

MINUTES
ELBERT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CALLED MEETING JANUARY 23RD, 2014

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

Pledge to the United States Flag and invocation. After the pledge to the flag, the invocation was given by Chairman Lyon.

Adoption of agenda. Commissioner Jones made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and approval to purchase furniture and equipment for the Rock Gym. These items are to be paid for with the ARC Facilities Grant. The Savannah River Productions, Inc. has the first performance scheduled in the Rock Gym for February 21st, 2014. That doesn't leave much time for the County to get the gym ready. We have to purchase chairs, table, curtain, sound system, etc. County Administrator Bob Thomas is asking for approval to order the needed furniture and equipment in order to have everything in place by February 21st. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the purchases for the Rock Gym. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Discussion regarding placing a millage increase for Economic Development on the May 20th, 2014, ballot. Chairman Lyon stated that if we don't build a spec building, we don't have a chance of doing business with Caterpillar or anyone else looking for a place to locate a business. Steve Jordan with Mollertech, LLC said that he chose to locate in Elberton, because at the time he was looking for a place, Elbert County already had a building in place. Chairman Lyon said that the Board is looking at a 7.474 acre site at the Industrial Park, but this site will not accommodate a 70,000 to 80,000 square foot building. It will only accommodate a 50,000 to 60,000 square foot building. The estimated cost for a 55,000 square foot building is \$2.5 million. A monthly payment would be \$17,200 per month. Sales Tax is the fairest way to get the money, because everyone will have to pay. Attorney John Clark said that we have a representative Board that can go ahead and pass this item without putting it on a ballot and risk it not passing. He further stated that Elbert County is at a crossroads and cannot afford to lose on this issue. Following Mr. Clark's address to the Board, Jack Spivey, Michael Rutherford, Tom Denney, Jay Williams and Walter McNeeley endorsed Mr. Clark's statement. They are in favor of the Commission Board voting on the spec building at the next meeting. Mrs. Estelle Colquitt disagrees with these gentlemen and thinks that the citizens should have the right to vote on the spec building. Dwayne Moore thinks we could build a spec building with back taxes that are owed. However, Phil Pitts, CFO for Elbert County, informed Mr. Moore and those present that most of the taxes owed would go the Board of Education and the General Fund of Elbert County. There would be no money for a building.

Adjourn. Commissioner Reynolds made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.