

**MINUTES**  
**ELBERT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2013**

Prior to today's meeting at 5:30 p.m., two Public Hearings were held. At 5:00 p.m. the Elbert County Planning Commission held a hearing for the purpose of discussing zoning cases that have been brought before them for requested changes. Patrick Hopp, Code Enforcement, explained each case to the Board of Commissioners. There was no one present to speak from the public. At 5:15 p.m. the BOC held a hearing to present the draft Short-Term Work Program Update for the Elbert County Comprehensive Plan. Again, there was no present to speak from the public. The Public Hearings were opened and closed by Chairman Tommy Lyon.

Chairman Lyon called the monthly meeting to order. Present were Chairman Lyon, Vice-Chair Harper, Commissioner Reynolds, Commissioner Alexander, Commissioner Ashworth, Commissioner 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 Commissioner Ashworth.

**Adoption of agenda.** Commissioner Jones made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Adoption of minutes for Monthly Meeting January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013.** Commissioner Harper made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of a Resolution of Submittal and a Resolution of Adoption of the Short-Term Work Program Update for the E.C. Comprehensive Plan.** A Public Hearing was held today on the Short-Term Work Program. This program has to be updated every five years. The Comprehensive Plan has to be updated every ten years. This plan requires us to work with State agencies, local Economic Development, local schools and local government. There has been much accomplished through 2012. We have surveyed citizens to determine level of interest for public water service, worked with Elbert Memorial Hospital to expand services, worked with GA DOT to complete 4-laning of Hwy. 72, obtained designation as a Certified Work Ready Community, provided training opportunities for the Planning Commission and much more. Bob Thomas, County Administrator, recommends that we approve the Resolution of Submittal and Resolution of Adoption of the Short-Term Work Program Update. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve both resolutions. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Approval of a request from the Jim-Ree Museum for a tourism expenditure of \$2,500 from the Hotel/Motel Tax for advertising for their Spring Festival on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013.** Jimmy White, President of the Jim-Ree Museum, came before the Board for this request. He said that the Spring Festival has

become an annual event that they wish to continue. The festival is to help raise funds for the completion of the museum, and at the same time, provide a fun event for the citizens of Elbert County. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the tourism expenditure of \$2,500 for the Spring Festival. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Approval of a request from Main Street Elberton for a \$2,500 tourism expenditure from the Hotel/Motel Tax for the Summer Concert Series.** Sissie Herring, Main Street Co-ordinator, came before the Board for the request. The Summer Concert Series is for three concerts that will be held on the Square. The concerts have been very well attended in the past, and she wants to continue bringing this entertainment to the citizens of Elberton and Elbert County. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve the tourism expenditure of \$2,500 for the Summer Concerts. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Request for approval of bids from the Building Maintenance Department for a work truck to replace a 2002 Ford F150 truck with over 120,000 miles and rebuilt rear end.** Mr. Thomas stated that right now we are experiencing a shortage of funds. He also feels that the Sheriff's Department vehicles should take priority. He asked for approval to table the request from Building Maintenance to the next meeting. Commissioner Reynolds made a motion to table the request for a work truck from Building Maintenance. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Request from the Sheriff's Department for approval to purchase surplus vehicles, used State Patrol cars, from the State Procurement office.** Sheriff Andrews and Kris Williams from the County Shop went to Atlanta to look at these vehicles. They found three that they are interested in, and I have listed below:

2006 Ford Crown Vic	136,222 miles	\$2,300.00
2007 Dodge Charger	121,556 miles	\$5,500.00
2008 Dodge Charger	116,000 miles	\$5,000.00

All three cars can be purchased for \$12,800, to be paid for with SPLOST funds. While there, they saw some HERO trucks. They were used to roam highways and interstate to assist stranded motorists. These trucks are fully equipped, and can be purchased for \$2,200. Mr. Thomas asked that we include one of these trucks if it passes mechanic approval. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the purchase of the three cars for \$12,800 and a HERO truck for \$2,200 on the condition that the truck pass mechanic approval. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of increasing tipping fees and blue bags for the Solid Waste Department.**

In an effort to raise revenue for the Solid Waste Department, increasing tipping fees and the price of blue bags seems to be the only way. The Service Delivery Strategy with the City of Elberton says that we must balance the cost with the City and County residents. Mr. Thomas is recommending that we increase the tipping fee from \$48 to \$52/ton. Increase the price of blue bags from \$1.50 to \$2.00 each, and the price of yellow bags from \$.75 to \$1.00 each. These prices are to become effective in sixty days from today, which will allow contractors to complete jobs that are already under contract.

Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the new increases. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion of Property Maintenance Codes for Elbert County.** Mr. Thomas told the Board and those present that we need to clean up Elbert County. He will put a copy of proposed codes in each Commissioner's mailbox to study. We will discuss it at the next meeting and consider adopting it. Commissioner Harper informed the other Board members that he had been in discussion with Shirley McNeeley, Elberton resident, about her concerns for Elbert County. She wants to work with the



Commissioners on this problem. Mrs. McNeeley will personally purchase fifty signs for Elbert County to put out in the County. We will have to provide the poles and labor. In addition, Mrs. McNeeley will put up a \$1,000 reward twice a year to go to the person that turns someone in for littering and that person is convicted. Commissioner Reynolds wants a Recycling Committee formed from the citizens of Elbert County. He asks that the Commissioner's appoint a committee at the March meeting.

**Discussion and approval/disapproval of Planning Commission recommendations listed below.** These cases were explained by Patrick Hopp at the Public Hearing held before today's meeting. We will vote on each separately.

Rezoning request by Kenneth Ashworth to rezone 2.34 acres from R-1 to Agriculture. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Ashworth abstained due to conflict of interest.

Rezoning request by Brown Stone memorial to rezone 12.17 acres from Industrial to Mixed Use. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to deny this request, due to most of this property being industrial. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion passed 5-0.

Request to change Planning Commission By-Laws to allow meeting time change from 5:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Request to change Zoning Text to allow Class B Manufactured Housing in R-1 and RR Districts. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Finance Report given by CFO Phil Pitts.** Mr. Pitts first thanked the Board for the action taken on Solid Waste price increases. In the area of SPLOST, he explained to the Board that after he makes payments to the City of Elberton, City of Bowman and Elbert Memorial Hospital, he then makes payments on equipment that we have purchased through SPLOST. Next, he is re-paying General Fund \$40,000 per month to take care of that debt. With all of that coming out, there is not much left. At this time, we have less than \$40,000 in SPLOST funds. We are currently having a new server installed in the BOC office. The new E-911 equipment payments will start in March, close to \$2300 a month. We have a new ambulance coming April 1<sup>st</sup>. General Fund will have to cover that, as we don't have it in SPLOST. As you can see, it is very important that we "stick" with our payments from SPLOST to General Fund. The Senior Center had to budget a large amount for fuel when they took on transfers for Advantage. However, they will pay the County back, as they are being reimbursed by the State. On a positive note, we have paid the employee and County retirement to GEBCorp already this year.

**Public comments on agenda items.** Emmett Harris, President of the Porter Drive Neighborhood Watch, asked for the price of the littering signs. Commissioner Harper said that we will give his neighborhood two for their area.

**Adjourn.** Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0. (Where was Commissioner Harper?)