

**Minutes**  
**Elbert County Board of Commissioners**  
**Tuesday, November 12, 2019**

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

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 9a) Discussion and Approval for the Fire Department to apply for a matching grant from Georgia Forestry. Commissioner Freeman made the motion and Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

**Adoption of the Minutes of the October 15, 2019 meeting.** Chairman Vaughn asked for a motion to adopt the minutes of the October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to amend the minutes as requested by Mrs. Louis Decker who objected to the wording of the minutes as presented by the County Clerk. There was not a second; therefore, the motion died.

**Chairman Vaughn then asked for motion to adopt the minutes as read.** Commissioner Freeman made the motion to approve the minutes as read. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 3-1 with Commissioner Alexander opposing.

**Chairman Vaughn asked for a motion to adopt the minutes of the October 28, 2019 Called Meeting.** Commissioner Alexander made the motion to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

**Discussion of a request from the Elbert County Chamber of Commerce for revisions and updates to the Chamber office for better utilization and convenience for visitors to our community. This would include an overall facelift of the kitchen, front office and meeting rooms.** Mr. Thomas stated Leslie Friedman Chamber of Commerce President, presented the Commissioners with a proposal from the students of Athens Tech Interior Design for \$43,000 in renovations. The building has not been renovated or updated and since it is the Chamber office and Welcome Center to Elbert County, he highly recommends that we proceed to move forward with this project. Updates to the kitchen area were expected to be around \$8,000. Therefore, the total project would be around \$51,000. He stated he would get more accurate pricing and present them in December or January and to see where funding would come from.

Chairman Vaughn agreed that this is a much-needed renovation.

**Mrs. Mary Clark to address the Board regarding support and participation in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity weekend celebration scheduled for January 2020.** Mrs. Clark asked for the Commissioners support in the 27<sup>th</sup> annual Martin Luther King, Jr. unity celebration. She said they really appreciated the support in the past but would also like to ask for an additional \$800 to help with the transportation and meals for a marching band coming in from Snellville. Chairman Vaughn stated in the past we have held our donation to \$1,000 per request so as not to deplete our funds which come from the Hotel/Motel Tax fund. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve a donation of \$1,000. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

**Discussion and approval of a Resolution requesting the Georgia Department of Agriculture promulgate and adopt an Amendment to Chapter 40-6 of the Rules of the Department of**

**Agriculture titled “Fertilizers”.** Mr. Daughtry stated this is a request made to the Department of Agriculture to amend its Rules to provide for Prohibitions applicable to fertilizers in the same way that Prohibitions have been recently proposed for soil amendments. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve sending this request to the Department of Agriculture. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

**Discussion and approval of bids for a pickup truck for the Road Department.** Mr. Thomas stated two (2) bids were received from Casey Jackson Ford and Jacky Jones Ford. Mr. Thomas recommended approving the low bid received from Casey Jackson Ford for a 2020 Ford Pickup for \$30,600. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve the purchase from Casey Jackson Ford. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

**Discussion and approval of a request from the EMS Department to seek bids for a 2019/2020 ambulance for opening at the December meeting.** Mr. Thomas stated that it is time to replace an ambulance chassis and box and Mr. Chuck Almond would like to seek bids for opening at the December meeting. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

**Discussion and approval of a request from the Fire Department to apply for a matching grant from Georgia Forestry for \$10,000.** Mr. Thomas stated this is an application sent to the Georgia Forestry for a matching grant of \$10,000. This is a 50/50 match with \$5,000 from the County to purchase fire equipment. Funds to come from the Fire Department budget. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

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

**Finance Report.** Mr. Pitts first asked Chairman Vaughn for a vote from the Commissioners to move the budget and expense accounts from Department 52 to Department 91 strictly for accounting purposes. There will be no changes to the budget. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve this request from Mr. Pitts. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Pitts stated that General Fund was under budget by \$54,106. Revenues were \$438,000 more than this time last year. Sales Tax revenues for October were \$180,541 and T-SPLOST revenues were \$118,707.

**Adjournment.** Commissioner Harper made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.