

**Minutes**  
**Elbert County Board of Commissioners**  
**Monday, May 10, 2021**

Chairman Lee Vaughn called the meeting to order. Present were Chairman Vaughn, Vice Chairman Kenneth Ashworth, Commissioner Horace Harper Commissioner Chris Alexander, Commissioner Casey Freeman, Jr., 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 Commissioner Jones.

**Adoption of the Agenda.** Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to adopt the agenda; Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Adoption of the Minutes of April 12, 2021 and the Called Meeting on April 22, 2021.** Commissioner Alexander made a motion to adopt the minutes as read; Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Update on activities and programs from the Elbert County Chamber of Commerce.** Leslie Friedman and Cam McClary, Chamber Chairman came before the Board with Mrs. Friedman saying there are two (2) initiatives in the works; work force and housing. She said the popular Farmers Market will be returning in June and July in the First Methodist Church parking lot. On the tourism side, they are working on a Visitors Guide hopefully to be launched in 2022.

**Second Reading of an Ordinance that authorizes the County, by and through the Tax Commissioner, to conduct Judicial in Rem Tax Foreclosures for properties in Elbert County.** Mr. Daughtry stated the Tax Commissioner shall have the authority to proceed with judicial in rem tax foreclosures relating to delinquent ad valorem property taxes and the decision of when to proceed with judicial in rem tax foreclosure shall be made by the Tax Commissioner and the County Attorney based on the size of the indebtedness due to the Tax Commissioner, the number of years in arrears, and any other lawful factor determined by the Tax Commissioner and the County Attorney. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve, and Commissioner Ashworth seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

**Request from the City of Bowman for a donation of \$1,000 from our tourism fund to help with expenses for their Spring Festival.** Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the donation of \$1,000 to the City of Bowman for the Spring Festival. Commissioner Harper seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of a letter of resignation from Robert Whitworth on the Elbert County Planning Commission effective July 31, 2021. Mr. Whitworth served from the 2<sup>nd</sup> District. This is a four-year term.** Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve the resignation of Robert Whitworth from the Planning Commission. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of safety equipment for the Elbert County Sheriff's Department. Funding will come from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Total expense is \$122,781.98.** Sheriff Andrews provided the Commissioners with a list of safety equipment; to be funded by the American Rescue Plan Act. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve; Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of the 2021-2022 County Employee Health Plan.** Matt Bidwell with MSI Benefits Group presented the proposals to the commissioners at the work session stating an increase of 35% from Anthem. United Healthcare returned a proposal of about a 12.5% increase in premium. Mr. Thomas recommended changing to United Healthcare Option #2. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve this recommendation. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Discussion and approval for the transportation and disposal of solid waste services of our Transfer Site.** Mr. Thomas stated a letter from Republic Services showed an increase of 80 cents per ton for waste disposal at our Transfer Station. He also stated we needed to look at increasing the tipping fees to help offset this expense, possibly in the next fiscal year's budget. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve the contract with Republic Services. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of funds for the KECB Tourism Art Project.** Pam Algood with KECB gave a presentation at the April meeting. Chairman Vaughn asked for a motion to donate \$10,000 to the project. Commissioner Freeman made the motion; Commissioner Alexander seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

**Finance Report.** Mr. Pitts stated General Fund is under budget through April. SPLOST and TSPLOST revenues increased in March. Solid Waste Fund is improving and also Bobby Brown Park.

**Executive Session for Litigation and possible real estate purchase.** Commissioner Alexander made a motion to enter Executive Session. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Upon returning, Commissioner Alexander made a motion to enter General Session; Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Chairman Vaughn stated no action was taken.

**Public Comments.** Pam Algood, spokeswoman for KECB thanked the Commissioners for their support of the Tourism Art Project; in which the commissioners approved \$10,000 in funds.

**Adjournment.** Commissioner Harper made a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Alexander seconded. The motion passed 5-0.