

**MINUTES**  
**ELBERT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MONDAY, JULY 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2014**

Chairman Tommy Lyon called the meeting to order. Present 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 Chairman Lyon.

**Adoption of agenda.** Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion passed 5-0. Chairman Lyon then made a request to amend the agenda by adding under 14b) Executive Session. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the amendment. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Adoption of minutes for Monthly Meeting June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014, and Called Meeting June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014.**

Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the minutes for both meetings as read. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Approval of an additional appointment to the Elbert County Library Board.** This term will begin on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014, and continues for three years. The Library Board recommends Anne Davis, and she has agreed to serve in this capacity. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the appointment of Anne Davis to the Library Board. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Approval of the re-appointment of Vickie Johnson to the Elbert County Board of Family and Children Services.** Mrs. Johnson's current term expired on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014. She has agreed to continue serving on the DFCS Board. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the re-appointment of Vickie Johnson to the DFCS Board. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**First Reading of the Pawn Shop/Secondhand Dealer Ordinance to provide standards for these businesses.** As a part of this ordinance, Elbert County now will require a business license for pawn brokers and secondhand dealers in the County. At this time, there are no pawn brokers, but there are secondhand dealers. We will not require these businesses to fingerprint their customers; however, pictures will be taken. Record keeping requirements are basically the same as under existing law, except that the pawn shop now has to make daily reports of their transactions rather than weekly reports.

**Second Reading to approve changes to Chapter 10 of the Elbert County Ordinance regarding animals.**

One of the most important revisions to this ordinance is on tethering. There can only be one animal on a tether with plenty of room to move around and easy access to food, water and shelter. There will be a minimum of fifty square feet per animal in the enclosure. Anyone having more than fifteen cats must have a kennel license. Definitions are clearly explained for all to understand in the revised ordinance. The Animal Control Board has changed from E.C. Board of Health to E.C. Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the revised ordinance on animals. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Approval of audit services for FY2014, 2015 and 2016 with Walker, Pierce and Tuck.** Walker, Pierce and Tuck are current auditors for Elbert County BOC. They have agreed to extend the current contract for three years at the same amount of \$42,500. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the contract extension with Walker, Pierce and Tuck. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion of Elbert Memorial Hospital's request for additional funding from the Board of Commissioners.** There was only one question for Mr. Yarborough, and that was how much Elbert Memorial owes Anmed and what it is for. He responded that EMH now owes Anmed over \$200,000, and it is for compensation for executive positions. The last payment made to Anmed was in September, 2013. Chairman Lyon informed Mr. Yarborough that the Board of Commissioners will continue to study the situation and how they can possibly help.

**Freddie Baker to address the Board on the need for assistance from the City of Elberton Fire Department with county fires.** Mr. Baker recently lost his home on the Old Middleton Road to fire. It was at that time that he found out the City fire department does not go to fires in the county unless they are asked to assist. Stating that it is too late for help with his home, but some agreement between the two governments can help someone in the future. He asked that the City of Elberton and Elbert County come to terms with an agreement on giving aid to one another in these situations. Chairman Lyon informed Mr. Baker that they will look into this and work out something.

**Reverend John Barnette to address the Board about the upcoming Granite City Cook-Off.** As in the past several years, the Granite City Cook-Off is scheduled to be held on Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Rev. Barnette is asking for the County to donate \$250.00 towards expenses for this event. Money raised goes to deserving seniors at Elbert County High School. CFO Phil Pitts says that we can use Hotel/Motel Tax funds to help with this type event. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the request of \$250 for the Granite City Cook-Off. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Financial Report given by CFO Phil Pitts.** Over the next few weeks Phil will be recording bills from June that are being paid in July. They have to be accrued back to the 2013/2014 budget. Overall, a really good job was done by all departments in staying within budget this past year.

**Public comments.** Terry Warner, District 3, states that if the hospital is requesting \$676,000 annually, they should provide checks and balances. He understands that they have not offered to do this.

**Executive Session.** Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to enter into Executive Session. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

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

No action was taken in Executive Session.

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