

**Minutes of Public Hearing
Elbert County Board of Commissioners
Monday, June 10, 2019**

A Public Hearing was held to hear a request from Mr. Tracy Graham to close a portion of Fork Creek Road that runs through his property.

Mr. Graham stated the road has been used as a shortcut to Deep Creek Road. He would like to have this road closed to be able to fence in the entire area for pastureland that will join his other property. Commissioner Kenneth Ashworth stated he has received a lot of calls not in support of the road closing. Sheriff Melvin Andrews stated to the commissioners at the work session that he is also not in support of the road closing due possible safety issues.

There being no other public comments, Chairman Vaughn called the Public Hearing to a close.

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Chairman Lee Vaughn called the meeting to order. Present were Chairman Vaughn, Vice Chairman Horace Harper, Commissioner Casey Freeman, 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 the Agenda. Chairman Vaughn asked for a motion to remove item 13) Discussion and approval of a request from Jason Brady to accept Springfield Road and Greenbriar Court in the Oak Springs Subdivision into the county road system; pending more information and to add 15a) Executive Session. Commissioner Ashworth made the motion to amend the agenda and approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Adoption of the Minutes of May 13, 2019. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a Resolution approving the Indigent Defense Agreement for the Northern Judicial Circuit. Mr. Daughtry stated that the crime rate in Elbert County has been less than other counties in our circuit, therefore Elbert County's portion of the indigent defense cost will be less than we paid last year. The annual amount for July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 will be \$55,804. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve the Indigent Defense Agreement. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of the agreement between Elbert County and the Chamber of Commerce to provide tourism services to enhance the economic opportunities for the county. Mr. Thomas stated this agreement acknowledges and confirms their mutual and joint interest in supplying a tourism program to service all citizens of Elbert County and entice visitors to the community as an economic benefit. The county will provide funding to the Chamber of Commerce in an amount equal to 40% of the revenue generated from the hotel/motel excise tax revenues. Commissioner Harper made a motion to

approve the agreement with the Chamber of Commerce. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a request from Tracy Graham to close a portion of Fork Creek Road.

A public hearing was held before the regular meeting to hear this request from Mr. Graham to close a portion of Fork Creek Road. Chairman Vaughn asked for a motion for or against the request from Mr. Graham. This item died for lack of a motion.

Discussion and approval of a request by the Elbert County Fire Board to allow volunteer firemen to keep their fire helmets if they retire with 15 or more years of service.

Mr. Thomas stated this is a request from firefighters to keep their helmets if they have 15 or more years of service to county. It was noted that the helmets had no monetary value. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a request from the Department of Behavioral Health and Development Disabilities to appoint a resident of Elbert County to the Region 2 Advisory Board for a three-year term.

Mr. Thomas stated that Mrs. Mary Clark indicated she is willing to serve on this board. Therefore, he recommends the commissioners approve her appointment. Commissioner Freeman made the motion to approve Mrs. Mary Clark to the DBHDD Advisory Board. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of proposed changes to the Joint Economic Development Authority of Elbert County.

Mr. Daughtry stated a proposal has been made by the City Manager to form a new Development Authority between Elbert County, the City of Elberton and City of Bowman. This was discussed briefly at the work session and some commissioners had concerns about the wording in section 7 of the resolution. There are also other items that need to be clarified. Mr. Daughtry stated he has made changes to the resolution for the commissioners to look over and approve and will bring back before the board at the July meeting.

Discussion and approval of bids for the hauling and disposal of solid waste for Elbert County.

Mr. Thomas stated that bids were sent out and two were received. Republic Services returned the low bid of \$36.62 per ton for waste disposal. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve the bid from Republic Services. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a proposal to provide a new entrance to the Porter Drive neighborhood due to the deterioration of the existing bridge.

Mr. Thomas stated the entrance to Porter Drive is collapsing due to one of the pipes crumbling. After looking at several different options, he thinks the best alternative is to provide a new entrance and exit to the Porter Drive neighborhood. KCI Engineering Firm has recommended that we remove the existing bridge so the water from the canal will flow freely without any impediments that could cause limbs and debris to stop the flow of water. The estimated cost of a new entrance/exit is around \$100,000 and the replacement of the bridge is around \$150,000. The county could do most of the work with the supervision of KCI. Mr. Thomas stated we would have to purchase some property in order to provide the new roadway, but the cost estimate included this option, and would get back with the commission to provide a more detailed cost to complete this project. Chairman Vaughn asked for a motion to proceed with the project. Commissioner Freeman made the motion. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Finance Report. Mr. Pitts stated at this time we are 1.09% under budget. General Fund revenues are slightly less than this time last year. Also, the hotel/motel tax fund has a balance of \$10,130. He also

stated he would like to proceed with requesting proposals to local banks for a Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) for the calendar year 2019. He stated this request is earlier than usual but would be good to have it in place. At this time, Chairman Vaughn asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add 14a) Request from the Elbert County Board of Commissioners to seek proposals for establishing a line of credit (Tax Anticipation Note) for calendar year 2019. Commissioner Ashworth made the motion to amend the agenda and to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Vaughn asked for a motion to seek proposals for establishing a TAN (Tax Anticipation Note). Commissioner Freeman made the motion. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Public Comments. Tommy Allgood stated to the commissioners that the county budget should be ready by May 1.

Jeff Moore asked if an increase is anticipated for waste disposal.

Executive Session. Chairman Vaughn asked for a motion to enter Executive Session. Commissioner Harper made the motion to enter Executive Session. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Upon returning, Chairman Vaughn asked for a motion to enter General Session. Commissioner Freeman made the motion. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Vaughn stated 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.