

MINUTES
ELBERT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2013

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tommy Lyon. Present were Chairman Lyon, Vice-Chair Horace Harper, Commissioner Chris Alexander, Commissioner Kenneth Ashworth, Commissioner Freddie Jones, County Attorney Bill Daughtry, County Clerk Judy Vaughn, County CFO Phil Pitts and County Administrator Bob Thomas. Commissioner Reynolds was absent due to illness.

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

Adoption of agenda. Commissioner Jones made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Before voting, Chairman Lyon called for a motion to amend the agenda by adding under 10a) Approval of "Bruce Road" as a road name only for Emergency Services. This road is off Longstreet and Mauldin Roads. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve amending the agenda to add Item 10a. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Adoption of minutes for Monthly Meeting Monday, August 12th and Called Meeting Thursday, August 29th, 2013. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Victor Johnson of the Broad River Watershed Association to speak and made a presentation on the Broad River Water Trail. Mr. Johnson did a power point show on the Broad River Water Trail. The presentation showed the many recreational sports that the river is used for. It is an important tourism destination in the area it serves. It is goal of the Broad River Watershed Association to involve more local governments and community groups in promoting recreation and tourism on Broad River.

Mart Clamp to address the Commission Board regarding a lease agreement on the Georgia Guidestones property. Mart Clamp is a local businessman. He owns Clamp Sandblast. His father engraved the guidestones. He is asking for the opportunity to lease the Guidestones. He feels that revenue can be made through proper use of the Guidestones. He intends to get a license to sell items such as t-shirts, pictures and other souvenirs. County Attorney Bill Daughtry informed Mr. Clamp that the vesting deed of the restricted covenant states that no buildings can be built on the land on which the Guidestones stand. Chairman Lyon said that we would look into what options we have as far as leasing the land and get back with Mr. Clamp.

Discussion and approval of a one year agreement with Republic Industries for the removal and disposal of household waste from the county Transfer Station. This agreement is from October 1st, 2013, thru September 30th, 2014. The new rate will be \$34.47 per ton, which is an increase of \$.70 per ton. The increase is based on a CPI of 2.07%. Three years ago Republic Industries decreased our rate by \$1 per ton. We can bid this out next year, but we have to give Republic a ninety-day notice. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the one year agreement at the new rate of \$34.47 per ton. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Approval of the re-appointments of Allen Nicas and Jim Stovall to the City of Bowman, City of Elberton and Elbert County Economic Development Authority. Both of these men are County appointees, and they have both agreed to continue to serve on the Authority Board. The term is for six years. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the re-appointments of Allen Nicas and Jim

Stovall to the Development Authority. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Second Reading and adoption of a Social Media Policy to be incorporated with the Elbert County Personnel Policy. It is important for a Social Media Policy to be in place to protect everyone – employees and government. This policy prohibits employees from going to different sights to post personal and work related information. Department Heads have the right to ask an employee to do something that is office related at his request. This policy will be enforced through the County Personnel Policies and Procedures. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to adopt the Social Media Policy. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Approval of “Trails End Lane” as a road name only for Emergency Services. This is a private drive and does not include county maintenance. It is off Sweet City Road. As stated, this road naming is for EMS purposes; so that this address can be located in case of an emergency. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the road name of “Trails End Lane” for Emergency Services only. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Approval of “Bruce Road” as a road name only for Emergency Services. This naming also will be for EMS purposes only. It will serve them in letting them locate this area in case of an emergency. This road connects Longstreet Road and Mauldin Road. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the road name of “Bruce Road” for Emergency Services only. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Mike Rutherford, of the Chamber of Commerce, to come before the Board with an update on Chamber activities and events. Mike thanked the Board of Commissioners for the continued support they give to the Chamber of Commerce. It is through this support that they are able to put on these special events. The Chamber is currently working on new brochures and an event guide. They are still selling t-shirts, cook books, etc. They held a successful bass tournament in April and fireworks show in July. The Chamber is working with the County to promote Arrowhead Golf and Lake Russell State Park.

Discussion and approval to revise the 2014 Budget to include a \$45,000 commitment to the Development Authority. The \$45,000 commitment to the Development Authority was not included in the 2014 Budget. The intention was for it to come from the millage increase, but that did not pass. After much thought, it was decided that the best way to come up with the funds was by cutting each department’s budget by ½ of 1%. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve this method of coming up with the \$45,000. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and approval of a bid for a one ton pick-up truck for the Road Department. County Administrator Bob Thomas told the Board that three bids were received on the one ton truck. They are as follows:

| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| Lavonia Ford | \$31,419.50 |
| Casey Jackson | \$31,979.95 |
| Aiken Ford | \$32,362.50 |

Mr. Thomas feels since Casey Jackson is local now that we should go with their bid even though it is slightly higher than the low bid. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the bid from Casey Jackson in the amount of \$31,979.95. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Before a vote was taken, Commissioner Alexander asked if SPLOST is still paying back what it owes to General Fund. Finance Director Phil Pitts stated that as of this date there is \$1,800 in SPLOST, with two payments needing to be paid. In order to pay them, SPLOST will again have to borrow from General Fund. SPLOST owes General Fund a total of \$495,000. We are not bringing in enough SPLOST.

Commissioner Alexander thinks that we should table this truck purchase until a later date. Chairman Lyon informed Mr. Thomas that he should not accept anymore bids for equipment until we are in better shape in SPLOST.

Approval to declare surplus a 1991 Ford F-700 Dump Truck – Vin No. 1FDWKX74P7MVA13031 from the Road Department. This vehicle will be taken to Christian's Auction for the September sale. The process is to surplus the vehicle before we can take it to the sale. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to declare the 1991 Ford F-700 Dump Truck as surplus. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and approval of a bid for a 2014 Ford Explorer for the Fire Department. This vehicle will replace a 1997 Explorer with 278,000 miles. Funds for this purchase will come from the Fire Insurance Premium Tax Account. The Fire Insurance funds are not in General Fund, and can be used only for Fire Department needs. Fire Chief Rick Mewborne had the State to bid this for us. Two bids were received in the amounts of \$27,040.25 and \$25,620.67. Mr. Thomas recommends that we go with the low bid.

The 1997 Explorer can be moved to another department. Commissioner Harper made a motion to accept the low bid of \$25,620.67. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Remaining schedule for the “Public Information” meetings at Fire Stations:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| September 10th | Fortsonia Fire Station |
| September 17th | Ruckersville Fire Station |
| September 24th | Longstreet Fire Station |
| October 1st | Headquarters Building – Mahoney Street |

Discussion of a possible change for the October monthly meeting, due to Columbus Day being on the second Monday, October 14th. Commissioner Harper made a motion to hold the monthly meeting for October on Tuesday, October 15th. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 3-1, with Commissioner Ashworth against due to another commitment.

Financial Report given by CFO Phil Pitts. Mr. Pitts stated that the field work on the audit is almost complete. We are much earlier with this than ever before. Right now we are waiting on the Health Department. SPLOST is regularly dropping each year on our revenue. With the payments we have already, and the pay back to General Fund, there is no money to be spent from SPLOST. Mr. Pitts spoke with Kevin Cameron, Chief Tax Appraiser, and he feels that the property value will drop. He thinks there will be more of this in the years to come. The only way to survive with this is to either drop services or employees. We are 1% below budget at this time.

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 4-0.