

MINUTES
ELBERT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, MAY 14TH, 2012

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

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

Adoption of agenda. Before adopting the agenda, Chairman Lyon requested amending the agenda by omitting Item 6 "Request from residents of Zero Road and Jasmine Trail to bring their road right-of-way into the County road system for maintenance and upkeep." and replacing it with "Discussion and approval of the purchase of a dozer for the Road Department." Commissioner Jones made a motion to adopt the agenda with the amendment. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Adoption of minutes. Commissioner Eaves made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

First Reading and discussion of closing Glory Road. Prior to today's meeting, there was a Public Hearing held at 5:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing whether a portion of Glory Road has ceased to be used by the public and whether it should be abandoned and declared no longer a part of the county road system. John and Faye Morris were the only citizens in attendance at the public hearing. The Morris' own land on both sides of the road. Glory Road is grown up with grass and bushes and cannot be used. No action was taken as this was a First Reading.

Discussion and approval of the purchase of a dozer for the Road Department. At this time the County has two dozers – a 1996 D7 and 2008 D31. The D7 is in need of extensive repairs. The D31 is undersized, and we really need to go up to a higher class. A D6 will be easy to haul, and it can be easily maneuvered when working. Bids were received from Yancey Brothers on a CAT, Tractor and Equipment on a Komatsu and from Flint Equipment Company on a John Deere. All three companies will take the D7 and D31 as trade-ins. Mr. Thomas recommends going with the bid submitted on the CAT. They will allow us \$93,000 on the trade in, no payments for twelve months and a final payment of \$53,762.98 at the end of one year. Commissioner Jones made a motion to go with Mr. Thomas' recommendation for the CAT. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Request from the Development Authority for an additional \$5,000 to complete the GRAD requirements for the Industrial Park on Mineral Springs Road. Anna Jones with the Development Authority addressed the Commission Board on the need for this additional money in getting a lot ready for future industry. She informed the Board that the City of Elberton has agreed to give them an additional \$5,000. Commissioner Eaves stated that while he is all for additional industry coming to Elberton, he cannot approve giving the Development Authority more money for their budget at this time. Commissioner Harper made a motion to give the

requested \$5,000 to the Development Authority. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 3-1 with Commissioner Eaves opposed.

Request from the Sister City Program for \$2,000 from the Hotel/Motel tax fund to assist with the student exchange program and the 30th anniversary celebration program in October. Mr. Thomas reminded the Board that we have done this for the past three years. This is a very worthwhile program, and it does promote Elbert County. Commissioner Reynolds made a motion to give the \$2,000 to the Sister City Program. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Approval to move forward with a land swap of 0.2 acres with Concord Methodist Church on Harmony Road. Our Centerville Fire Department is on Harmony Road. The land directly in front of the fire department is owned by Concord Methodist Church. Therefore, the fire department does not legally have access to Harmony Road, even though they are departing that way. Beside the fire department, Elbert County has land that used to be a polling place. Concord Methodist Church is willing to swap 0.2 acres in front of the fire department for the 0.2 acres beside the fire department. This will give our fire department legal access to Harmony Road. Commissioner Eaves made a motion to approve the swap of 0.2 acres. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Second Reading and approval of the Elbert County Ambulance Services Ordinance. This ordinance will set minimum standards for any ambulance service operating in Elbert County. In order to provide a service in Elbert County, they will have to meet the same standards of service as our EMS service provides, in terms of medical care and equipment. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the Elbert County Ambulance Services Ordinance. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Approval to advertise for bids on the Off-System Safety Improvements Project Contract. This represents up to \$250,000 of safety improvements for striping, stop lines, rumble strips and installation of standard road signs on 76.10 miles of county roads. We have just recently completed our first Off-System Safety Improvements Project for ninety (90) miles of county roads. This will be our second project. Bids will be due May 31st. Once a bid is approved the work will begin. There will be no cost to Elbert County for this work. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve advertising for bids on the second project for road safety. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Approval of contract with Lord-Aeck-Sargent Architects to perform design and construction documents and review of construction work for the Old Jail renovation project. Maximum cost is \$21,530. Services will be paid from the \$99,999 grant from the USDA office. County Administrator Bob Thomas stated that this grant was applied for over a year ago and has been a long process. A part of the grant states that work cannot begin without an architect. Lord-Aeck-Sargent Architects was the low bidder and will be paid out of the grant. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the contract with Lord-Aeck-Sargent Architects. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Approval of change order 1 and 2 required for the Rock Gym Project. This is part of the T Grant for the Rock Gym. The changes are as listed:

Change 1 - The fire marshal says that we must have a handicap lift in the stage area. Cost will be \$5,774.70.

Change 2 - Trenching for drainage, rock removal, relocate transformer.
Cost will be \$10,808.38

All of this work is within budget. Commissioner Reynolds made a motion to approve these changes at the amounts stated. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Finance Report given by Phil Pitts. Thru the end of April, 2012, \$12,359.015 has been collected on the 2011 Property Tax Digest. That leaves \$658,914.96 unpaid. Since 2000 to date, we have delinquent taxes in the amount of \$523,510.87. The Tax Commissioner decides when we can have a sale of property for unpaid taxes. Mr. Pitts made the Board aware that we have a number of different fund account (around seventeen) besides General Fund. We have two Enterprise Funds – Solid Waste and Transpo – that should break even; but hopefully, generate funds. Unfortunately, with Solid Waste we are in the hole \$76,000 already this year. Overall, we are still 1.8% under budget. It seems that we are in a down year with local sales, etc.

Public comments on agenda items. Mr. Jimmy White, President of Jim Ree Museum, thanked the Commission Board for approving the contract with Lord-Aeck-Sargent Architects. Mr. Perry Rhodes wanted to know why Solid Waste is losing money, and what can we do about it. Chairman Lyon informed him that we are looking at closing some of the convenience centers, increasing tipping fees and the price of bags.

Adjournment. Commissioner Harper made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.