

MINUTES
ELBERT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, MARCH 9TH, 2015

Chairman Tommy Lyon called the meeting to order. Present for the meeting were Chairman Lyon, Vice-Chairman Horace Harper, Commissioner Lee Vaughn, Commissioner Chris Alexander, Commissioner Kenneth Ashworth, Commissioner Freddie Jones, County Attorney Bill Daughtry, County Clerk Tamara Butler, CFO Phil Pitts. County Administrator Bob Thomas was not present.

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

Adoption of agenda. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Adoption of minutes for Monthly Meeting February 9th, 2015. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to adopt the minutes. Commissioner Vaughn seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

P. Jo Phelps from the Chamber of Commerce to present an update on activities of the Chamber. A video presentation was shown entitled "Poised for Productivity and Progress". Also, Mrs. Phelps wanted to remind everyone of the annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet on March 26th.

Discussion and approval of a Resolution to request the Georgia DOT to assist in the connection of the Hartwell Railroad and CSX Railroad in Elbert County. Elbert County request this assistance as a rail connection would have a positive economic impact on the County and would create additional economic opportunities for the area. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a request from the Development Authority for assistance in the clearing of property at the corner of Progress Boulevard and Mineral Springs Road for a Greenfield site for prospective clients. This site is estimated to be about 20 acres and according to Mr. Shannon Teasley of the road department would take about a month to clear off. We would also have assistance with equipment and personnel from the City of Elberton in preparing this site for future development. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion on the future of the Civic Center. Many concerns were brought up in regards to the Civic Center. At this point it is at a break- even situation. Revenues have been reduced due to 2 major civic organizations moving to other locations. Also, costly upgrades and renovations will be necessary in the near future. If we choose to retain it; where will the funds come from? After some discussion, everyone agreed that more study needed to be done before making a decision.

Discussion and approval of a request from Sheriff Melvin Andrews to use proceeds from a gun sale for radars, antennas, rebuilt tasers, bulletproof vest, office filing systems , computers, etc. This sale of seized guns will be held on May 9th, 2015, with Eddie Christian as the auctioneer. The proceeds of the sale will be used for: 2 new radars for vehicles, computer system upgrade (interview room), 6 new radar antennas, 1 secure view system to dump cell phones, 5 rebuilt tasers, construction for office and lobby, bulletproof vest, blood and drug test kits, 4 laptop computers for investigators, upgrade to front office computer, furniture and filing system and cabinets. Since using the proceeds of the sale will go to purchasing these items, no money will have to be used from SPLOST funds. Commissioner Vaughn made a motion to use proceeds to buy items requested. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of bids for 2 bush hogs for the Road Department. Funds to come from the Road SPLOST and airport funding. Shannon Teasley from the Road Department made a request to purchase 2 new bush hogs for the Road Department. Five (5) bids were received: Bailey Farm Equipment (Modern brand)- \$12, 320.95, Blanchard Equipment (John Deere brand)- \$14,945.00, (Bush Hog brand)- \$13,945.00, Ag-Pro (John Deere brand) -\$14,851.76, Atlantic & Southern (Schulte brand) -\$16,697.00. These bids are per each bush hog. Mr. Teasley was asked which brand he thought was the best and he stated the John Deere was a better brand and more heavy duty than the others. Commissioner Harper made a motion to purchase the 2 bush hogs but for a lack of a second, Chairman Lyon asked what was the next step. After some discussion Commissioner Harper made a motion to purchase 1 bush hog only from the SPLOST funds. Commissioner Vaughn seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of bids for the Fire Department on equipment to refurbish the surplus tanker trucks for our county-wide shuttle system and assist in maintaining our low ISO rating. Fire Chief Rick Mewborne received quotes from 3 companies. Only 1 quoted all of the materials and supplies needed to refurbish equipment. That bid was from Fire Line, Inc. for \$71,908.30, which Chief Mewborne said was very reasonable. This money would come from the insurance premium tax in the Fire Department Fund. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve the bid of Fire-Line, Inc. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Approval of proposed rules and regulations for the anticipated opening of Bobby Brown Park in April 2015. The actual opening may be a little later than hoped for due to the Corp of Engineers holding up the paper work process. But according to Danny Burt, things at the park are in better shape than originally thought. Volunteers are helping as are the Camp Host. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve the rules and regulations. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Finance Report given by CFO Phil Pitts. According to Mr. Pitts, at this point we are almost at break-even. There is a meeting with department heads next week to discuss 2016 fiscal year budgets. According to Tax Commissioner Lorrie Higginbotham, 92% of real property taxes have been collected.

Public Comments. Donald McCalla from the Elegant Gents came forward to discuss the future of the Civic Center. He thinks it's marketable and would hate to see it sold or closed. He stated that he uses it frequently for family reunions and the Elegant Gents club uses it for dances and other activities.

Chuck Almond came forward to say that House Bill # 557 stated that revenues from the 911 account would go to the State and then distributed back to us. He wanted the Chairman and Commissioners to send an email to Tom McCall our State Representative and tell him that we did not want that to happen.

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