

PUBLIC HEARING
MONDAY, JUNE 9TH, 2014 - 5:00 P.M.

Chairman Tommy Lyon opened the Public Hearing for comments from the audience. The purpose of today's Public Hearing is to allow the citizens of Elbert County an opportunity to voice their opinion on the proposed FY2015 Budget for Elbert County. County Administrator Bob Thomas informed those present that we are not expecting any growth in the tax digest for the next year. The FY2015 Budget is the same as the FY2014 Budget. Even at that, it could possibly be a struggle to manage the budget on less funds than last year. With no one present to comment, Chairman Lyon declared the Public Hearing closed.

MINUTES
ELBERT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, JUNE 9TH, 2014 - 5:30 P.M.

Chairman 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 Administrator Bob Thomas and County CFO Phil Pitts.

After the Pledge to the United States Flag, the invocation was given by Chairman Lyon.

Adoption of agenda. Before approving the agenda, Chairman Lyon made a request to amend the agenda by adding under 6-B) "Approval of a Mini Technological Grant for Drug Court". Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Approval of minutes for the Monthly Meeting May 12th, 2014, and Called Meeting May 28th, 2014. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Request from Elbert Memorial Hospital to address the Board regarding current economic conditions at the hospital and to pursue alternative solutions for the future. Jim Loyd, Chairman of the Elbert Memorial Hospital Authority, made a request from the BOC for \$667,000 annually for the "Charity Care Services". He stated that this is what the hospital will need in order to stay open and serve Elbert County. Jerry Parrish of Anmed Health, an affiliate of Elbert Memorial, informed the Board that in the last year Anmed has invested \$991,000 in Elbert Memorial Hospital. He further said that Anmed cannot do it alone. Susan Fortson, Authority member, reminded the Board that 150 people will be out of work if the hospital closes. Our EMS will then have to add more employees and more ambulances. Chairman Lyon responded to those present from the hospital by first telling them that this has been one of our toughest years budget-wise. The Board will give their request full consideration; and if there is any way we can help, we will.

Approval of a grant to the Elbert County Adult Felony Drug Court in the amount of \$85,603. This grant award is effective July 1st, 2014, through June 30th, 2015. There will be no match from Elbert County on this grant. It will be 100% funded. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the grant. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Approval of a Mini Technological Grant for Drug Court in the amount of \$3800. This grant is for the 2014 Budget and is for computer needs. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to accept the grant in the amount of \$3800. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion Carried 5-0.

Review and discussion of proposed changes to the Elbert County Pawn Shop Regulations. A license is required for second-hand dealers. One of the changes is for pawn shop owners to take pictures of customers every time they come in to pawn something. Most law officials use "Leads on Line", a website that shows pictures and gives information on suspects. This will be very time consuming and costly for the business owners. Another change is to fingerprint customers when they come in the pawn or sell an item. The Sheriff stated that there is no need to fingerprint for his department, as they access the above mentioned website. Do we want pawn shop businesses to report their annual revenue to the BOC? There are many things to be considered on this issue. Commissioner Harper made a motion to table this item to the July meeting to allow more time to study the material. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Review and approve changes to Chapter 10 of the Elbert County Ordinance regarding animals. This will be the "First Reading" on changes to the ordinance on animals. There will be items added, revised and moved. It contains the duty of the owners or custodians of restrained animals. Animal ID tags will be considered for removal.

Review and approval of Elbert County's portion of the Northern Circuit Public Defender Budget for FY2015. Elbert County's portion of the 2015 budget will be \$78,880.58, which is a decrease of \$1,923.67. This is the second year there has been a decrease. It is also Elbert County's time to administer the Public Defender's budget for the next two or three years. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the FY2015 Budget for the Northern Circuit Public Defender Budget. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Request from District Attorney Parks White to address the Board for an additional Assistant District Attorney position to be included in the FY2015 Budget. As Mr. White told the Board, this request is from all five counties in the district for a share of the cost of this position. While the District Attorney's office is reducing cases, there is still a backlog of cases and the need for another ADA to get the job done. Chairman Lyon informed Mr. White that Elbert County does not have the funds to assist with a new position at this time.

Review and approval of a beer and wine license for Mr. Zulfcār Lalani located at 2449 Highway 172, Bowman, Georgia, DBA/ One Stop Shop. Mr. Thomas advised the Board that Mr. Lalani has met all requirements for the license, and he recommends that it be approved. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the Beer and Wine License. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Request from Veronica Jackson for road improvements on Melvin Jackson Drive. This will be tabled to the July meeting, as Mrs. Jackson is still working on getting signatures.

Finance report given by CFO Phil Pitts. Per Mr. Pitts, the County is still under budget. The department heads have worked hard to stay that way. With costs going up daily, it will be even harder next year. We are slightly above in collections this year, \$22,726 at this time compared to last year. Mr. Pitts further stated that we are looking at significant challenges in the coming year. E-911 is a little bit above breaking even at this point. Solid Waste still operates in a deficit mode. They simply do not get enough money in to cover the costs. It costs \$78,000 to man the recycling stations with part time employees. We might have to look into closing some of the centers. For May, we received \$168,000 from SPLOSt.

Public comments on agenda items. There were no comments.

Adjournment. Commissioner Harper made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.