

MINUTES
ELBERT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, MARCH 12TH, 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 Administrator Bob Thomas, County Attorney Bill Daughtry, County Clerk Judy Vaughn and County Finance Director Phil Pitts.

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

Adoption of agenda. Before adopting the agenda, Chairman Lyon asked to amend the agenda by dropping Item 9. George Butler, with Sweet City Landfill LLC, called and asked to be taken off the agenda for the meeting today. With this amendment, Commissioner Harper made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Adoption of minutes. Before adopting the minutes, Chairman Lyon asked that a change be made on the last page – 11/3% should read 11.3%. After noting this change, Commissioner Asworth made a motion to adopt the minutes from the Monthly Meeting February 13th, 2012. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Kevin Lewis, with the “Citizens For Public Awareness”, to address the Commission on information on the Sweet City Landfill proposal. Mr. Lewis is representing the “Citizens For Public Awareness” and their thoughts and feelings on the proposed Sweet City Landfill. They are against a landfill, and he has 1,129 signatures on a petition showing their opposition. He said that it was obvious at the hearing held by Sweet City Landfill at the Civic Center that the majority of people present were against a landfill. He has researched other landfills and notes that leakage, smell and traffic are just a few of the problems we would have to deal with.

Chip Rousey to address the Commission Board on the proposed Sweet City Landfill. Mr. Rousey is in agreement with Mr. Lewis on his feelings for a landfill in Elbert County. He felt the same way about the incinerator and is thankful they pulled out. Mr. Rousey stated that the people have spoken, and they don't want a landfill.

Request from Eric Lundy, with the Barnabas Youth Center, to use a portion of the facility on 130 Tate Street for an afternoon youth program. Mr. Lundy stated that the mission of the Barnabas Youth Center is to encourage our youth to seek a brighter future by increasing their educational and moral perspective on life. He and his wife are working alone at this point, and they are a non-profit organization. They want to do tutoring, mentoring, help with homework and other things that the children may need. Mr. Thomas, County Administrator, says that the building is vacant at this time. There are four class rooms available for use. The BYC will be responsible for rent, utilities, etc., with no expense to the County. Mr. Thomas will meet with Mr. Lundy and his wife to work out the details. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the request from BYC to use a portion of this building with the understanding that Mr. Thomas will work out the details with Mr. Lundy and his wife.

Request from Advantage Behavioral Health System for in-kind services to develop the vacant lot directly behind their location at 50 Chestnut Street . Tammy Dalton, Communications and Outreach Coordinator with Advantage Behavioral Health System, addressed the Commission Board on their request. The purpose of developing this lot is for additional parking. Specifically, they are requesting that the County grade and pave the lot. The City of Elberton declined their request for help. Mr. Thomas has looked at their property with Shannon Teasley, Road Superintendent for Elbert County. It will cost more than \$50,000 to pave this parking lot. The land is steep from top to bottom, making it more costly to level. Mr. Thomas stated that we would like to help them, but cannot at this time due to budget constraints. Chairman Lyon suggested they look into possible grants for this project.

First Reading of an Ordinance Amending the County's Purchasing Policy. County Attorney Bill Daughtry read the ordinance for the purchasing policy. One change is that sealed bids will be opened before the Board during meetings. He also noted that we have some equipment, such as ambulances and road vehicles, where there is a need for equipment to be consistent or standardized with what they currently have.

Request from the Elbert County Library for approval to submit grant funding to replace five of the seven HVAC units. The estimated cost of the project is \$52,500. The grant is for fifty per cent (50%) funding. Mr. Thomas stated that they would have to come up with other half of the money. We have about \$8,000 in the contingency fund, but we don't want to use that. He will suggest to them that they ask the City of Elberton for some help and; if possibly, the library has funds of its own. He will talk with Anne Grace at the library and report back to the Commission Board.

Finance Report given by CFO Phil Pitts. Mr. Pitts stated that we are making progress in collecting delinquent taxes. There is still \$334,185.00 out there. On property taxes, at the end of February, we had collected 92.9%. That leaves about \$369,000 uncollected. As to the County budget, as a whole, we are about 1.2% over on expenses. This could be due to the fact that at different times some things are paid quarterly or annually. Also, large purchases are made at one time, as with the Rec Department on uniforms and equipment for a season. These type things will even out over the coming months.

Public comments on agenda items. Tracy Rousey addressed the Board on her opposition to the proposed landfill.

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