

MINUTES  
ELBERT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2012

**Call to order.** 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, County CFO Phil Pitts and County Administrator Bob Thomas.

**Pledge to the United States Flag and Invocation.** After the pledge to the flag, Commissioner Kenneth Ashworth gave the invocation.

**Adoption of agenda.** Commissioner Jones made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0. Chairman Lyon then made a request to amend the agenda by adding 18A: "Discussion and approval of a grant for the Fire Department". Commissioner Eaves made a motion to amend the agenda. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Adoption of minutes.** Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Adoption of Executive Session Minutes for August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012.** Commissioner Harper made a motion to adopt the minutes from Executive Session. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Reading of a resolution to honor Jeane and Crayton Phelps.** Chairman Lyon read the resolution honoring Mr. and Mrs. Phelps for their donation of 47.6 acres of land many years ago for our airport. The Phelps' and members of their family were present to accept the resolution.

**Richard Dobbs and Sean Reed with ABM Building Solutions to discuss energy solutions and savings for the Government Complex and courthouse.** Due to Mr. Dobbs and Mr. Reed not being able to attend today, Chairman Lyon requested a motion to table this item to the next meeting. Commissioner Reynolds made a motion to table to the October meeting. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Second Reading and approval of the Elbert County Planning Commission By-Laws.** These by-laws are the rules and regulations that will be followed during zoning hearings. They will govern the business brought before the Elbert County Planning Commission. Commissioner Eaves made a motion to approve the Elbert County Planning Commission By-Laws. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Second Reading and approval of the Elbert County Zoning Ordinance and Map.** The Planning Commission has worked on this ordinance for three years. The required Public Hearings have been held to make the citizens aware. Zoning was voted in by the people in November, 2008. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the E.C. Zoning Ordinance and Map. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Adoption of a resolution to name an Open Records Officer and an Alternate Open Records Officer.** Commissioner Jones made a motion to name County Clerk Judy Vaughn as

the official Open Records Officer and CFO Phil Pitts as the Alternate Open Records Officer. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Approval of Change Order Number 6 for the Elbert County Conference and Welcome Center.** This change order adds \$537.50 to the project to remove paint and refinish the stage front to expose the knotty pine façade. This additional money will come from the contingency fund of the project. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve Change Order Number 6. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Approval of Federal Funding Assistance Allocation of \$770,473 for Land and Easement Acquisition, ALP Update and Obstruction Clearing for the Elbert County Airport.** This is part of the Airport Extension Project. This funding will purchase about seven houses and land on the East side of the runway. All but one of residents has agreed to the sale of their property. This will give the airport a clear and safe landing area and no one should be bothered by noise. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the land and easement acquisition. Commissioner Eaves seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Request for appointee to the Regional Planning Board of the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Development Disabilities.** This appointment is for a partial term until July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015. Meetings are held every other month in Athens at 1:00 p.m. Mileage is reimbursed by the Department of BHDD. They request that it be someone local that we appoint. They prefer someone with a family member receiving their services now. Mr. Thomas will get some names to present to the Board at the next meeting.

**Discussion on the Energy Excise Tax levy for Elbert County.** Before discussion, Chairman Lyon called for a motion to add “and approve” to this item. Commissioner Harper made a motion to change the reading of Item 14 to “Discussion and approval on the Energy Excise Tax levy for Elbert County.” Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0. This tax is based on the sale, use, storage and consumption of energy. The State is giving us the option to impose this tax locally. December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012, is the deadline for a decision. This will kill the incentive for any industry to come into the County. Also, it is our responsibility to protect the businesses here. Hart County and Stephens County have already declined to impose this tax levy. The City of Elberton has indicated that they will adopt this tax levy. However, the City can only add this to the residents and businesses of the City – not the County. Commissioner Reynolds made a motion **not to impose this tax levy**. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion regarding expenditures of 2011 SPLOST Funds.** Mr. Thomas and CFO Phil Pitts have been studying our SPLOST situation, as to the availability of funds. They are recommending to the Board that we begin paying back to the General Fund the amount of \$40,000 each month to decrease the SPLOST debt owed there. SPLOST is for six years. It is not coming in as good as it has in the past. It is actually about eight per cent behind. Mr. Thomas is recommending not making SPLOST purchases for a while unless it is an extreme emergency. In that case, the need will be brought before the Board for approval. Commissioner Eaves made a motion to accept Mr. Thomas’ recommendation of paying General Fund \$40,000 each month to decrease SPLOST debt and to hold off on more SPLOST spending for a while. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Review and approve a bid for a new vehicle for the Tax Assessor's Department to be paid for with 2011 SPLOST proceeds.** In light of the vote taken on Item 15, Mr. Thomas stated that we not consider this purchase now. It can be brought back before the Board at a later date.

**Reminder of the Elbert County Airport ribbon cutting for runway extension and terminal dedication on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012, at 5:00 p.m.** This event has been advertised in the paper and on the radio. We encourage everyone to come out and be a part of this. The Phelps family will be there for the dedication of the terminal in their honor. We look forward to having a large crowd there.

**Request to change the October meeting date from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup>.** October 8<sup>th</sup> is Columbus Day, and all County offices will be closed. Commissioner Eaves made a motion to approve October 15<sup>th</sup> for the Monthly Meeting date. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval to accept a grant for the E.C. Fire Department.** This total grant is for \$10,200, with a match, and to be used for turnout gear. This grant is from the Forestry Commission in the amount of \$5,000, and the County's match is \$5,120. The match will come from the Fire Insurance Fund. Commissioner Reynolds made a motion to approve the acceptance of this grant. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Finance Report given by CFO Phil Pitts.** The County is ok at this time. It is too early in our budget year to tell much about revenues. LOST is coming in less than in past years. It should all level out in the coming months.

**Public comments on agenda items.** Mr. Robert Sides requested a copy of the By-Laws for the Planning Commission. He was told to see Patrick Hopp for a copy.

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