

Minutes  
Elbert County Board of Commissioners  
Public Hearing  
August 14, 2017

A public hearing was held to hear amendments to the 2015 Community Development Block Grant. Jim Moneyhun of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission stated that a public hearing is required when there is an amendment to the proposed work of the project. There are two changes as follows: Of the thirteen people that applied; five were approved. The remainder either opted out, did not qualify or were deceased. The second is an amendment to extend the project to July 31, 2018. An individual in the audience asked if the work would not start until after July 31, 2018; but Mr. Moneyhun stated that it is the intent to have the work completed by that date.

A public hearing was held to hear a rezoning request to change 77.7 acres at 1765 Martin Villa Road from Industrial to Agriculture. There were no public comments on this item.

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Chairman Tommy Lyon called the meeting to order. Present 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, CFO Phil Pitts.

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

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

Chairman Lyon asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add 14a) Discussion and approval to purchase a brush truck for the Fire Department. Commissioner Ashworth made the motion. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Adoption of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting and Public Hearing of July 10, 2017, the Called Meeting of July 20, 2017, and the Called Meeting of July 26, 2017.** Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the minutes as read. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Daniel Graves representing Elbert Memorial Hospital to provide information regarding hospital finances.**

Mr. Graves asked not to be afraid to make the tough decisions that need to be made regarding support of the hospital. The hospital authority is asking for no less than three mills of support; anything less is putting the hospital and healthcare in Elbert County at risk.

Additionally, Rusty Warner with the Economic Development Authority has made a request for one mill to go towards economic development.

**Chairman Lyon asked for a motion to add a 2.5 mill assessment and a 0.5 mill assessment to the millage rate for the hospital and economic development to be voted on at the time of final approval of all millage rates after publication, if applicable.**

**Commissioner Vaughn made the motion to add a 2.5 mill assessment for the hospital which includes the 1 mill currently being assessed. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 3-2; with Commissioners Ashworth and Alexander opposing.**

**Commissioner Vaughn again made the motion to add a .5 mill assessment for economic development. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Alexander opposing.**

**Both assessments are subject to final approval of all millage rates after publication, if applicable.**

**Discussion and approval of the amendment to the 2015 Community Development Block Grant Program.** Mr. Jim Moneyhun of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission spoke at the public hearing in regards to the amendments. First being the changes to the number of participants and secondly, the extension of the program to July 31, 2018. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the amendments. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of the bid for wood grinding services at the Elbert County Transfer site.** Mr. Thomas stated that wood grinding is necessary every few years to clean up pallets and other wood at the transfer site. Only one company responded to the advertisement for bids. That company is Rider Grinding Services, LLC of Toccoa, Georgia. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the bid. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of a zoning application from William J. Kornitzer to rezone 77.7 acres at 1765 Martin Villa Road from Industrial to Agriculture.** As Mr. Thomas stated earlier at the Public Hearing, Mr. Kornitzer wishes to possibly build a home on this site; thereby the request for this change. The Planning Commission voted to approve the application. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the rezoning request. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of the reappointments of the following individuals to the Elbert County Planning Commission for four-year terms.** Robert Whitworth (District 2), Earl Davis (County-wide), Thomas Jackson (District 4), and Rod Daniel (District 1). Mr. Thomas stated these individuals have agreed to serve on the Planning Commission board. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the reappointments. Commissioner Vaughn seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion. Carried 5-0.

**Discussion regarding construction of new fire stations at Centerville and Deep Creek.** Mr. Thomas stated that we are trying to upgrade our fire stations around the county and the two mentioned are next on the list. Two acres were donated at Deep Creek and the property will be ready after some grading work is finished. The property at Centerville has an old community center that needs to be torn down. Mr. Thomas would like to advertise that anyone having anything stored in the building will need to get it out; then we could start clearing the property.

**Discussion and approval of bids for a Tax Anticipation Note for Elbert County for calendar year 2017.** Mr. Pitts stated that proposals were put out to each of the four local financial institutions. Elberton Federal and Regions Bank were unable to give a proposal. Northeast Georgia Bank and Pinnacle Bank both gave proposals with the same terms and conditions. Northeast Georgia Bank proposed a rate of 2.27% and Pinnacle Bank proposed a rate of 2.60%. After further discussion with Mr. Thomas, it is Mr. Pitts recommendation to approve the proposal from Northeast Georgia Bank. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the proposal from Northeast Georgia Bank. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0; with Commissioner Vaughn abstaining.

**Discussion and approval of an agreement with the Chamber of Commerce and Elbert County for providing services and supplying a tourism program.** Mr. Chris Kubas, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce came before the board to introduce Crystal Beebe as the new Chamber President. Also he asked the board to accept the contract with the Chamber of Commerce and Elbert County. The agreement states that the county will provide funding to the Chamber in an amount equal to 40% of the revenue generated from the hotel/motel excise tax revenues. Commissioner Vaughn made a motion to approve the agreement. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of a Beer and Wine license for Pyramid Petro.** The property is under new ownership. Mr. Thomas stated that all requirements have been met and taxes paid. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the application. Commissioner Vaughn seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion regarding advertising for a public hearing to set the millage rate for 2017.** Mr. Pitts stated that due to a millage rate increase there will have to be three public hearings held and a meeting to approve the increase. The rate must be approved and the digest submitted by September 1<sup>st</sup>. He stated that Lorrie will have to request an extension from the state.

**Discussion and approval of a request from the Fire Department to purchase a used brush truck.** The truck will be purchased for \$10,000.00 from Government Surplus. Mr. Mewborne, Fire Chief, said the truck will be used for brush and field fires so larger equipment would not have to be used. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve the purchase. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Financial Report.** This July, the General Fund is .9% over budget; with 16 departments being over budget totaling \$145,246. The Solid Waste fund had \$19,123 more revenue in 2017 than 2016; and \$5,822 more expenditures. The Hotel/Motel tax fund is at \$26,378 with \$3,934 to be used for local promotions.

**Public Comments.** There were no public comment.

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