

MINUTES  
ELBERT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2011

Chairman Tommy Lyon called the meeting to order. Those 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 Administrator Bob Thomas and County CFO Phil Pitts.

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

**Adoption of agenda.** Before adopting the agenda, Chairman Lyon requested two changes. On Item 5, it should read, "Approval of Proclamation for the Samuel Elbert Chapter of the Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution." On Item 21, the Executive Session will be for litigation only. Commissioner Jones made a motion to adopt the agenda with these two changes. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Adoption of minutes for Monthly Meeting August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011, and Called Meeting August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011.** Commissioner Harper made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Eaves seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Approval of Proclamation for the Samuel Elbert Chapter of the Georgia Society Sons of the American Revolution.** Bob Thomas read the proclamation for those present. Commissioner Reynolds made a motion to approve the proclamation. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Emmett Harris from the Porter Drive Neighborhood Watch Committee to address the Board regarding repairs and maintenance needs in the Porter Drive area.** Mr. Harris presented the Board with a list of items that need to be taken care of in the Porter Drive area. He wants more law enforcement patrols, drains cleaned out, speed bumps replaced, resurfacing of the street, bridge drain repaired and cleaned out, state prisoners to do clean-up on Porter Drive and road signs replaced and speed signs posted. Mr. Harris stated that he knows all of this cannot be done right away. He has been talking with Commissioner Jones and Mr. Thomas about his concerns. They have met several times and will get with him soon to review the list and prioritize the needs.

**Petition from residents on Hoot Owl Road presented for approval to have speed bumps installed in this neighborhood.** Mr. Thomas said that he will work on this and locate the areas for the speed bumps to be placed.

**Second Reading and approval of a resolution to establish a minimum tipping fee for users at the Elbert County Solid Waste Transfer Site. The minimum fee is to be \$3.00.** County Attorney Bill Daughtry read and discussed the main parts of the resolution. The established minimum tipping fee is \$3.00 per trip across the scales. Commissioner Reynolds made a

motion to approve the resolution establishing tipping fees. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Second Reading and approval of an ordinance to update Sec. 62-1 of the solid waste disposal procedures and to prohibit the disposal of large dead animals by Elbert County.**

This ordinance is to update disposal procedures at the Elbert County Transfer Station. We will no longer dispose of nor bury large dead animals. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the update of Sec. 62-1 of the solid waste disposal procedures ordinance. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Second Reading and approval of an ordinance to amend the definition of the term “Private Disposal Site” as used in Sec. 62-51 through 62-55 of Chapter 62 of the Solid Waste Ordinance.**

This ordinance will amend the definition of the term “Private Disposal Site” back to its pre-2009 definition so as to require waste-to-energy facilities to be subject to the same special use permit procedures as any other private waste disposal facilities. Commissioner Reynolds made a motion to approve this ordinance amending the definition of “Private Disposal Site”. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-1, with Commissioner Eaves against.

**Approval of Mrs. Rudene Phelps to fill the remaining term of Ms. Janie Hayes on the Elbert County Dept. Of Family and Children Services Board of Directors.** Due to health problems, Ms. Hayes has resigned from the board. Mrs. Phelps has agreed to complete the remaining term of Ms. Hayes, which will expire June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve Mrs. Rudene Phelps to complete the term left vacant by Ms. Hayes. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Nomination of Tommy Lyon as the County appointee to vote for the ACCG Legislative Platform, by-law amendments and other business that may come before the body.**

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve Chairman Lyon’s appointment to vote on behalf of Elbert County. Chairman Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Approval of contract with Talbot Construction, Inc. for the rehabilitation and adaptive use of the Elbert County Rock Gym and Armory into the Elbert County Conference Center and Museum.** The total amount of this project is \$959,537. \$800,000 of this amount will come from the TE Grant at GDOT. The balance will be donated funds from the Elbert County Historical Society. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the contract with Talbot Construction, Inc. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Eaves against.

**Discussion and vote on a resolution not to change the elected county commission voting districts.** Our current districts meet all requirements based on the 2010 Census. To redistrict is not warranted for Elbert County. County Administrator Bob Thomas and County Attorney Bill Daughtry have met with the E.C. School Board and talked with ACCG about this. The numbers are not large enough to constitute a change. Mr. Thomas recommends to the Board that we do not redistrict at this time. Commissioner Jones made a motion to accept Mr. Thomas’

recommendation and not redistrict. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion on Solid Waste recycling of electronics at certain convenience centers and at the transfer site. Also, discussion of bulk waste containers.** We are making an effort to recycle electronics. However, EPA has determined that some materials in TV's are hazardous.

Therefore, TV's will have to be taken to the Transfer Station for disposal for a charge of \$3.

Five centers will have a separate container for electronics. They are: Hwy. 17, Petersburg, Bowman, Jones Ferry Rd. and Centerville. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve recycling electronics. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

On bulk waste containers, Ed Cole, Solid Waste Director, says that there is a constant argument from citizens about what cannot go in the containers. Attendants are having to refuse them, and they get mad and call commissioners. He thinks we should make a decision to either do away with bulk waste containers, or let anything be put in them. No action was taken or changes made at this time.

**Update and notice of public hearing for Zoning Ordinance. (Text only)** The first Public Hearing for the Zoning Ordinance will be held on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in the Commission Meeting Room. The ordinance will be presented to those present for any questions or concerns.

**Approval of Assistance to Firefighters Grant request in the amount of \$80,000 with ten per cent local match for the purchase of automated CPR compression equipment.** Chuck Almond, EMS Director, explained to the Board that the ten per cent match will be with SPLOST funds. He has sent out proposals for the compression equipment, which will be one for each ambulance. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the grant request.

Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Approval to proceed with specifications for a rescue truck (under the Assistance to Firefighters Grant), which will determine the amount of local match; not to exceed ten per cent.** The price of the truck will depend on the specifications. The request is to proceed with the specifications at this time. Commissioner Reynolds made a motion to approve moving forward with specifications. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Finance Report given by Phil Pitts.** Mr. Pitts informed the Board that property tax bills will go out in a few weeks. Our revenue figures look bad at present due to the economy. He doesn't expect to see much in the way of tax payments until the end of the year. Our Insurance Premium Tax will come in October. On the Energy Grant in the amount of \$30,000, Mr. Pitts got GEFA to change our grant to accept solar panels. The City of Elberton is using some solar panels, and he thinks it will be a good move for us to try them since we have this grant. He provided six potential vendors with a "Request for Proposal" and received four proposals. He asks that we amend the agenda for Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011, to include approval or disapproval of the solar panels.

**Public comments on agenda items.** 1) Wayne Childs stated that he anticipates a large attendance to the hearing on zoning. He thinks we might need a room larger than the Commission Meeting Room. 2) Chip Rousey wanted to publicly thank Justin Hobbs and Doug Slay for responding to the fire on his family's land on the Athens Hwy. Due to their fast response, they prevented the fire from getting worse.

**Executive Session.** Commissioner Harper made a motion to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Harper made a motion to come out of Executive Session and return to General Session. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0. There was no action taken.

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