

MINUTES
ELBERT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, APRIL 9TH, 2012

Chairman Tommy Lyon called the meeting to order. Present were Chairman Lyon, Co-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 County CFO Phil Pitts.

After the Pledge to the United States Flag, the invocation was given by Chairman Lyon.

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

Adoption of minutes for Monthly Meeting March 12th, 2012. Commissioner Harper made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Jim Yarborough, Administrator, Elbert Memorial Hospital, to appear before the Commission Board to give an update on hospital matters. Mr. Yarborough began by expressing his appreciation to the Board of Commissioners for the continued support. The search for a hospital partnership/affiliation is going quite well. There has been much interest by possible future partners. They have been in the process of interviewing. A public hearing will be held at some point to give the public an opportunity to express their opinions and offer comments. It will be thirty to sixty days before they are in a position to make an announcement as to who the affiliate will be. The full process will take several months to implement, as it must be approved by the state and the public hearing held to reveal the details of the agreement. Everything should be in place by early Fall.

Approval to re-appoint Mae Davis, as County Representative, on the Advantage Behavioral Health Systems Community Service Board. Mrs. Davis has served the County well on this board and is willing to serve another three year term. Commissioner Reynolds made a motion to approve the re-appointment of Mae Davis to the Community Service Board. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion of an Elbert County Ambulance Services Ordinance. Private ambulance services are coming into counties that do not meet the standards for providing care to patients. They are limited in supplies and equipment needed in offering proper services in all situations that may be encountered. The purpose of this ordinance is to establish a minimum level of capabilities and to prevent unnecessary delays for ambulance services offering service within the boundaries of Elbert County. This was a "First Reading" only.

Update from Bill Daughtry, County Attorney, on the Public Defender Supervisory Panel. The Public Defender Supervisory Panel was created by Georgia law this year. The duty of the panel is to annually review the Public Defender's job performance and to submit a short list of nominees for Circuit Public Defender to the Standards Council every four years. The panel consists of one appointment by the Governor's office, one by the Chief Judge of the circuit and one by the Chairpersons of the five counties in the district. Mr. Daughtry was appointed by the Chief Judge and is serving as Chairman of the Panel. Gary Gerrard was appointed by the

Governor's Office. Harvey Wasserman was appointed by the Chairs of the five Commission Boards. Mr. Wasserman informed Mr. Daughtry that he will not be able to continue serving on the panel. Therefore, the five Boards have to appoint someone to replace him, and Mr. Daughtry stressed the urgency of getting this done soon.

Discussion and approval of DOT on-system speed limit regulations. These regulations cover State highways and primary and secondary County roads. The County cannot use any speed detection devices until speed limit signs are in place and the Speed Zone Ordinance is approved by the Department of Public Safety. Speed limit signs and speed checked by detection device signs have to be in place for thirty (30) days prior to radar use. Commissioner Eaves made a motion to approve the DOT on-system speed limit regulations. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Second Reading and approval of an Ordinance Amending the County's Purchasing Policy. This will amend Section 2-3 of the Code of Ordinances of Elbert County to provide additional standards for the County's Purchasing Policy. Several changes have been made. One addresses "time constraints prohibiting full compliance with the policy". If this situation arises, the purchasing agent shall personally meet or telephone each member of the Board of Commissioners and get the approval of a voting majority before procuring the products or services. Another amendment addresses the fact that there will be instances when the full extent of services are not known. In this case, the purchasing agent will solicit bids based on hourly rates and an estimate of hours. There are times when "Sole Source Purchases" must be made. For this purchase, three written bids and advertising will not be required. However, Board approval will be required if the purchase is \$5,001.00 or over. Standardization Process is when we must purchase something that is compatible with our existing equipment. In this case, Request for Bids and solicitation of three written bids will not be required, but Board approval will be needed if the purchase is \$5,001.00 or over. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the amended County Purchasing Policy. Commissioner Eaves seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Finance Report given by CFO Phil Pitts. Mr. Pitts has made transfers in the amount of \$75,000.00 for the fire department and E911. At this point, we are 1.1% under budget. Some areas are minus due to advance expenditures. Revenues are ok as far as property taxes go. There is a 94.3% collection rate of March 31st, 2012. Local Option Sales Tax and Insurance Premium Tax are both down. Motor vehicle taxes are down. All total, we are \$600,000.00 down in revenue from this time last year. We will have money from the airport project that can be put into the Road Department budget, but it probably won't be this year's budget.

Public Comments. Chip Rousey asked Mr. Pitts if the Solid Waste Department is the only Enterprise Fund Elbert County has. Mr. Pitts responded that the Elbert County Transpo is also an Enterprise Fund.

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