

MINUTES
ELBERT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH, 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, CFO Phil Pitts and County Administrator Bob Thomas.

After the Pledge to the United States Flag, the invocation was given by Bill Daughtry.

Adoption of agenda. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0. Chairman Lyon then called for a motion to amend the agenda by adding under 13A) "Approval to accept the resignation of Lee Vaughn from the Planning Commission Board and to nominate someone to replace him." Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to amend the agenda. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Adoption of minutes for Monthly Meeting October 20th, 2014. Commissioner Harper made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Frank Eaves to appear before the Board to discuss the status of Indian Rock Road. Mr. Eaves informed the Board that Coggins Land Company bought land on this road in 1963. At that time, County maps showed it as a County maintained road. Mr. Eaves also purchased and sold land on this road in September, 2014. He is now the project manager for the new owners. He will handle the timber purchase; and eventually, the sale of said land. He and other residents of that area are asking that the road stay open and continue to be maintained by the County. County Attorney says that the State records say that we shall maintain up to 1051', and after that it is private. However, other residents are needing access to their property. Mr. Daughtry informed Mr. Eaves that this is something that will have to be settled in court between the land owners.

P Jo Phelps to appear before the Board to give an update on Chamber of Commerce activities.

Mrs. Phelps told the Board that the Chamber continues to sell t-shirts, cookbooks, totes, etc. They are still working on the Historical Marker Project, the most recent being at EGA. The Chamber sponsored a FLW Bass Tournament in April, 19th Annual Fireworks Show in July, a booth at the fair and the Fall Festival in November. She expressed appreciation to the Board for the contributions through the Hotel/Motel Tax funds for various projects.

Ruth Pitts to appear before the Board to discuss her disappointment on the closing of the Brad Dixon Convenience Center. Mrs. Pitts was not in attendance for the meeting.

Discussion and approval of a request by Mary Clark for \$1,000 of Hotel/Motel Tax funds to assist in the promotion of the Martin Luther King Celebration during January, 2015. Mrs. Clark is a representative of the Martin Luther King Committee, and they have been sponsoring this event for twenty-two (22) years. The committee is asking for a financial contribution of \$1,000 to help with this

celebration. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the request for \$1,000. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Mart Clamp to appear before the Board to discuss his proposal for enhancing tourism at the Georgia Guidestones. Mart approached the Board seeking permission to use the five acres at the Guidestones for promotion. He plans to put a vendor mobile there that will be removed every night. They will sell t-shirts and other items relating to the Georgia Guidestones. He asked that the Board take this proposal under consideration.

Rick White to appear before the Board to report on activities of the “Keep Elbert County Beautiful Committee”. Bill Hood spoke in Rick White’s place as he was not able to attend. He let the Board know that Jack Shatz has been hired as the new Executive Director. They had a successful “Happy Hour” for recycling. Tires, batteries, electronics, metals, etc. were taken in. They got \$2 for each tire. Thirty (30) toner cartridges were taken for the high school. The committee has plans to meet with the law enforcement for both governments to stress the prevention of littering.

Discussion and approval of a resolution to clarify and specify the use of the Insurance Premium Tax Funds in the FY 2015 Budget. A share of this tax comes to Elbert County for the unincorporated part each year. This should be a part of the budget and list what it is for. This is to be done by resolution for the 2014/2015 budget year. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the resolution making the Insurance Premium Tax a part of the budget each year. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval to solicit bids to hire an attorney to prosecute cases in the Juvenile Court at a cost no greater than \$200.00 per month. This approval is necessary since the District Attorney has stated that his office will not litigate these cases. Each of the five counties in the district will have to pay \$200 per month. There is a possibility this amount could increase to \$300 per month, but not any greater. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the solicitation of bids to hire an attorney. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a request from the Chamber of Commerce for \$1,000 from the Hotel/Motel Tax funds to help sponsor a Walmart Bass Fishing League event on Richard B. Russell Lake on March 14th, 2015. The Chamber has helped with this event for several years now and would like to continue with help from the Board in the amount of \$1,000 from Hotel/Motel Tax funds. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve this request from the Chamber. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Approval to accept Lee Vaughn’s resignation from the Planning Commission Board. Since Lee has been elected as the Commissioner for District 2, he needs to resign from the Planning Commission Board, as there could possibly be conflicts in the future. Chairman Lyon informed the Board that Cosby “Butch” Smith is willing to replace Lee in this position. Mr. Smith was recognized as he was in the audience. Chairman Lyon then called for a motion to accept Lee’s resignation and approval of Butch Smith as his replacement. Commissioner Harper made a motion to accept Lee Vaughn’s resignation and approve Butch Smith as his replacement. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Approval to declare the vehicles listed below as surplus.

- 1) 1993 Ford Van – Vin No. 1FBJS31HOPHC00123 – Senior Center
- 2) 1993 Ford F250 Truck – Vin No. 1FTRF27W9XNC31438 – Senior Center
- 3) 2003 Ford Crown Vic – Vin No. 2FAFP71W43X192228 – Sheriff’s Dept.
- 4) 2002 Ford Crown Vic – Vin No. 2FAFP71W82X118731 – Sheriff’s Dept.
- 5) 2005 Ford Crown Vic – Vin No. 2FAFP71W25X119040 – Sheriff’s Dept.

General discussion regarding the State not renewing the lease for Bobby Brown State Park. The State of Georgia is not planning to renew the lease on Bobby Brown State Park. The park has two campgrounds and a boat dock. The State is willing to consider a sub-lease to the County. This will be more favorable than leasing from the Corp. Mr. Thomas has visited all of the buildings in the park and reports that there are only minor repairs needed. While the State keeps the park open from March thru August, the County will keep it open thru December. We could put a program for reservations on the County’s website and a link from the State’s website. Mr. Thomas stated that we need to hold a Public Hearing for citizen’s input/opinions. There is the potential for future development in other areas of the park that could produce revenue.

Finance Report given by Phil Pitts. Phil listed detail expenditures for each department in the report. There were three payrolls in October, which “messed” with the percentages somewhat. This does happen twice a year. We are two per cent over budget at this time. We are still getting funds from property taxes. LOST this year was \$405,000, down from \$426,000 last year. The Insurance Premium Tax went up this year to \$721,000 from \$680,000 last year.

Public comments on agenda items. Several citizens from the audience made positive remarks on the County keeping Bobby Brown State Park open.

Executive Session. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to enter into Executive Session. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to come out of Executive Session and enter back into General Session. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

No action was taken in Executive Session.

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