

Minutes
Elbert County Board of Commissioners
Monday, February 8, 2016

Chairman Lyon called the meeting to order. Present for the meeting were Chairman Lyon, Vice Chairman Horace Harper, Commissioner Lee Vaughn, Commissioner Chris Alexander, Commissioner Kenneth Ashworth, Commissioner Freddie Jones, County Administrator Bob Thomas, County Attorney Bill Daughtry, CFO Phil Pitts. County Clerk Tamara Butler was not present.

After the pledge to the United States flag, the invocation was given by Mr. Daughtry.

Adoption of Agenda. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Adoption of the Minutes of the regular meeting of January 11, 2016 and the called meeting on January 27, 2016. Chairman Lyon requested that an amendment be made to the minutes of January 11 to read "Chairman Lyon **asked** for a motion to amend the agenda" **instead of** "Chairman Lyon **made** a motion to amend the agenda". Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the amended minutes. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Friends of Bobby Brown Park to address the Board. Shane Robertson and James Hall addressed the Board on behalf of the Friends of Bobby Brown Park. They stated that they had not had a lot of time to plan and organize activities other than the Halloween Event. This event was successful and well attended. The FBBP (Friends of Bobby Brown Park) will have a membership drive dinner on February 20th. Currently there are about 50 members. Ms. Elizabeth Hill will attend and speak to the participants. The doors will open at 6 p.m. The cost will be \$60 for a single and \$110 for a pair. The FBBP has other events that have been suggested and are currently being planned. They would like to have an Ice Breaker Event and have invited Clay Page to provide entertainment. Ms. Kay Legg is planning a musical/dance event on Labor Day weekend. It will be a tribute to the favorite songs during the 1950's.

Discussion of a grant application to the Appalachian Regional Commission for a grant to develop a Master Plan for Bobby Brown Park. County Administrator Bob Thomas stated that the current Master Plan is at least 20 years old. Elbert County has already had a Pre-Application approved. The Master Plan would look at a variety of possible activities and the process should be looked on favorably by the State and the Corps of Engineers. The application process should take between 6 to 8 months. The County will have to meet a local match requirement of approximately \$12,500.00

Request from the Jim Ree Museum for a donation of \$2500 from the Hotel/Motel tax fund to help offset expenses for the annual Spring Festival in May. Addressing the Board were Mr. Jimmy White, President of the Jim Ree Museum and Mrs. Orlen White, member of the Jim Ree Museum Foundation. County CFO Phil Pitts spoke to the Board and reviewed financial information provided in the January Board Financial package. The amounts shown in the reports for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015 and the period ending January 31, 2016 indicate there are sufficient funds to meet the \$2,500 request. Freddie Jones made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of bids for a riding mower for the detainee crew to mow around the County Government Complex and facilities. Mr. Thomas discussed the situation regarding the current condition of the riding mower used by the detainee crew. He pointed out that there are multiple drivers from the detainee crew and this results in more chances the mower will not get consistent treatment. He also commented that the County has had good success with the Bobcat brand. After discussion that the current bids had not been opened, it was proposed that another bid process be initiated for a Bobcat mower. In regards to this proposal, the motion was made by Commissioner Vaughn. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of bids for a truck for the Road Department. Mr. Thomas discussed the need for a new truck for the Road Department. The proposal was that the funds for the purchase would come from the reimbursement for work on the Railroad Connection project. Commissioner Alexander asked Mr. Pitts if there was sufficient funds available over the cost of the gravel to pay for the truck. Mr. Pitts explained that he did not participate in the billing process and was not sure what amounts were available from the \$80,000 + the County had received. Three bids were received for a 2016 Ford F350:

- 1) Ed Murdock Ford for \$33,785.
- 2) Athens ford for \$35,354.
- 3) Casey Jackson Ford for \$36,946.

After general discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Harper to approve the low bid from Ed Murdock Ford. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Request from the Volunteer Fire Department to proceed with bids for the proposed new Fire Station at Centerville. Mr. Thomas discussed the request from the Volunteer Fire Department to proceed with bids. When asked where the funds would come from, he indicated that at this time it was uncertain where the funds would come from. The County would continue to look for possible grants to assist in this matter. After further discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Harper to proceed with the advertisements for bids. Commissioner Vaughn seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion regarding the Chamber of Commerce moving to the Civic Center Building. Chairman Lyon opened the floor for public comments regarding the future plans for the Civic Center. Mr. Henry McCalla addressed the Board and talked about how important that building was for a certain segment of the community. He indicated that other options were not feasible due to higher cost or lengthy travel times.

Finance Report. Mr. Pitts addressed the Board regarding the January 2016 financial report. Since having already spent time reviewing the Hotel/Motel tax reports to the Board, he covered the monthly expenditure report and the monthly revenue report. The general fund through January is 2% under budget. The general fund revenues for this fiscal year are several hundred thousand dollars more than the prior year. There were no questions regarding the monthly report.

Public Comments. There were no public comments.

Adjournment. Commissioner Harper made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Vaughn seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.