

MINUTES  
ELBERT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MONDAY, JANUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2012

Chairman Tommy Lyon called the meeting to order. Present were Chairman Lyon, Vice-Chair Horace Harper, Commissioner Harold Reynolds, Commissioner Frank Eaves, Commissioner Kenneth Ashworth, Commissioner Freddie Jones, County Attorney Bill Daughtry, County Clerk Judy Vaughn, County Administrator Bob Thomas and CFO Phil Pitts.

After the Pledge to the United States Flag, the invocation was given by Commissioner Ashworth.

Adoption of Agenda. Commissioner Reynolds made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Before voting, Chairman Lyon requested amending the agenda to adopt a Resolution to approve qualifying fees for the upcoming election. Commissioner Eaves made a motion to approve the amendment to the agenda. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Adoption of minutes for the monthly meeting December 12th, 2011, called meeting December 21<sup>st</sup> and called meeting December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Commissioner Harper made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Approval of a Resolution of Renewal for Emergency 911 Fees for 2012, approval of a Resolution of Renewal for 911 "Emergency Telephone Fund" Surcharge and approval of a Resolution Imposing a 911 Charge on Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) Connections within Elbert County, GA. County Administrator Bob Thomas stated that since these are annual renewals that we do every year, we could vote on them as a whole. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the renewals of these three resolutions. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Appointment and approval of a committee to meet with and review a proposed Host Agreement with Sweet City Landfill, LLC for a proposed landfill site in Elbert County. This item was tabled from last month. Mr. Thomas said it has been requested by Sweet City Landfill to appoint a committee to come up with a Host Agreement. Since there is not a specific number for this committee, it is the feelings of the Board of Commissioners that the entire Board should be on this committee. All commissioners do not have to be in attendance at all meetings. Chairman Lyon said that they will ask Sweet City to hold public hearings to get input from citizens. Chairman Eaves made a motion to appoint the entire Board of Commissioners to the committee to come up with a Host Agreement. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Review and approve a memorandum of understanding with GovDeals.com to advertise county surplus equipment as designated by the Commission. Mr. Thomas explained to the Board that this will be an on-line service at no cost to the County. Board approval will have to be given before advertising any equipment. We will be allowed to put in a minimum bid and not have to sell if we are not offered enough. Commissioner Eaves made a motion to approve the memorandum of understanding with GovDeals.com. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Off-System Safety Improvement Contract with Georgia DOT, which will add/replace road signs, special pavement markings and striping for twenty-five (25) county roads. Estimated cost not to exceed \$250,000 and will be 100% DOT funded. Mr. Thomas reminded the Board that this will be the second off-system contract. The first one has been completed. This is Federal money, and this program will cover approximately seventy-five (75) miles of roadway. If approved, we will bid out all work, and we could start in the Spring. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the Off-System Safety Improvement Contract with Georgia DOT with 100% funded by DOT. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Approval to purchase property at 45 Forest Avenue, known as the Elbert County Government Complex, from the Elbert County Board of Education. This proposal has been discussed with the Board of Education. The County has put over \$1,000,000 into this facility in remodeling and improvements. We would like to have a deed in the County's name before continuing to work on this building. The purchase will include the Rock Gym, but not the Inferno or the Granite Bowl. The purchase price is \$10. Commissioner Harper made a motion to purchase the Elbert County Government Complex from the Board of Education for \$10. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Approval for the Elbert County Fire Department Board to make changes to the Elbert County Fire Department By-Laws concerning Fire Board membership. Since three new fire departments have been added, they would like to make the following changes:

- 1) The by-laws will be reviewed by the Fire Board annually.
- 2) The by-laws, rules and guidelines will be set once a year and not consider any change until the following year with the exception of extraordinary conditions and a majority vote of the Fire Board ruling otherwise.
- 3) All changes will be presented to the Elbert County Board of Commissioners for their approval

Commissioner Harper made a motion to give approval to the E.C. Fire Department Board to make the requested changes to the by-laws. Commissioner Eaves seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Approval of qualifying fees for the 2012 election. Qualifying fees have to be advertised in the local paper by February 1<sup>st</sup>. They have been set by County Clerk Judy Vaughn for Board approval. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the qualifying fees. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Finance Report. Phil Pitts, CFO, reported to the Board that as of 12/31/11, 81.87% of property taxes had been collected. Of that the County's portion was \$4,805,504.31. Our revenues are looking a little better even though charges for services are down a little. Fines are low over what was anticipated. However, we are still a little under budget. He and Mr. Thomas have gone over expenditures; and with the auditors approval, he can use SPLOST funds to cover some of them, which will help our General Fund. As a whole, at the mid-year point, we are at 48.4% - 1.6% under budget.

Public comments on agenda items.

Susan Sexton, Probate Judge, explained that qualifying fees go to the parties. Non-partisan fees are paid in her office and stay with the County.

Elizabeth Scott Harris, Estelle Colquitt, Geraldine Harper, John Clarke, Sharon Jackson, Cassie Moon, Kevin Lewis, Robert S., Peggy Rucker, John Sexton, Mike Fortson, Tracey Rousey and Jim Purcell all expressed opposition to the Sweet City Landfill.

Executive Session. Chairman Lyon called for a motion to strike the Executive Session. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion. Commissioner Eaves seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Adjournment. Commissioner Harper made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Eaves seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.