

**Minutes**  
**Elbert County Board of Commissioners**  
**May 9, 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, Commissioners Kenneth Ashworth, Commissioner Freddie Jones, County Administrator Bob Thomas, County Attorney Bill Daughtry, County Clerk Tamara Butler and CFO Phil Pitts.

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

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

Adoption of Minutes of April 11, 2016. Commissioner Harper made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Request from Kyra Wilhite to discuss the dog kennel license requirements in Section 10-7 of the Elbert County Code of Ordinances.** Section 10-7 states that a person shall have no more than 15 animals (which includes dogs and cats) otherwise they would have to apply for a kennel license. Ms. Wilhite stated that she had more than 15 animals all in houses or enclosed and not free to roam, and are well taken care of. She's had these animals before the ordinance was changed and stated she was unaware of the change to the ordinance. She asked to be grandfathered in.

**Request from Eleanor Hendrix to discuss the dog kennel license requirements in Section 10-7 of the Elbert County Code of Ordinances.** Ms. Hendrix also was unaware of the language of the ordinance. She also has more than 15 animals; but her animals are in houses or enclosed in pens. She also wants to be grandfathered in stating the ordinance was unfair.

**Discussion and approval of the Employee's Health Insurance Plan for 2016-2017.** Matt Bidwell with MSI Benefits Group came before the board to discuss the upcoming renewal of the health insurance plan. The current premium to the county is \$1,072,000.00 yearly. If no changes are made the premium will increase to \$1,192,205.00. There are several different options to consider to help reduce the increased premium. A decision needs to be made no later than May 20<sup>th</sup> since employee enrollment starts in June. The item was tabled until further study can be done to help insure savings to the county and employees.

**Discussion and approval of the bid for the new fire station in the Centerville community.** Request for bids were advertised. Craft Construction was the only bid received. The bid was for \$63,452.00. The building part was \$43,544.00 and the concrete pad was \$19,908.00. The building is similar to the Athens Highway Fire Station. Funds for the new station will come from the Fire Insurance Premium Fund. Commissioner Vaughn made a motion to approve the bid from Craft Construction. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval to name Jason Smith to the Development Authority board for a six year term.** Jason will take over since Larry Smith is coming off the board. Commissioner Harper made a

motion to approve the appointment of Jason Smith to the board. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Finance Report.** Mr. Pitts stated that through 10 months the General Fund is under budget; and revenues are up in almost every category. Hotel/Motel tax fund is at \$23,425.64. SPLOST revenues are up from previous years. Solid Waste continues to show loss; it is not going to be a positive revenue source as the cost to operate exceeds revenues. There is \$251,000.00 in the Fire Insurance Premium fund that was discussed earlier; therefore there are ample funds to pay for the new fire station building.

**Public Comments.** There were no public comments.

**Chairman Lyon asked for a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of property acquisition.** Commissioner Vaughn made the motion to enter into executive session. Commissioner Alexander 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 to come out of executive session. Commissioner Vaughn seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Lyon then asked for a motion to accept the offer on the property that's been offered to Elbert County. Commissioner Harper made the motion to accept the offer. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

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