

MINUTES
ELBERT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH, 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 CFO Phil Pitts and County Administrator Bob Thomas.

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

Adoption of agenda. Commissioner Eaves made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Adoption of minutes for the Monthly Meeting January 9th, 2012. Commissioner Reynolds made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Daniel Graves, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, to come before the Commission Board with an update on Chamber events. Mr. Graves thanked the Board for their continued support to the Chamber. The Chamber continues to do the traditional services, as they attempt to be a good source of advertising for Elbert County. They constantly invite groups to visit the community for a day. He is amazed that people still want to see what a quarry looks like. The Historical Marker Project is still ongoing with the seventh marker soon to be placed in Bowman. The Chamber promoted a bass tournament in October, 2011. Last year's Fall Festival (the 12th) was the biggest ever. There were one hundred and twelve (112) vendors, and more than five thousand people attended. The 9th Annual Twilight Stroll was also the biggest ever – with one hundred-eighty-four (184) participants from Georgia, South Carolina and Alabama. Mr. Graves also expressed his thanks to the Elbert County Sheriff's Department for their help with the Twilight Stroll. The Elbert County Chamber Banquet will be held on March 30th. Todd Long, Director of Planning with Georgia DOT, is to be the guest speaker. He expressed thanks to Mr. Thomas for his help in arranging for Mr. Long to come and speak. In closing, he again expressed his appreciation for the partnership between the Chamber and the Elbert County Commission.

Request from Elberton Main Street Association to help with funding the Summer Concert Series using Hotel/Motel Tax. They are requesting \$2500 from the County. The City of Elberton and Elberton Net are giving \$7500. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the request of \$2,500, which will come from Hotel/Motel Tax funds. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Request for approval to close the dirt portion of Fork Creek Road between Allen White Road and Fork Creek Road. Also, to discontinue road maintenance. A hearing was held today at 5:00 p.m. on this road closure to give the public an opportunity to speak on this matter. There were some in favor of the closure, and some in opposition. County Attorney Bill Daughtry said that it is a County road by prescription as long as it is being used by the public, and it is being maintained by the County. Commissioner Eaves made a motion to close the dirt portion of Fork Creek Road. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Request for approval to close a portion of Paul Motes Road between Double Bridges Road and Raymond Anderson Road. Also, to discontinue road maintenance. A hearing was held today at 5:15 p.m. on this road closure to give the public an opportunity to speak on this matter. There were some in favor of the closure, and some in opposition. County Attorney Bill Daughtry said that it is a County road by prescription as long as it is being used by the public, and it is being maintained by the County. Commissioner Eaves made a motion to close a portion of Paul Motes Road. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Following this, and in line with Items 7 and 8, Commissioner Eaves informed the Board that he had been told that a portion of Graham Road and Christian Road had been closed by a property owner. He asked if County Administrator Bob Thomas could investigate this and see if it is indeed closed. And, if it is closed, will he have it re-opened? Chairman Lyon responded to this request by asking Commissioner Eaves if he would like to put this request in a motion to be voted on by the Board. Commissioner Eaves made a motion requesting Administrator Bob Thomas to investigate a possible road closing between Graham Road and Christian Road; and if it is closed, to have it re-opened. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Approval to renew a lease with Nancy Hart Nursing Home for the Fortsonia Convenience Center. The lease is for a ten year period with an annual payment of \$1,500. County Attorney Bill Daughtry stated that since we are in discussion of possible changes in Solid Waste, we should not enter into another ten year lease. He suggests that we do this on a year to year basis. Also, the requested amount of \$1,500 is an increase from the past annual payment of \$1,200. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve a year to year lease for the Fortsonia Convenience Center with an annual payment of \$1,500. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-1, with Commissioner Eaves against.

Review and approve a bid for an automatic fueling pump at the Elbert County Airport. For some time, there has been a need for an automatic fueling pump at the airport. Those that come in and leave at night have no way of fueling when the airport manager is not there. We received two bids on this pump.

Precision Petroleum Equipment	\$15,268.00
Meco	\$16,206.25

Mr. Thomas recommends the low bid submitted by Precision Petroleum Equipment. Commissioner Reynolds made a motion to accept the bid of \$15,268 submitted by Precision. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Request to send a letter to Elba Pipeline urging them to look at alternate sites for the proposed compression station. The commissioners are in agreement that there is more suitable location for this compressor station than the proposed site. Commissioner Eaves has suggested that they consider land close to Hartwell Dam that is much more secluded. Commissioner Reynolds made a motion for Mr. Thomas to send a letter to Elba Pipeline requesting them to look at alternate sites for the compressor station. Commissioner Eaves seconded the motion. Before voting, Commissioner Eaves asked that the same letter be copied to FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission). Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Review and approve bid to replace the van used in transporting detainees to and from Whitworth Parole Center. This van will replace the one currently used which has over 250,000 miles. We are constantly making costly repairs on this one. We received two bids listed below:

Aikin Ford	Used 2010 F350	\$20,847
Warranty:	50,000/5 years 35,400 miles on van	
Casey Jackson Ford	2012 F350	\$25,000
Warranty:	60,000/5 years New	

Mr. Thomas recommended the 2010 used van from Aikin Ford because of the lower amount, but Commissioner Eaves suggested we go with a new one with a full warranty, which will be less than \$5,000 difference. Commissioner Eaves made a motion to approve the purchase of the new 2012 F350 van from Casey Jackson Ford. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Review and approve bid for a used front end loader for lease-purchase to be used at the airport on the runway extension project. At the present time, we are working on a runway extension project at the airport. A front end loader is needed for this work. By the time this project is completed, the County should have enough “in-kind” hours to cover the cost of this piece of equipment. We will continue to use the front end loader on roads and other projects. The three bids received are listed below:

- 1) Flint Equipment Co. -John Deere \$96,629.00 6 month rental purchase \$3,300/mo.
(applying 100% of rent)
- 2) Tractor & Equipment – Komatsu \$92,000.00 6 month rental purchase \$3,300/mo.
(applying 80% of rent)
- 3) Yancey - Caterpillar \$138,000.00 3 month rental purchase \$4,000/mo.

Mr. Thomas recommends the John Deere for \$3,300 a month, with 100% of rent going towards purchase price. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the rental purchase of the John Deere. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Finance Report given by Phil Pitts, CFO. As of 1/31/12, we still had 11/3% of property taxes unpaid. Sales tax collections are down about \$130,000. We are in a positive situation with expenditures. Although some costs are paid up front all at once, such as Community Partnership and the Regional Commission, the numbers even out over the months. Our group health insurance is running a little more than was anticipated. Mr. Pitts said that he will get with Judy Vaughn and go over this. Overall, we are still on budget.

Public comments on agenda items. No public comments.

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