

**Minutes**  
**Elbert County Board of Commissioners**  
**Monday, January 11, 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, County Clerk Tamara Butler and CFO Phil Pitts.

After the pledge to the United States flag, the invocation was given by Commissioner Ashworth.

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

At this time Chairman Lyon made a motion to amend the Agenda to add 4a) Opening of sealed bid for the construction of new building for Fire Department. Commissioner Harper made a motion to amend the agenda. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Adoption of Minutes of December 14, 2015.** Commissioner Jones made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Opening of sealed bid for construction of Fire Department building.** There was only one bid submitted for the construction of the new building to house the water trucks for the Fire Department. Therefore, the opening of the sealed bid was from Danny Craft in the amount of \$61,652.00; for a 50 x 67 building. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to accept the bid. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of Resolutions for the E911 fees/ charges as follows:**

- a. Resolution imposing a 911 charge on voice-over internet protocol connections within Elbert County.
- b. Resolution for renewing Emergency 911 fees.
- c. Resolution for renewing 911 "Emergency Telephone Fund Surcharge".

These resolutions are for the renewal of annual fees that provide funding for the 911 facilities. Commissioner Vaughn made a motion to approve the renewal resolutions. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval to set qualifying fees for the 2016 elections.** This is a resolution of the Board of Commissioners fixing and publishing 2016 qualifying fees for public offices. The qualifying fees are 3% of the base salary of the elected office. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Continued discussion of the 2016 SPLOST projects and Intergovernmental Agreement.** Mr. Thomas stated that with the expected revenue for the next SPLOST cycle at least \$400,000 will have to be trimmed from the budget and is looking for input from all departments. This 6-year SPLOST will be on the May 24, 2016 election ballot. A called meeting will be held at the end of January to look at the revised budget as it will have to be approved and sent to the Justice Department before February 1, 2016. Also, the Intergovernmental Agreement will be approved at this time.

**Update on CSX and Hartwell Railroad Connection project.** Unfortunately weather has been an issue in completing the project that was expected to be completed by January 15, 2016. State representatives will be coming on Friday January 15<sup>th</sup> to look at the progress.

**Update on road damage due to recent flooding in the county.** Fortunately only Cedar Creek Road had major damage due to flooding. There will be some shoulder work to do on some roads but all in all not as much damage as expected.

**Discussion on Board of Commissioners retreat.** The retreat will be held at the pavilion at Bobby Brown Park on February 19, 2016. Some things to be discussed are roads and economic development. A representative from the Senior Center will be there to discuss the senior center and its activities, also rural transportation. Also, there will possibly be a tour of the dam after the meeting.

**Discussion and approval of the reappointment of Allen Nicas to the Library Board for a 3 year term.** Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the reappointment. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Finance Report.** According to Mr. Pitts we are half way into the fiscal year and we are 47.8% under budget. Revenues are looking good and coming in better than a year ago. Solid Waste is still a challenge as there are certain cost to keep it functioning and the revenues are just not there.

**Public Comments.** Chuck Almond with EMS came before the board to state that Adams Circle will be closed until Wednesday, January 13, due to CSX Railroad project, but it is still accessible in case of an emergency.

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