

**Public Hearing**  
**Elbert County Board of Commissioners**  
**Monday, April 11, 2016**

5:00 P.M. A public hearing was held to hear information on the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan for Elbert County. Jordan Shoemaker with the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission gave the presentation. There were no public comments.

**Minutes**  
**Elbert County Board of Commissioners**  
**Monday, April 11, 2016**

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 Administrator Bob Thomas, County Attorney Bill Daughtry, County Clerk Tamara Butler, CFO Phil Pitts.

After the pledge to the United States flag, the invocation was given by Commissioner Ashworth.

**Adoption of Agenda.** Commissioner Harper made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0. Chairman Lyon asked for a motion to amend the agenda. Commissioner Vaughn made the motion to amend the agenda to add 12A. Discussion and Approval to allow the Sheriff's Office to use funds from the firearm sales auction held on March 4, 2016, for the purchase and repair of a used 2015 pickup truck that was confiscated. Commissioner Vaughn then made a motion to amend the agenda to add an Executive Session. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motions. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Adoption of Minutes of March 14, 2016.** Commissioner Alexander made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**The Cooperative Extension Program to present an update on extension program activities.** Lauren Macias-Dye and Valencia Thornton presented an in-depth update on activities going on with the Co-op extension program and 4-H. They are extremely proud of the programs and all they offer to the youth of Elbert County. There are many kids involved, many going to competitions at the state and national level. According to the staff, our programs are to be envied and certainly Elbert County should be proud of all their accomplishments. Also present were Patrick Marcellino and Christa Campbell from the Cooperative Extension department.

**Request from the Downtown Development Authority and Main Street Elberton for a \$2,500 contribution from the Hotel/Motel fund to help with expenses for the Summer Concert series on the Downtown Square.** This is a contribution that we have made in the past to help offset expenses. There will be 4 concerts held this summer. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the contribution. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Request from the Chamber of Commerce for \$2,500 from the Hotel/Motel fund to help pay for the Fireworks Celebration at Russell Park during the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday.** This is also another contribution that we have made in the past to help offset expenses. Commissioner Vaughn made a motion to approve the contribution. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of a contract at the Elbert County Airport for obstruction removal and demolition; design crack seal and remark Airfield.** This project contains \$160,354.00 of federal funds and \$8,908.00 of state funds with a local share of the cost being \$8,909.00. The county will demolish and grade the property where the vacant houses are located. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the contract. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of the Drug and Alcohol Zero Tolerance Policy for the Elbert Transit.** This new policy has been updated to comply with the requirements of the Georgia Department of Transportation with additional requirements added to cover the transit in all possible situations. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the new policy. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Request from the Elbert County Historical Society to be released from the lease of the Seaboard-Airline Railroad Depot building.** Because of the potential of expensive ongoing maintenance and future repairs and the subsequent depletion of dwindling funds, the society has asked to be released from its long term lease. Commissioner Harper made a motion for the Historical Society to be released from its lease. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Elberton, Elberton Granite Association and Pyramid Quarries to develop a viewing platform to help promote tourism and economic development in Elbert County.** Chris Kubas, Executive Vice-President of EGA came before the board to give some background on the project. There has been an interest from the public to have a viewing area of a working quarry. The projected cost is around \$60,000; with EGA, the City of Elberton and Elbert County splitting the cost. A proposal has also been presented to the City, but has not answered at this time. County Attorney Bill Daughtry has presented a draft of a "Memorandum of Understanding" only, not a contract. The county is in agreement to spend equally what EGA and the City of Elberton spend but not to exceed \$25,000. If the projected amount is greater, it will have to be brought back before the board for approval. Commissioner Vaughn made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-1, with Commissioner Ashworth opposing.

**Review and approval of a Line of Credit or (TAN)-Tax Anticipation Note for Elbert County from local financial institutions.** Each year the county gets a TAN if money is needed at the end of the year. A request of \$3 million dollars was sent out to 4 local banks. Elberton Federal Savings and Loan declined to offer. Regions Bank proposed a 2.5% interest rate with a bond that would cost around \$1,500. Pinnacle Bank proposed a 1.99% interest rate and Northeast Georgia at 1.75% interest rate. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the proposal of Northeast

Georgia Bank. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Vaughn abstaining from voting as he is an employee of Northeast Georgia Bank.

**Discussion and approval to allow the Sheriff's Office to use funds from the firearm sales auction to purchase and repair a used 2015 pickup truck that was confiscated.** Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the purchase , provided that all agencies has been paid. Commissioner Vaughn seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Chairman Lyon will be inducted as President of the ACCG on May 1, 2015 at the annual conference. This is a tremendous honor and distinction for Chairman Lyon and Elbert County as well.**

**Finance Report.** Some departments are over budget, but Mr. Pitts and Mr. Thomas will look into those and meet with the department heads. Revenues compared to last year are above by approximately \$408,000. The Hotel/Motel fund is at \$21,572.00; which of that \$9,330.00 can be spent locally the remainder is only for State promoted expenses. SPLOST funds are at \$152,684.00 for the month; better than the last couple of years.

**Public Comments.** Sally Hood asked that the finance report be able to be viewed by the public. As this was the first meeting with new cameras and equipment and the agenda being viewed on the monitors. Patrick Hopp and Brett Auer have been working diligently getting the cameras, sound equipment and monitors working in the commissioners meeting room.

Estelle Colquitt asked the board who has the authority to put gravel on private roads and driveways. This question was in regard to the county putting gravel on the road to Pyramid Quarry for the economic development project of the viewing platform.

**Chairman Lyon asked for a motion to go into Executive Session for litigation.** Commissioner Vaughn made the motion. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Chairman Lyon asked for a motion to come out of Executive Session.** Commissioner Ashworth made the motion. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Lyon stated that no action was taken during Executive Session.

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