

**Minutes of Public Hearing
Elbert County Board of Commissioners
Monday, February 11, 2019**

Public Hearing:

A request from Holland M. Ware Foundation to rezone 31 acres on Ware Drive from Agricultural to Industrial. The proposed use is to build an asphalt plant on the property to compliment the existing rock crushing operation.

Mr. Jason McCannon, a representative from Holland M. Ware Foundation and Kenny Bradley, a representative from Georgia Stone Products were on hand to answer any questions about the request for rezoning.

There being no public comments, Chairman Lee Vaughn called the meeting to a close.

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Chairman Lee Vaughn called the meeting to order. Present were Chairman Vaughn, Commissioner Casey Freeman, Jr., Commissioner Chris Alexander, Commissioner Kenneth Ashworth, Commissioner Freddie Jones, County Administrator Bob Thomas, County Clerk Tamara Butler, CFO Phil Pitts. Absent were Commissioner Horace Harper and County Attorney Bill Daughtry.

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

Chairman Vaughn asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add 4a) Discussion and Approval of a joint marketing and branding program with 365 Total Marketing to help promote Elberton, Elbert County, Bowman.

Commissioner Alexander made the motion to approve amending the agenda and to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Vaughn then asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add 14a) Discussion regarding Economic Development.

Commissioner Alexander made the motion to approve amending the agenda and to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Adoption of the Minutes of January 14, 2019. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and Approval of a joint marketing and branding program with 365 Total Marketing to help promote Elberton, Elbert County, Bowman and the Board of Education. Cindy Bailey, Director of Marketing at 365 Total Marketing was not in attendance but had given a power point presentation to the board at the work session. Leslie Friedman with the Chamber of Commerce however was in attendance and spoke briefly to the board. She stated she was excited about the project. Essentially the goal is to “rebrand” an entire area and help market tourism and economic development so that anyone looking to relocate to this area or anyone looking to grow in this area it’s all the same unified message. This will be a collaborative group effort with the Cities, County and the Parks. Some funding for the project will come from the State, with the remainder from the County and City; with the City already

approving the project. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the joint marketing and branding program. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and approval to name Allen Nicas to another three-year term on the Elbert County Library Board. Mr. Nicas has indicated that he is willing to serve. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve Allen Nicas to another term on the Library Board. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and approval to name the following members of the Elbert County Fire Board to coincide with the Board of Commissioners election districts for four-year terms.

- 1) District 2- Monty Dixon
- 2) District 4- Jeff Dickerson
- 3) District 4- Glenn Parham

This change was recommended by the Fire Board and adopted by the Board of Commissioners in 2018, which states each member shall serve a four-year term and a member may serve more than one term. The four-year term will run concurrent to the term of the District Commissioner. Commissioner Freeman made motion to approve the members to the Fire Board. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and approval to replace Jim Purcell with Cosby “Butch” Smith on the Board of Assessors. This appointment is for the remainder of the three-year term and will become effective March 1, 2019. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the appointment of Cosby “Butch” Smith to the Board of Assessors. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and approval of a request from Holland M. Ware Foundation to rezone 31 acres on Ware Drive from Agricultural to Industrial. The proposed use is to build an asphalt plant on the property to compliment the existing rock crushing operation. A Public Hearing was held before the regular meeting and no one spoke in opposition of the request. This request was also approved by the Planning Commission. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve the rezoning request. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and approval to purchase four (4) fire hydrants at a cost of \$2500 EACH from the City of Elberton to placed on the Athens Highway at Edna Drive, Stinchcomb Road, Sam Paul Road and Nickville Road. They will be located as part of the new water line that is to be constructed to the Madison County line. This will strengthen our water shuttle system for the Elbert County Fire Department and possibly help with our ISO rating. The funds will come from the Fire Fund. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to purchase the fire hydrants. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and approval of a possible purchase of an abandoned mobile home on Campbell Street Extension at the April property tax sale. This is an abandoned mobile home in terrible condition and not livable and needs to be removed. Mr. Thomas stated there are many other situations like this in the county and would like to try this in an effort to clean up other abandoned property. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the purchase at the April tax sale. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Discussion regarding the proposed TSPLOST projects and revenues. Commissioner Alexander made a motion that TSPLOST proceeds (if passed at the March election) be used only for resurfacing and patching existing paved roads in the county and using LMIG funds for purchasing right-of ways, gravel for dirt roads. Mr. Thomas clarified the motion by Commissioner Alexander by saying that the

TSPLOST proceeds would not be used for purchasing equipment, etc. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 3-1 with Commissioner Ashworth opposing.

Discussion and approval of purchasing a used truck for Bobby Brown Park and a used ATV for the EMS and Rescue department. Mr. Thomas stated that the used Ford 350 from EMS that was to be declared as surplus in item 13, be used by Bobby Brown Park. He then asked the commissioners for approval to look for a used ATV with a bed for hauling since in the past several months there have been incidents where EMS and Rescue has had to get to remote locations. He also asked for approval of up to \$12,000 for the purchase of the used ATV. Chairman Vaughn asked for a motion to approve seeking a purchase of a used ATV for EMS and Rescue and to not declare the used 2000 Ford F350 as surplus but put it in use at Bobby Brown Park. Commissioner Freeman made the motion. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Finance Report. Mr. Pitts stated that due to January having three pay periods, it throws the budget off; showing an over expenditure for the month. SPLOST revenues are up.

Discussion regarding Economic Development. Commissioner Alexander stated that he as had a lot of feedback from the community about economic development; whether it's going good or bad, but the sentiment seems to be that we need to work more closely with the City. Commissioner Freeman said he is also hearing a lot of concerns about the lack of cooperation between the Board of Commissioners, the City of Elberton and Bowman. He thinks there are a lot of reasons for this, a lot of history, a lot of negativity; he feels the Board of Commissioners needs to work towards solving this problem because it is going to impact the community. He said the board needs to talk to the Economic Development board to find out what they are doing and how they are going to help us with some of these problems. Chairman Vaughn said that he is disappointed as well and wish we could get back together with the City and the Economic Development; but he understands their position. He also said that he wishes we had a Spec building to possibly give Rusty something to market. Commissioner Alexander then said he would like to make a motion to not fund Economic Development any longer. Chairman Vaughn clarified by saying the motion is to cease funding Economic Development. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 3-2 with Commissioner Ashworth and Commissioner Jones opposing. As the vote would have been a 2-2 tie, Chairman Vaughn was the deciding vote and voted in favor to cease funding Economic Development effective immediately.

Public Comments. There were no public comments.

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