

Minutes
Elbert County Board of Commissioners
Monday, August 10, 2020

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

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

Chairman Vaughn asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add: 5a) Discussion and approval to purchase a used vehicle for EMS. 5b) Discussion and approval of a request from the Fire Department to purchase a pumper/tanker truck with a used chassis and allow a new body to be installed. 5c) Mrs. Tammy Blackmon to address the Board regarding the Recreation Department and the football program.

Commissioner Freeman made the motion to amend the agenda and to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Adoption of the Minutes of July 13, 202 and the Called Meeting on July 22, 2020. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Pam Allgood with KECB to give updates on their activities and to discuss balloon releases and suggestions for reducing litter. Pam stated that KECB will have a recycling event on September 12, 2020 in Bowman and a tire amnesty event scheduled for September 23 thru 26th, 2020 at the Road Department. She added that she would like the county to consider opening the Transfer Station for one (1) Saturday a month and to consider an ordinance to not allow balloon releases in the county.

Mrs. Tammy Blackmon to address the Board regarding the Recreation Department. Mrs. Blackmon stated she has issues with the traveling football program, it should be kept here at our Rec Department. Also, parents shouldn't be paying for equipment that the Rec Department usually furnishes. D.J. Blackmon and Shawn Allen also voiced their complaints against the Rec Department and the lack of supervision. Chairman Vaughn and the Commissioners agreed to look into their complaints.

Commissioner Harper had to leave the meeting at this point.

Discussion and approval to purchase a used vehicle for EMS with a limit of \$20,000. Mr. Thomas stated there was a need for an extra vehicle especially for first responder calls when other vehicles are unavailable. Purchase to come from COVID funds. Commissioner Jones made the motion to approve the purchase of another EMA vehicle. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and approval from the Fire Department to purchase a pumper/tanker truck with a used chassis and allow a new body to be installed. Estimated cost will be under \$210,000, a savings of approximately \$75,000 to \$100,000. Per Mr. Thomas, the actual cost will be \$206,290.00. Purchase to come COVID funds. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve the purchase for the

pumper/tanker truck. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and approval to authorize acceptance of payments for the 2020 Georgia Cares funding for counties as part of the Coronavirus Relief Fund. Mr. Thomas stated our portion of the COVID funding is \$735,851. Requests for this funding has to be completed and sent in by September 1,2020. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to authorize acceptance of payments for the Coronavirus Relief Fund. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and approval of a request from Jim Ree Museum for a \$1,000 donation from the Hotel/Motel tax fund to help defray expenses for their October 17, 2020 festival. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Elbert County Board of Education for the provision of School Resource Officers for the 2020-2021 school year. Mr. Thomas stated this contract is for services through July 2021. The agreement is for one (1) SRO to serve at each school location. The School District shall be responsible for paying \$45,000 per SRO for four (4) officers, which is sufficient to cover all actual expenditures. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve the IA with the BOE. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and approval of a contract with KCI Technologies, Inc. for a nondestructive payment condition evaluation on approximately 420 centerline miles of county roadways. This field inspection will be conducted in accordance to guidelines established by the Georgia DOT for the maintenance of our roadway system. Mr. Thomas stated this contract will allow KCI Technologies to evaluate our roads and set up a priority list of roads to be paved. Chairman Vaughn stated we are not “road experts” when it comes to evaluating roads and this would take the “guess-work” out of it and these professionals could better help in the process and also the commission has the final decision on which roads to pave. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve a contract with KCI Technologies. There was no second to the motion. Commissioner Freeman and Commissioner Alexander stated they would like to have more information and possibly talk to a representative of the company before approving.

Discussion and approval of proposed changes to Chapter 38- Manufactured and Mobile Homes of the Elbert County Code of Ordinances. Changes will address a new Section 38.35 for Travel Trailers and Camping facilities. Mr. Daughtry stated this is not part of the zoning ordinance; but allows travel trailers in certain zoning districts and not in others; therefore, it needs to be approved by the planning board and then a public hearing held. First reading would be at the September meeting.

Discussion and approval to purchase a new ambulance and equipment for our EMS Department. The funds from the Cares Act will be used to purchase this equipment. Mr. Thomas stated this ambulance would be used for the care and transfer of COVID patients. The ambulance will be purchased from Emergency Vehicle Sales for \$158,309. Additional equipment needed for supplying the ambulance will be \$54,037. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the purchase of the new ambulance. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and approval to make modifications to the June 2020 Financial Report and the 2020 General Fund Expenditures. Mr. Pitts stated it is actually the 2020 Fiscal Year budget that need modifications. With budget being \$11,890,000; expenditures need to be adjusted to \$11,881,850. Commissioner Ashworth made the motion to approve the 2020 Fiscal Year budget modifications. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and approval to add Demps Allen Road to the road list. There was no discussion on this agenda item.

Finance Report. Mr. Pitts stated we are almost break-even through the first month of the fiscal year. Both SPLOST and TSPLOST revenues are up.

Public Comments. There were no public comments.

Executive Session. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to enter Executive Session for personnel and litigation. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Upon returning, Commissioner Freeman made a motion to enter General Session. Commissioner Alexander seconded. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Vaughn stated no action was taken.

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