

MINUTES
ELBERT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, DECEMBER 8TH, 2014

Chairman Tommy Lyon called the meeting to order. Present for the meeting were Chairman Lyon, Vice-Chair Horace Harper, Commissioner Harold Reynolds, 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.

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

At this time, Chairman Lyon presented out-going Commissioner Harold Reynolds with a plaque acknowledging his four years of service and dedication to Elbert County. For health reasons, Commissioner Reynolds decided not to run for re-election.

Adoption of agenda. Commissioner Harper made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0. At this point, Chairman Lyon called for a motion to amend the agenda by adding under 11A) Elbert County Fire Departments Agreement Regarding Training Expenses and under 11B) Approval of bids on two vehicles to be paid for with SPLOST Funds. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to adopt the amendments to the agenda. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Adoption of minutes of monthly meeting November 10th, 2014. Commissioner Harper made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Garrick Chidester, Anmed Health, and Max Black to appear before the Board to give a report on the Elbert Memorial Hospital activities. Garrick Chidester of Anmed Health informed the Board that they have found a replacement for hospital administrator, Jim Yarborough, who is retiring. Brandon Clary from Edgefield, South Carolina has agreed to take the position. He has been managing a twenty-five (25) bed hospital there. Mr. Clary has family in Elberton (Rathbones); so he feels in some ways that he is coming home. He is bringing with him a part-time CEO. He will begin his administration on January 6th, 2015. Susan Fortson, Chair-Elect of the Hospital Foundation, advised the Board that so far this year the hospital had given \$176,184.63 in charity care funding in Elberton and Elbert County.

Reappointment of Commissioner Chris Alexander to the Elbert County Library Board for a three year term, beginning January 1st, 2015, thru December 31st, 2017. Commissioner Alexander has agreed to continue serving on the Library Board. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the reappointment. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Approval of a Hazard Mitigation Assistance Award from FEMA to update the Elbert County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan update is very important to meet federal guidelines. The award is for \$28,000 with a federal share of \$21,000 and a local share of \$7,000. In-kind services will be used for the local match. Mr. Thomas stated that we will request assistance from the Regional Commission for development of the plan. He said that seven or eight meetings will be held as a part of

this award. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Award. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of Tamara Butler as County Clerk upon the retirement of Judy Vaughn, effective December 31st, 2014. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve Mrs. Butler for the position of County Clerk. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a request from Mart Clamp to promote activities at the Georgia Guidestones location. Mr. Thomas told the Board that the Elberton Granite Association has suggested that they be put in charge of the operation and stone maintenance of the Guidestones. The County will still be in charge of grounds maintenance. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve EGA taking over the operation of the Guidestones. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of an “Inclement Weather Policy” for the Elbert County Personnel Manual. In the past when the County offices were closed or delayed, eight hour employees were paid. Twelve and twenty-four hour employees (which is the emergency services departments – EMS, E-911, Sheriff’s Dept and Detention Center) worked regardless. In an effort to be fair with all employees, it is suggested that those employees who do not come in to work should use annual time. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the new “Inclement Weather Policy”. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Update on discussion regarding the County taking over the maintenance and operation of Bobby Brown State Park. Mr. Thomas, Mr. Pitts have and Commissioner Alexander met with a representative from the State Department of Natural Resources. The DNR is willing to give up the park to Elbert County through a five year sub-lease agreement, which will be for maintenance and operation. We are currently waiting on a draft agreement to approve the wording. This could possibly be ready to vote on in January, 2015.

Discussion and approval of the Elbert County Fire Department Agreement Regarding Training Expenses. Fire Chief Rick Mewborne informed the BOC that he and his department have trained around 2,500 volunteer fire fighters. After Elbert County provides training, turnout gear, etc. we have around \$2,000 in each fire fighter. This certification for volunteers is the same as that for fire fighters in a paid position. Over the years we have lost fire fighters to cities and counties offering a paid position. This agreement states that if the fire fighters, once certified and supplied with gear, don’t stay with Elbert County for a specific number of years, they have to repay a portion of the cost. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve the agreement. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Approval of bids on two vehicles for the Sheriff’s Department to be paid for with SPLOST funds. Sheriff Andrews wants to put his own vehicle on the road and purchase a truck for himself. He obtained two bids on a 2014 Charger: Casey Jackson for \$25,303 and Ed Murdock for \$25,883. He received four bids on a Ford F150 4 x 4: Bobby Jones - \$31,409.40, Brannon Motor Company - \$30,280.00, Casey Jackson - \$27,469.28 and Ed Murdock - \$27,569.00. Mr. Thomas suggests that we go with the low bid on both vehicles. That will be Casey Jackson for the 2014 Charger in the amount of \$25,303.00. For the Ford F150, the low bid is from Casey Jackson also in the amount of \$27,469.28. Phil Pitts stated that

necessary funds are in SPLOST at this time. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the purchase of the two vehicles. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion Carried 5-0.

Approval of Beer and Wine Licenses for 2015 listed below:

- 1) 72 Marine Sales, 3336 Calhoun Falls Hwy, Elberton
- 2) One Stop Shop, 2447 Hwy. 172 West, Bowman
- 3) Ingles Markets, Inc. #65, 903 Elbert Street, Elberton
- 4) Leon Farmer & Co., 100 Rail Ridge Road, Athens
- 5) Quick Mart, 1910 Hartwell Hwy., Elberton
- 6) Pyramid Petro – Jasica, Inc., 1650 Athens Hwy., Elberton
- 7) Scenic View Country Club, 1191 Bowman Hwy., Elberton
- 8) Shell Elberton Mart, 1431 Bowman Hwy., Elberton
- 9) New Junction, LLC, 1456 Hartwell Hwy., Elberton
- 10) Arrowhead Pointe Golf Course, 2790 Olympic Rowing Dr., Elberton
- 11) Sandbar, King Hall Mill, Inc., 3435 King Hall Mill Rd., Bowman

There are four businesses on this list that have not paid their taxes. The County has an ordinance that states all taxes have to be paid before we will issue a license. These licenses will be approved based upon the condition that the 2014 taxes will be paid by December 31st, 2014. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the Beer and Wine Licenses with the condition of 2014 taxes being paid by 12/31/14. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Finance Report given by Phil Pitts. As we approach the end of the first half of our budget year, Mr. Pitts informed the BOC that we are close to breaking even. We are at 48.1%. There are a few areas that are over due to large payments, but overall every department is under budget.

Public comments on agenda items. None.

Adjournment. Commissioner Reynolds made a motion to adjourn. This was the last motion of his term! Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.