head located at the Tabby Ruins, and stretches to the Crooked River Boat Ramp, and a crosswalk to connect the Point Peter trail to the Rookery.

Blount inquired about the trail maintenance agreement that would require two PSA employees to work 8 hours per week managing and maintaining the trail and amenities. He asked if the PSA viewed this maintenance differently from ROW maintenance? Considering there have been discussions about the PSA eliminating ROW. Blount stated the maintenance such as fuel cost and wear and tear to mowers should not be considered SPLOST.

Jones stated it is viewed differently than the maintenance done for ROW. The trail is envisioned to extend over 155 miles.

Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Brant to support the submission by the City of St Marys.

The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and vote on St Marys Rec Park electrical upgrade. Ealy presented a bid tabulation and recommended going with Satilla Air & Electrical as they are the lowest cost bid provider at \$27,852. The funding source will be a SPLOST 8.

Jones made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Brant to approve Satilla Air & Electrical.

The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued on the ROW mowing contract with the City of St Marys. The board wants full and clear disclosure with the City of St Marys that the PSA will not be renewing its contract for ROW, that will end October 31st.

Ealy presented the board with financial statements and asked if they had any questions

Executive Director Johnsen, presented the board with a report of recent happenings at the PSA, including an update on the parks, special programs/events, aquatics, gymnastics and athletics. The report can be found be on the PSA website and Facebook page.

Maxwell made a motion, Jones seconded, to adjourn the regular meeting and convene executive session.

The motion carried unanimously.

Regular meeting adjourned and convene executive session at 6:27 PM

The board discussed employment of Executive Director.

Vice-Chairman Haughn made a motion, seconded by Jones to adjourn executive session and resume the regular meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn executive session and resume regular meeting at 7:15 PM.

Chairman Landreth stated they have been conducting interviews for the Executive Director and asked if anyone would like to make a motion for a finalist for the Executive Director position.

Jones made a motion that they name Tony Duckworth as the sole finalist for the Executive Director position, seconded by Vice-Chairman Haughn.

So voted:

Chairman Terry Landreth – Yes

Alex Blount – Absent

Vice-Chairman Stephen Haughn – Yes

Jimmy Smith – No

Commissioner Lannie Brant – No

June Maxwell – No

Artie Jones, Jr. – Yes

The motion did not carry 3-3.

Adjourn regular meeting at 7:19 PM

APPROVED IN OPEN SESSION THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2023.

TERRY LANDRETH, CHAIRMAN

TERESA PATTERSON, SECRETARY