

MINUTES
ELBERT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, JANURAY 13TH, 2014

Chairman Tommy Lyon called the meeting to order. Present were Chairman Lyon, Vice-Chair Harper, Commissioner Reynolds, Commissioner Alexander, Commissioner Ashworth, Commissioner Jones, County Attorney Bill Daughtry, County Administrator Bob Thomas, County Clerk Judy Vaughn and County CFO Phil Pitts.

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

Adoption of agenda. Commissioner Harper made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Before voting, Chairman Lyon made a motion to amend the agenda by adding as Item 15a "Approval to apply for a block grant for housing renovations on Porter Drive". Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve adding Item 15a to the agenda. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Adoption of minutes for monthly meeting December 9th, 2013. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0, with Commissioner Ashworth abstaining as he was not present for the December 9th meeting.

Broad River Watershed Association to request a proposed Broad River Water Trail Resolution for adoption along the Broad River waterway in Elbert County. Discussion on this project started about four months ago when Bill Hood spoke to the Board. The Broad River Watershed Association is planning to build a trail along the waterway in Elbert County. This will link us to ten other county and city water trail resolutions adopted so far. Elbert County will never be brought into any disputes between any private property owners and the Broad River Water Trail. Commissioner Reynolds made a motion to adopt the resolution. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Approval of a resolution to set the qualifying fees for public offices in Elbert County for the 2014 elections. Fees are as follows:

Chief Magistrate	\$1,491.65
Chairperson, Board of Commissioners	\$ 291.40
Board of Commissioners, District 2	\$ 110.89
Board of Commissioners, District 4	\$ 110.89
Board of Commissioners, District 5	\$ 110.89
Board of Education, District 2	\$ 72.00
Board of Education, District 3	\$ 72.00
Board of Education, District 5	\$ 72.00

February 1st is the deadline to set the qualifying fees and have them advertised in the local paper. Qualifying fees are calculated on three per cent (3%) of the base salary of each position. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the qualifying fees for 2014 elections. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a request from the Chamber of Commerce for \$1,000 to help sponsor an FLW Fishing Tournament on April 5th, 2014, on Lake Russell. We have provided this sponsorship in the past from the Hotel/Motel Tax. This is the largest fishing tournament held in Elbert County on Lake Russell. It is sponsored by Wal-mart, and usually brings in 200 to 400 fishermen. We have done this in the past, and the funds will come from the Hotel/Motel Tax. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve the request for \$1,000. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a resolution expressing support for the construction of an interchange between CSX Transportation, Inc. and The Hartwell Railroad Company in Elbert County near the current termination of the Hartwell Railroad Line. Matt Williams, attorney for The Hartwell Railroad Company, came before the Board seeking approval from Elbert County to construct 1,400 feet of track in Elbert County. Mr. Williams read the following statement to the Board:

“The Hartwell Railroad Company operates a short line railroad that begins at its interchange with Norfolk Southern Railway Company in Toccoa, Georgia and ends in Elberton, Georgia. The Hartwell Railroad Company is proposing to construct and operate approximately 1,400 feet of track to allow it to connect with CSX Transportation, Inc. in Elbert County, Georgia. The purpose of this project is to provide a workable connection between The Hartwell Railroad Company and CSX Transportation, Inc. for increased mobility and to provide economic shipping competitiveness for its existing and future customers, including those citizens of Elbert County. Before it can begin construction on this project, The Hartwell Railroad must first get the approval of the U.S. Department of Transportation Surface Transportation Board, or the “STB” as it is known. As a part of this process, the STB has undertaken an analysis of any potential impacts this project may have on the environment. As citizens of Elbert County, you are invited to comment on the environmental aspects of this project. Any comments you have should be directed to Kevin Starner, who has been hired to conduct an environmental assessment of the project on behalf of STB. Mr. Starner may be contacted at: Kevin Starner, Environmental Project Manager, Skelly and Loy, Inc., 449 Eisenhower Blvd., Suite 300, Harrisburg, PA 17111-2012. His phone number is 800-892-6532, and his email address is kstarner@skellyloy.com.”

At this point, The Hartwell Railroad Company needs the approval and support of Elbert County to construct the 1,400 feet of track through an adopted resolution. Commissioner Harper made a motion to adopt a resolution approving the construction of 1,400 feet of track connecting The Hartwell Railroad Company and CSX Transportation, Inc. in Elbert County. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a 2014 Beer and Wine License for Beaverdam Marina, LLC, at 1155 Marina Drive, Elberton. County Administrator Bob Thomas stated that this business has met all the requirements for the license. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the Beer and Wine License for 2014. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion of a request from Madison County to assist in a pro rata share for the cost of health insurance for the Northern Circuit’s Juvenile Court Judge Chris Nesmith. This is in response to OCGA 15-11-18 (i), which allows judges to be placed on the county’s health insurance plan with each county paying their pro rata share. The total cost for Judge Nesmith is \$5,484 per year. Of this amount, Elbert County’s share will be \$984.38. Commissioner Reynolds made a motion to approve Elbert County’s portion of \$984.38 per year for Judge Nesmith’s insurance. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of quotes on a camera system for the Detention Center Facility. Mr. Thomas informed the Board that the cameras at the Detention Center are very old and not dependable any longer, as you cannot make out individuals good anymore. Two bids were received on the camera system. They are from 1) Albica Computer, LLC for \$17,500 and 2) Data Survival, Inc. for \$41,073. Mr. Thomas recommends going with the low bid from Albica Computers. They are a local company and do a lot of work for the departments in Elbert County. Lee Hammond of Albica Computers stated that we will have even more cameras with this new system, and all lines will be replaced with new cable. Funds to pay for this system will come from SPLOST. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the bid from Albica Computers, LLC. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of quotes on new gas pumps at the County Shop Facility. As Mr. Thomas stated, the pumps at the County Shop are twenty to thirty years old. We are now having problems with them. The diesel pump is leaking, which is a great hazard. For safety for everybody, they need to be and should be replaced. Two bids were received on the pumps. They are from 1) C & M Equipment, Inc. in the amount of \$10,912 and Mecco, Inc. for \$10,321. Mecco, Inc. is the same company that put in the metering system that we now use on the existing pumps. This is a key system that keeps a record of each vehicle and how much fuel is used and how often fuel is put in that particular vehicle. Mr. Thomas recommends Mecco, Inc. since they do have the low bid of \$10,321. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to accept the bid from Mecco, Inc. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of quotes on patrol vehicles for the Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Andrews explained to the Board that the Sheriff's Department currently has six vehicles on the road with well over 200,000 miles on each one. They are constantly in need of costly repairs. He has checked on the possibility of getting some good used cars, but there are none available at this time. He received two bids on 2014 Dodge Chargers. From Ed Murdock the price is \$24,644 each, but delivery could not be for eight weeks. Don Jackson Dodge's price is \$24,733, and they have them in stock. They will also give us thirty days to pay. Mr. Pitts, CFO for Elbert County, feels that we will have this money in SPLOST by February 1st, but he is not one hundred per cent sure. County Administrator Bob Thomas is going to call Don Jackson Dodge and see if we can pay for one car in February and one in March. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the purchase of two 2014 Dodge Chargers from Don Jackson Dodge. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval to transfer five acres of county property to the Elbert County BOE at the high school complex for their future expansion. The high school is doing some construction; and in the process, they discovered that one of the existing buildings is partially on Elbert County property. Also, future construction is to be on that property some. They are asking for five acres to be transferred to them for the on-going expansion. That would extend the line pass the old Agriculture Building to a point on Jones Street. The Elbert County Road Department has asked for all white oak on that property to use for bridge lumber, as we still have some wooden bridges in Elbert County. Mr. Thomas told the Board that there are some old prison graves on a portion of that property that will have to be fenced off and not disturbed. So there are some stipulations that will have to be made before making the transfer. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve the five acre transfer with needed stipulations. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of annual EMS resolutions that include fees for:

Emergency 911 Fees, Emergency Telephone Fund Surcharge and 911 charge on voice
Over internet protocol (VOIP) connections.

All three of these resolutions are done each year as procedure. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve all three resolutions. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Approval to re-apply for a block grant for housing renovations on Porter Drive. We applied for this grant last year but were turned down. We want to re-submit this grant, and the deadline is April 1st. There will be a Public Hearing held on this at the EMS Complex on January 27th. Commissioner Jones made a motion to give approval to re-apply for this grant. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Reminder of Georgia Economic Development Association Annual Legislative Reception and Luncheon.

Chairman Lyon took this time to remind everyone of the GEDA reception and luncheon on January 29th in Atlanta. Those attending will leave at 8:45 a.m. and return around 4:00 p.m. Please let Bob Thomas know if you plan to attend.

Financial report given by CFO Phil Pitts. Mr. Pitts states that we are in good shape at this time. The expenditures are down 3.9%, and the revenues are down compared to this time last year. The E-911 fund is a little better, and the Solid Waste fund is slightly better or just below break even. At this time, we have \$51,444.23 in SPLOST, but there some payments to be made from that. One payment is to USDA for \$5,236.00 and \$40,000 to the General Fund.

Public comments on agenda items. John Clark, local attorney, approached the Board to thank them for re-applying for the block grant for housing renovations on Porter Drive. He said their effort is much appreciated.

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