

Minutes
Elbert County Board of Commissioners
Monday, April 13, 2020
Meeting held via tele-conference

Chairman Lee Vaughn called the meeting to order. Present were Chairman Vaughn, Vice Chairman Kenneth Ashworth, Commissioner Horace Harper, Commissioner Casey Freeman, Commissioner Chris Alexander, 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 Mr. Daughtry.

Chairman Vaughn asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add 13a) Discussion and Approval of bids for equipment for the Dive Team. Commissioner Freeman made the motion to amend the agenda to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Adoption of the Minutes of March 9, 2020. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Reading of a Proclamation recognizing Mr. Patrick Marcellino. Chairman Vaughn recommended this item be moved to next month's meeting to be able to present the Proclamation in person to Mr. Marcellino.

Discussion and approval of a reversion of .275 tenths of an acre of property to the heirs of William J. Mercer at the Old Centerville Fire Department. Mr. Thomas stated this land was donated by Mr. Mercer with a reversion clause that stated when the property was no longer being used as a county fire department the property would revert to the heirs of Mr. Mercer. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the Quitclaim Deed. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval to amend the Elbert County Personnel Policy to create a new section titled "Expanded Sick Leave and Family Medical Leave under the Families First Corona Virus Response Act". Mr. Daughtry stated this Ordinance updates the County's Personnel Policy to include the Families First Coronavirus Response Act signed into Law by President Trump on March 18, 2020, which provides for expanded sick leave and family medical leaver under the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act and the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the amendment. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a Resolution approving the waiver of certain penalties and interest by the Elbert County Tax Commissioner because of the National Emergency declared by President Trump as a result of the spread of the virus known as COVID-19. Mr. Daughtry stated this Resolution gives the Tax Commissioner authority to waive in whole or in part the collection of penalties and interest on past due taxes subject to collection by the Tax Commissioner where the original deadline fell/falls between

March 13, 2020 and April 13, 2020. This waiver shall be valid through June 13, 2020. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve this Resolution. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a request from Jim Ree Museum for a \$1,000 donation to help defray cost of the annual spring festival on June 6, 2020. Mr. Thomas stated this event has been rescheduled for October 17, 2020. Mr. Pitts recommended since the event would now be held in the next fiscal year budget to bring back to the board at the July meeting; therefor this item was tabled.

Discussion and approval of bids fore the resurfacing of certain roads in Elbert County under the 2020 LMIG program. Mr. Bobby Howell, Purchasing Agent, stated that four (4) bids were received with Stratton and Sons Paving turning in the lowest bid of \$1,250,696.10. Mr. Thomas recommended going ahead with the project. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve the bid from Stratton and Sons paving. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a Resolution to participate in the update of the Northeast Georgia Regional Solid Waste Management Plan. The plan will be completed by the staff of the Regional Commission at a cost of \$1,143.00 for Elbert County. Mr. Thomas stated this plan was last updated in 2011. This plan will serve as the guiding document for solid waste and recycling efforts in this county and the region for the following ten years. The Authority recommends that our county participate in the plan update so that all ten counties in our region can work cohesively together. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve this updated plan. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of the sublease with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for Bobby Brown Park. This is a five-year sublease. Mr. Thomas stated this is an extension of a sublease with the DNR for the purpose of operating and maintaining Bobby Brown Park. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the extended five-year lease. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion regarding advertising bids for grass cutting for county facilities. Mr. Thomas stated that due to the Coronavirus outbreak, Whitworth Women's Facility had pulled the two work detail crews that provided grass cutting and maintenance of county facilities; therefore, he recommended requesting bids for grass cutting for county facilities.

Discussion and approval of bids for Dive-Team equipment. Mr. Bobby Howell stated that two bids were received with Dolphin Dive Center turning in the low bid of \$8,797.50. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve the bid from Dolphin Dive Center. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Finance Report. Mr. Pitts stated thru March we are \$125,741 under budget. Sales Tax revenues were \$167,241 with TSPLOST revenues \$114,623. The Hotel/Motel fund account has a balance of \$13,425 and available for local projects.

Public Comments. There were no public comments.

Adjournment. Commissioner Harper made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

