

**Minutes**  
**Elbert County Board of Commissioners**  
**Monday, March 14, 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 and CFO Phil Pitts.

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

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

**Adoption of Minutes of February 8, 2016.** Commissioner Harper made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of a riding mower for the detainee crew to mow around county governmental facilities.** There were 3 bids received:

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|----------------------------|-----------|
| 1) Lincoln Outdoor         | \$8000.00 |
| 2) Watkinsville Power Shop | \$8000.00 |
| 3) P & J Small Engines     | \$8324.25 |

All bids were for a Bobcat mower with a 30 day warranty. Commissioner Vaughn stated that even though P & J Small Engines was not the lowest bid; they are local, making service and maintenance more convenient. Therefore he made a motion to approve the bid from P & J Small Engines. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion regarding the Civic Center housing the Chamber of Commerce and Development Authority and future rental of the facility.** There has been ongoing discussion whether to continue renting the facility once the Chamber of Commerce moves there. The facility is operating at break-even; with the amount of money coming in as opposed to what we have to spend on maintenance. Mr. Thomas asked if it pleased the board to continue renting out the facility until the end of the calendar year and look then at the future of the facility. It was agreed upon to continue renting out the facility but to monitor the operating cost and revenues.

**Discussion and approval of an enhanced landscaping plan for the Elbert County Courthouse grounds.** Patrick Marcellino, County Extension Agent, and Landscape Architect drew up the plans. Mr. Thomas stated it would consist of taking up the old shrubbery and adding new shrubs, trees and pavers and making some changes to the outdoor lighting. Estimated cost is \$6265.00 for materials, with the County furnishing the labor. Commissioner Vaughn made a motion to approve the landscape plan for the Courthouse. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of the Elbert County Transit Vehicle Preventive Maintenance and Policy and Procedures.** Mr. Thomas stated this is merely a formality for the Department of Transportation that requires us to adopt these policies and procedures to ensure safe, reliable, comfortable, accessible and cost-effective public transportation services to meet all service commitments. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the Vehicle Preventative Maintenance Policy and Procedures. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of the Statewide Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement for the Georgia Emergency Management Act.** This gives local governments the authority to make agreements for mutual aid assistance in emergencies. Mr. Thomas stated this is a standard mutual aid agreement with the state stating they will come to our aid and vice-versa in case of a major disaster and gives us the option that if we were to have a major disaster in this area we would not have to send out any of our equipment that would be needed here. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the Statewide Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of a used side-arm tractor for cutting limbs and brush along the county right-of-ways.** Mr. Thomas stated that he wanted to talk about this piece of equipment along with item 11 (Used Service Truck with a Boom). He and Mr. Pitts feel like we will have the money for these this year but may have to borrow from ourselves for 2 to 3 months. He also stated that these were such good deals that we just couldn't pass them up as the savings would be around \$40,000. Cost of the side-arm tractor will be \$99,900.00 Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the purchase of side-arm tractor. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of a used service truck with a boom lift.** Mr. Thomas stated that this is a much needed addition to our shop for safety and mobility when working in the shop and out on the road. As stated earlier with the side-arm tractor; funds will have to be borrowed for 2 to 3 months. The cost of the truck is \$50,600.00. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the purchase of the service truck. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion regarding the railroad crossing at Allen Circle and Tate Street Extension.** Mr. Thomas met earlier with citizens of the area to discuss their concerns. As of now the railroad connection is complete and but has not been officially signed off by the state. We feel that Allen Circle needs to be opened and work done on the Tate Street Extension crossing. Mr. Thomas would like to get approval from the board to contact Hartwell Railroad and ask them to open Allen Circle up as soon as possible. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve opening Allen Circle. Commissioner Vaughn seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion regarding a Construction and Demolition permit at our transfer site.** This would be for construction and demolition waste only and Mr. Thomas stated the 2-3 acres that we have will create enough revenue to pay for itself. He would like bring this before the board again in April to outline cost and revenue on a yearly basis.

**Finance Report.** Mr. Pitts told the board that he had been in recent contact with the County Audit firm and had received an assurance that a draft version would soon be sent to the County. Mr. Pitts

advised the board that is would take a couple of days to study the draft copy before giving his approval to the auditors. Mr. Pitts also discussed the technology situation in the board room. He advised there were sufficient funds left in the 2011 SPLOST budget to fund improvements. The board indicated their desire to move forward as the microphones and sound system was incapable of meeting the needs of the audience. Mr. Pitts reviewed the monthly financial report with the board and it was acknowledged that the departments as a whole were operating within the budget. The last item addressed was regarding the annual County Line of Credit. The General Fund currently is in a very positive cash position and there is not an immediate need to have a line of credit.

**Public Comments.** Mr. Donald McCalla, representing “Friends of the Civic Center” came before the board to discuss the future of the Civic Center and the importance of the facility to the community. He would like to see the furniture and fixtures updated and to make it a place to be proud of again.

Mr. Alton Downer of Allen Circle came before the board to thank them for their support in contacting the railroad to reopen Allen Circle.

Mr. John Clark came before the board in support of the Civic Center and along with Mr. McCalla would like to see upgrades to the facility possibly suggesting using SPLOST funds to make the improvements.

Jack Schatz with “Keep Elbert County Beautiful” came before the board to discuss the proposal that he brought up at the work session regarding a proclamation to initiate an area in each of their districts to clean up working in conjunction with the “Great American Clean-Up”. Mr. Lyon responded that the board did support KECB and was working with Bill Daughtry to draft a proclamation.

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