

Minutes
Elbert County Board of Commissioners
Monday, April 8, 2019 5:30 P.M.

Chairman Lee Vaughn called the meeting to order. Present were Chairman Vaughn, Vice Chairman Horace Harper, Commissioner Casey Freeman, Jr., 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.

Chairman Vaughn asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add 19a) Executive Session for litigation. Commissioner Jones made the motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Adoption of the Minutes of March 11, 2019. Commissioner Harper made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of the Work Detail Agreement with the Georgia Department of Corrections. The agreement is for the period July 1, 2019 thru June 30, 2020 at an annual cost of \$79,000. Mr. Thomas stated this agreement is for two (2) work crews from Whitworth Women's Facility that provide cleaning of Government Complex buildings and grass cutting. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the Work Detail Agreement. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a Resolution designating the Elbert County CFO as the person to receive sales tax information from the Georgia Department of Revenue. Mr. Thomas stated this resolution was signed into law in May of 2018 and became effective July 1, 2018 authorizing the Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Revenue to provide certain confidential sales tax information to the "designated finance officer or taxing official". Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve the Resolution designating Phil Pitts, CFO as the person to receive sales tax information. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a request by the Georgia DOT to participate in public safety improvements at the RR crossing on Victory Drive and Highway 72. Mr. Thomas stated this request includes advance warning signs, pavement markings as well as paving, grading and drainage work. The estimated cost of our participation will be \$9,500. The funding is eligible from our SPLOST revenue. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve this request from the Georgia DOT. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a request from Jim-Ree Museum to donate \$2,500 to help defray the cost of advertising and expenses for their annual Spring Festival to be held on June 8, 2019. Mr. Thomas stated that it is our policy to limit the donation to \$1,000 per event. Funds will come from the Hotel/Motel Tax Fund. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to donate \$1,000 to Jim-Ree Museum for their annual Spring Festival. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a three-year lease contract extension for a motor grader from Flint Equipment. Mr. Thomas stated this new equipment is larger and includes 6-wheel drive capability that will help do a better job. The new lease would increase about \$600 per month. Commissioner Alexander

and Commissioner Freeman suggested reaching out to other companies to see if other equipment is available and possibly less expensive. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to seek bids from other companies before making a decision. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Harper opposing.

Discussion and approval of Property Maintenance Codes for Elbert County. This item was deferred to next month's meeting.

Discussion and approval of Information Technology funds to update and provide for continuing services to our computers, telephone and data base resources. Mr. Thomas stated with the recent "cyber-attack" of a nearby county government that resulted in thousands of dollars to restore; it was now time to look for a staff person or an outside technology consultant to update and provide for protection of our information as it pertains to our computers, etc. Chairman Vaughn asked for a motion to allow Mr. Thomas to seek bids and/or determine what will best fit our needs. Commissioner Freeman made the motion. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a contract with the University of Georgia regarding the retirement plan for Patrick Marcellino. UGA requires this format since he is on the Optional Retirement Plan (ORP). Christa Campbell, County Extension Coordinator explained to the Commissioners at the Work Session that when Patrick was hired, he opted for the ORP, but this was not brought to her attention until recently. Under this contract the University would bill the Board of Commissioners monthly. This will actually save the county money since the ORP contribution is 9.24% versus the TRS contribution of 20.9%. The contract will be in effect from April 1, 2019 to June 30, 2019. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the contract with UGA for Patrick Marcellino. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of the permitting software for the Code Enforcement department. Mr. Thomas stated with the continuing increase in permits and licenses; the Code Enforcement department needs software that will track and keep records more efficiently. The software will integrate with the Tax Assessor's office as new construction is permitted. It will also keep track of permits, inspections, contractors and licenses. It is internet-based and can be tracked from the location on-site. In reviewing the bids, Mr. Thomas recommended purchasing the software package from CityView BluePrince Software. There will be a one-time charge of \$30,218, with a yearly maintenance fee of \$4,200. Funds will come from the SPLOST technology fund. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the new software for the Code Enforcement department. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of bids for the replacement of the roof on the old Railroad Depot on Deadwyler Street. Mr. Thomas stated the Historical Society had been using this building until a couple of years ago when they asked the County to take it over. The clay tile roof is cracking in places and has begun to leak in areas. Three (3) bids were received, with Guardian Roofing turning in the low bid of \$69,754 on a "matching" clay tile replacement that looks similar to clay tiles but is a metal roofing. Mr. Thomas stated that the Maintenance and Road Department could help with removal of the old roof. Chairman Vaughn asked for a motion to approve the bid from Guardian Roofing contingent upon receiving satisfactory references. Commissioner Freeman made the motion. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

General discussion regarding the commercial growing of "free-range" poultry as it relates to setback requirements on poultry houses. This type of production requires for the birds to be outside the poultry houses in a fenced-in area for a certain amount of time each day, depending on the weather.

Mr. Thomas stated that we will need to look at our zoning ordinance to determine if changes need to be made to update the ordinance to include “free-range” poultry operations.

Discussion and approval of bids for an asphalt hot box for the Road Department. This item will be brought back before the Commissioners at a later date.

Discussion and approval of a maximum price limit on a used tractor truck to pull a low-boy trailer for the Road Department. The truck we are currently using is a 1985 Mack with approximately 300,000 miles. Mr. Thomas asked the Commissioners for a maximum dollar amount of \$40,000 in seeking a replacement for the tractor-truck. The used one can be used at the transfer station since the one they are using is much older. Commissioner Alexander stated he felt that one could be purchased between \$25,000 and \$30,000. Again, Mr. Thomas stated that for a good used piece of equipment he felt \$40,000 was more accurate. Chairman Vaughn then asked for a motion to seek out bids up to \$40,000 for the tractor-truck. Commissioner Harper made the motion. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Alexander opposing.

Finance Report. Mr. Pitts stated at the time we are 1.79% over budget with General Fund revenues slightly less than this time last year. The Hotel/Motel Tax fund has a balance of \$8547.

Public Comments. Mr. Jimmy White, President of the Jim-Ree Museum thanked the Commissioners for their continued support.

Executive Session. Chairman Vaughn asked for a motion to enter Executive Session for litigation. Commissioner Harper made the motion. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Upon returning, Chairman Vaughn asked for a motion to enter General Session. Commissioner Alexander made the motion. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Vaughn stated no action was taken.

Adjournment. Commissioner Harper made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried.