

Minutes  
Elbert County Board of Commissioners  
Monday, March 12, 2018 5:30 P.M.

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 Commissioner Jones.

**Adoption of Agenda.** Chairman Lyon asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add 5A) Request from EMS to declare a used boat trailer as surplus and to accept sealed bids on it; and 5B) Discussion and approval of a beer and wine license for Pyramid Petro which has come under new ownership. Commissioner Vaughn made the motion to approve amending the agenda and to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Adoption of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting on February 12, 2018.** Commissioner Alexander made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Presentation by Attorney Drew Hill of Blasingame, Burch, Garrard and Ashley, P.C. of Athens, Georgia to discuss the County's options to join a National Opioid Litigation Class Action Suit.** Mr. Hill addressed the commissioners at the county's work session. This is a class action lawsuit on behalf of several cities and counties across the country and there will be no out of pocket expense. Mr. Daughtry stated that another firm from Rome, Georgia had also contacted him about representation; but Mr. Daughtry stated that there would be no difference in the outcome therefore he recommended to use the law firm in Athens. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the law firm of Mr. Drew Hill. Commissioner Vaughn seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Request from EMS to declare as surplus a used boat trailer (Serial # 404BE541911001209).** Mr. Chuck Almond, EMS Director addressed the commissioners at the County's work session asking to declare the boat trailer as surplus as it has not been used in several years and to accept sealed bids on it. Commissioner Vaughn made a motion to approve the request and Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of a Beer and Wine License for Pyramid Petro.** Mr. Thomas stated that the store was under new ownership and that all requirements have been met by the new owners. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Vaughn seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of bids for a lawnmower for the Recreation Department. Funds to come from SPLOST.** There was much discussion of the way bids should be advertised. Mr. Thomas stated that he felt bids should be to specifications not brand. The item was tabled until further review.

**Discussion and approval of bids for a dump trailer for the Road Department.** Funds to come from SPLOST. Four bids were received and opened on March 9, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. Commissioner Alexander

made a motion to approve the low bid turned in by Rockin R Trailers in Bowman of \$6,500. Commissioner Vaughn seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of bids for a vehicle for the EMS Department. Funds to come from the reimbursement of the FEMA Grant application.** Four bids were received and opened on March 9, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. The two lowest bids were from Ginn Commercial Fleet for a 2016 Chevrolet Tahoe for \$31,643, and Hardy Chevrolet for a 2018 Chevrolet Tahoe for \$32,136. As there was only a slight difference in price, Commissioner Vaughn made a motion to approve the bid from Hardy Chevrolet for the 2018 Chevrolet Tahoe. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of funding for an Engineering Study to determine cost, specifications, building materials, location and long-term financing of a spec building. Cost is estimated to be around \$7,500.** Mr. Thomas stated that this was not to build a spec building, only to determine the type of building we need to construct; which will help us in marketing to prospective companies. Commissioner Alexander asked which firm would do the study. Mr. Thomas replied that we would seek bids. Rusty Warner of the Economic Development Authority stated that he had already received three bids for consideration. Commissioner Vaughn made a motion to approve funding for an engineering study. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of the Elbert County Alcohol and Drug Testing Policy.** This is a resolution approving a new Alcohol and Drug policy for Elbert County employees, volunteers and agents. This incorporates the current provisions of the drug testing policy with the addition of two new provisions. Whenever any County employee has been involved in a work-related accident; alcohol and drug testing will be mandatory. Whenever an employee or volunteer is under a prescription drug that carries restrictions from the doctor, such as operating vehicles or heavy equipment, they will be required to report that to department head or supervisor; and will be required to get medical clearance from their doctor stating the prescribed medication will not affect or prevent the safe performance of the employee's required duties. According to Mr. Daughtry, Constitutional Officers have their own procedures for their departments and would have to opt in to the County's policy. The Board of Commissioners are considered agents of the County and automatically included in the County's policy. Commissioner Vaughn made a motion to approve the amended Alcohol and Drug Testing Policy. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion regarding yurts for Bobby Brown Park as discussed at the BOC retreat.** Mr. Thomas stated he thinks adding the yurts will enhance the park although it will take three to four years to realize a profit. Estimated cost of five yurts is \$110,000 to \$115,000. He recommends the board allow the park to seek bids for the yurts and furnishings. Commissioner Harper made a motion to allow the park to seek bids. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Finance Report.** According to Mr. Pitts revenues at this point are more than the last three years. The "over-spent" percentage is similar to prior months. E-911 is at a surplus and Solid Waste has done well, even though they had some large expenditures. Hotel/Motel Tax fund for local promotion is at \$6,000.

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

**Executive Session.** Chairman Lyon asked for a motion to enter Executive Session for litigation and possible land purchase. Commissioner Ashworth made the motion. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Upon leaving Executive Session Chairman Lyon asked for a motion to enter General Session. Commissioner Ashworth made the motion. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Lyon stated that no action was taken during Executive Session.

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