

MINUTES  
ELBERT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MONDAY, JUNE 11<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, CFO Phil Pitts and County Administrator Bob Thomas.

After the Pledge to the United States Flag, the invocation was given by Bob Thomas.

**Adoption of agenda.** Before adoption the agenda, Chairman Lyon requested amending the agenda by adding under 19A " Approval to opt in on a Hotel.com settlement". Commissioner Eaves made a motion adopt the amended agenda. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Adoption of minutes for Monthly Meeting June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012, and Called Meeting June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012.**

Commissioner Reynolds made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion passed 4-0, with Commissioner Ashworth abstaining due to the fact that he was absent from the meeting on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

**Second Reading and approval of closing Glory Road.** Commissioner Eaves made a motion to approve the closing of Glory Road. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Approval of "Kennedy Lane" as a road name for emergency services only. This will not be part of the county maintained system. Kennedy Lane is off Heardmont Road.** Naming this road will help the EMS and E-911 in locating someone in an emergency. It is for this purpose only and not to be taken in under the maintained county road system. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the naming of Kennedy Road for emergency purposes only. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Approval of 2012-2013 contract with the Elbert County Chamber of Commerce for the Hotel/Motel Tax Agreement.** This is an annual contract between the Chamber and Elbert County BOC. The law requires the County to give forty per cent (40%) of the hotel/motel taxes to the Chamber to be used for tourism. Commissioner Reynolds made a motion to approve the contract with the Chamber of Commerce. Commissioner Eaves seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion passed 5-0.

**Approval of Brown's Asphalt Maintenance Company as the low bidder for the "Off-System Safety Improvement Project" in the amount of \$166,502.00.** Four proposals were received on the bid for this project. This is the second grant of this type that we have had. Brown's Asphalt was the low bidder. Mr. Thomas will meet with them on June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012, to go over the work to be done. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the low bid of \$166,502.00 submitted by Brown's Asphalt. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Approval of the reappointment of Mrs. Thelma D. Ethridge to the Elbert County Board of Family and Children Services.** This appointment is for a five year term from July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012, thru June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Mrs. Ethridge has agreed to continue serving on this board. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the reappointment of Mrs. Ethridge to the Elbert County DFCS Board. Commissioner Eaves seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Approval of Change Order 3 and 4 for the “Rock Gym Project”.** Change Order 3 is for \$10,624.32, which will be used to relocate a handicap lift, install stairs in the stage area and install a trench drain at the garage door on the Church Avenue side. Change Order 4 is to delete the garage doors, which will amount to a \$20,000 decrease in the project. Commissioner Reynolds made a motion to approve Change Order ‘s 3 and 4. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Approval of a twelve month contract and a rate increase of \$0.62 per ton for transportation and disposal fees for solid waste service from Republic Industries.** Republic Industries is requesting a \$.62 per ton increase, which will make our cost \$33.77 a ton, based on an EPI index. We currently have a contract that runs through 2015. Commissioner Eaves made a motion to approve the twelve month contract with Republic Industries. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Approval of Public Defender Budget and Indigent Defense Agreement. The budget request is for \$84,193, which is a \$3,113 decrease from last year.** The decrease in the budget from last year is due to Elbert County’s case load going down by one per cent. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the Public Defender Budget and Indigent Defense Agreement. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion by county attorney of the new Georgia Open Meeting Law as a result of passage of HB397.** This open meetings law not only applies to the Board of Commissioners, but for any committee or board established by them. A quorum for the Board of Commissioners is four. E-mail does not constitute a meeting. However, e-mails, phone calls and personal computers are subject to open records if County business is discussed. Under this new bill, minutes are to be taken in executive sessions. In the event that the County Clerk is not present in executive session, County Administrator Bob Thomas will have to take minutes ex-officio County Clerk. Executive Session minutes will be sealed and not subject to open records. Each commissioner is to sign the executive session minutes before they are sealed. Now public citizens can record/video Commission meetings as long as their equipment is not in the way.

**Approval of a resolution governing the taking of minutes during Executive Session.** Commissioner Eaves made a motion to approve the resolution governing the taking of minutes during Executive Session. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Approval of resolution governing the use of and placement of video and audio equipment during meetings of the Board of Commissioners.** Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the ordinance governing the use of video/audio equipment during BOC meetings. Commissioner Eaves seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Approval of an Elbert County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan, as required by the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000.** The State of Georgia has already approved this Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan, but it still has to be approved locally. Commissioner Eaves made a motion to approve the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Approval of proposed EMS fee increases as listed below:**

<b>ALS Level 1 Emergency</b>	<b>\$425</b>	<b>(increase of \$25)</b>
<b>ALS Level 1 Non-Emergency</b>	<b>\$375</b>	<b>(increase of \$25)</b>
<b>ALS Level 2</b>	<b>\$650</b>	<b>(increase of \$50)</b>
<b>BLS Emergency</b>	<b>\$375</b>	<b>(increase of \$25)</b>
<b>BLS Non-Emergency</b>	<b>\$250</b>	<b>(increase of \$25)</b>
<b>Specialty Care</b>	<b>\$650</b>	<b>(increase of \$50)</b>
<b>Mileage</b>	<b>\$13/mi.</b>	<b>(increase of \$1/mi.)</b>
<b>Non-Covered Miles</b>	<b>\$13/mi.</b>	<b>(increase of \$1/mi.)</b>
<b>Response Fee</b>	<b>\$125</b>	<b>(increase of \$25)</b>

Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the fee increases for EMS. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Approval to accept payment from the Georgia Trauma Commission 2012 EMS Uncompensated Care Reimbursement Grant Program in the amount of \$7,879.64.** EMS Director Chuck Almond advised the Board that he applied for this grant because of the number of patients with no insurance. For any trauma related injury with no insurance, this grant will help pay for their trip by ambulance. Commissioner Reynolds made a motion to accept payment for this grant in the amount of \$7,879.64. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Approval to purchase computer hardware upgrades for the EMS patient reporting and billing system. (To be paid for with funds from the Georgia Trauma Commission and EMS SPLOST.)** The billing company currently being used by EMS sent new software at no cost. It is incompatible with the four old hardware they have. Bids were requested for the upgraded hardware to be used with the new software. The low bid is from Global in the amount of \$13,596. They are actually the sole bidder and do give government pricing. The trauma grant received and SPLOST funds will be used to pay for this upgrade in hardware. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the purchase of computer hardware from Global in the amount of \$13,596. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Approval to opt in on a Hotel.com Settlement.** Attorneys from Rome, Georgia, have become aware that anyone going on-line to Hotel.com to make reservations in any town are not paying hotel/motel taxes. They are attempting to collect unpaid taxes for the past thirteen months. It costs nothing to opt in, but they feel that the more counties that participate will assure a better chance of recovering some of this money and receiving a portion of the settlement. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve Elbert County's participation. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Finance Report given by CFO Phil Pitts.** Mr. Pitts advised the Board that increases such as the one from Republic Industries, on our agenda today, calls for increases in our budget. We are still holding expenses down. We were at 89% at the end of May, which makes us 2.7%

under budget. He and Mr. Thomas are diligently working to present a balanced budget to the Board.

**Public comments on agenda items.** There were no public comments.

**Adjourn.** Commissioner Reynolds made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.