

**PUBLIC HEARING  
ELBERT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

A Public Hearing was held today prior to the monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners. This hearing concerned two different issues. The first was on proposed road closings on Oak Grove Road, Powerhouse Drive and Emmaus Drive. There was no opposition from the citizens on these road closures. Several individuals did speak in favor of the road closures. The second issue was on three recommendations from the Planning Commission on zoning. There is a request to rezone 1405 Lexington Hwy. from Agricultural to Industrial, construction of a 150' cell tower at the corner of Longstreet Road and Hwy. 72 and to a rezoning on Ernest Brown Road to Residential. There was, again, no opposition from the citizens of Elbert County on these three changes.

**MINUTES  
ELBERT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2014**

**Chairman Tommy Lyon called the meeting to order. Present for the meeting was 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 CFO Phil Pitts.**

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

**Adoption of agenda.** Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried. Chairman Lyon then requested to amend the agenda by adding the following under 11A: " Discussion and approval from the EMS to purchase a Certified Refurbished ACLS Manual Defibrillator for \$14,292". Commissioner Reynolds made a motion to approve the amendment to the agenda. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Adoption of minutes for Monthly Meeting January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014, and Called Meeting January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014.** Commissioner Harper made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0, with Commissioner Ashworth abstaining due to being absent from the meeting.

**Discussion and approval regarding a millage increase for Economic Development.** This issue was discussed at Thursday's work session. This increase is needed to help fund a spec building for Economic Development. One-half mill will pay for a 50,000 to 60,000 square foot building, while a three-quarter mill increase will allow for a 70,000 to 80,000 square foot building. In order to bring any business to Elbert County we must have a spec building already in place for proposed industry of any kind to see that we have something to offer. Commissioner Harper made a motion to increase the millage by one-half mill. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion failed 2-3, with only Commissioner Harper and Commissioner Jones in favor. Chairman Lyon then asked for any other

proposal on how to get a spec building for Elbert County. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to put a three-quarter mill increase on the May, 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014, primary ballot. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and vote on the closing of Oak Grove Road.** Having already had a Public Hearing prior to the Commission Meeting, Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the closing of Oak Grove Road. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion failed 2-3, with only Commissioner Harper and Commissioner Jones in favor.

**Discussion and vote on the closing of Powerhouse Drive.** Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the closing of Powerhouse Drive. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and vote on the closing of Emmaus Drive.** Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the closing of Emmaus Drive. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and vote on the Planning Commission Recommendation to rezone five acres of land at 1405 Lexington Hwy. from Agricultural to Industrial.** The reason for the requested change is the land owner plans to construct a building and start doing granite counter tops. This business will have an entrance from the Lexington Hwy. There was no opposition at today's Public Hearing, and it is recommended by the Planning Commission. Commissioner Reynolds made a motion to approve the zoning change. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and vote on the Planning Commission Recommendation to permit Verizon Wireless to construct a 150' cell tower on the corner of Longstreet Road and Hwy. 72.** There is very little to zero reception in this area. There was no opposition at today's Public Hearing, and it is recommended by the Planning Commission. Commissioner Reynolds made a motion to approve the construction of a cell tower as a conditional use. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and vote on the Planning Commission Recommendation to rezone 3.2 acres of land on Ernest Brown Road to Residential.** This was left off the map when approved initially. The 3.2 acres should be split from the tract as residential, since it is for the family home. There was no opposition to this change at today's Public Hearing, and it is recommended by the Planning Commission. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the zoning change. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of the purchase of a Certified Refurbished ACLS Manual Defibrillator for EMS.** Chuck Almond, EMS Director, explained to the Board that the EMS now has one defibrillator that does not transmit, which leaves one ambulance without one. They are sharing one to stay covered with what they need. Zoll Medical has six refurbished defibrillators at this time, and is asking \$14,292 for each. He is requesting permission to put one on hold until we have the funds to purchase. A new defibrillator costs \$24,000; so this will be a savings of \$10,000. SPLOST funds will cover this purchase. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve putting a defibrillator on hold until the funds become available. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Review of Grand Jury Recommendations.** Of the Grand Jury Recommendations, the only one that calls for the Board of Commissioners consideration is the request from the District Attorney for an additional Assistant District Attorney and another investigator. This additional cost, if approved, will be shared by Elbert, Franklin, Hart, Madison and Oconee counties. Chairman Lyon reminded everyone that we have already doubled his monthly appropriation this budget year, and this would mean doubling it again. This item is to be taken under consideration. No action is taken today.

**Finance Report given by CFO Phil Pitts.** General Funds expenditures are under budget by 2.7%, which is better than last year at this time. For each department that is over, Mr. Pitts has attached a line item of expenditures. Revenues are down compared to this time last year. The E-911 Special Revenue Fund is in good shape, but the Solid Waste Fund continues to be a problem. In January, we collected \$163,357 in SPLOST, which is the lowest we have had. SPLOST is continuing to pay back to General Fund \$40,000 each month. We have eight months of payments left.

**Public comments on agenda items.** Sanford Cole approached the Board and asked if the millage increase is to be for Economic Development alone. Chairman Lyon informed him that it is for that purpose only.

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