

**Minutes of Called Meeting  
Elbert County Board of Commissioners  
Friday, January 28, 2022**

Chairman Lee Vaughn called the meeting to order, Present were Chairman Vaughn, Commissioner Horace Harper, Commissioner Casey Freeman, Commissioner Chris Alexander, Commissioner Kenneth Ashworth, Commissioner Freddie Jones, County Administrator Phil Pitts, Finance Director Macie Witcher, County Attorney Bill Daughtry, County Clerk Tamara Butler.

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 Public Comments as the first item. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to amend the agenda and approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Chairman Vaughn stated that Commissioner Alexander and Commissioner Freeman requested this meeting, therefore he said he would like for them to address the issue at hand; which is the agreement between the Elbert County Board of Commissioners and the Elbert County Board of Education regarding use of the Beaverdam School facility for the County Extension Service and 4-H.

Commissioner Alexander stated that he had met with School Superintendent John Jarvis to look at both Beaverdam and Blackwell facilities and said his main objective was to make sure that the County Extension and 4-H program had an adequate facility to carry on the programs. He stated he knew they would have to be out of the Beaverdam facility, but heard by a 4-H member by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Commissioner Freeman also voiced the same concerns as Commissioner Alexander, stating that “the left hand and the right hand didn’t know what they were doing”. After feeling left in the dark, Commissioner Alexander said he felt better about the situation after visiting the Blackwell facility. Also available is a dedicated classroom at the Middle School and any school cafeteria for evening activities.

Superintendent Jarvis gave a brief summary of the meetings up until now with former County Administrator Bob Thomas and said the goal all along has been to have the Beaverdam facility open in the fall of 2023. He also said that he was sorry for any lack of communication. In response to a question by Commissioner Freeman about the cost of delaying the move from Beaverdam; Mr. Jarvis said it would cost probably between \$500,000 and \$ 1 million.

County Extension Coordinators Christa Campbell and Lauren Dye addressed the Commissioners and agreed that their programs would work in the facilities being provided for now; even though it is not an ideal situation, but they could make it work with some disruptions in the programs during the moving process.

Chairman Vaughn asked for a motion to grant the Board of Education’s request to terminate the lease early with a move-out date by May 1, 2022. Commissioner Harper made a motion to grant the early terminate of the lease. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Adjournment: Commissioner Harper made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

