

**Minutes of Public Hearing
Elbert County Board of Commissioners
Monday, August 9, 2021**

- 1) Rezoning request from Jean King on Brewers Mill Road to rezone 1.5 acres from Industrial (I) to Rural Residential (RR) for a residential home. The Planning Commission recommended approval of this request. There were no comments on this request.
- 2) Conditional Use request by Ben Maxwell on Agricultural property located on Quill Road to use the property as an Outdoor Recreational facility. The Planning Commission recommended denial of this request. Mr. Maxwell stated the planning commission's vote was a split decision and left up to the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Thomas stated it was a 4-3 decision.

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

Adoption of the Agenda. Chairman Vaughn stated public comments would be moved before executive session, since it could be lengthy. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Adoption of the Minutes of July 12, 2021 and July 26, 2021. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Dennis Bellew to address the Board regarding a Sons of the American Revolution project. Mr. Bellew stated it is the goal of the SAR to protect and honor our ancestors and the heritage here in Elbert County. Mr. Bellew would like to clean up and fix some of the markers and signs located throughout the county.

Discussion and approval of an agreement with the Elbert County Chamber of Commerce to provide tourism service programs to serve all citizens of Elbert County as an economic benefit for the county. This agreement begins July 1, 2021 and extends to June 30, 2022. Mr. Daughtry stated this is the annual contract we have as a condition of collecting hotel/motel taxes. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve the annual tourism agreement. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a request for rezoning from Jean King on Brewers Mill Road to rezone 1.5 acres from Industrial (I) to Rural Residential (R1) for a residential home. The Planning Commission recommended approval of this request. This item was presented at the Public Hearing with no public comments. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve this rezoning request. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a request for a Conditional Use Application from Ben Maxwell to allow an Outdoor Recreational Facility on Quill Road. The Planning Commission recommended denial of this request. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to uphold the decision of the Planning Commission. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0. Commissioner Ashworth stated he had checked on other off-road parks that have a lot more acreage and that is one reason for his vote to deny this conditional use application. Also, the noise complaints from neighbors of the property. He said it is just not a large enough amount of acreage for what Mr. Maxwell wants to do. Mr. Maxwell commented that it was his land and he was going to do with it what he wanted.

Discussion and approval of an agreement with the City of Elberton to extend overhead and underground fiber optic cable to the yurts and other parts of Bobby Brown Park. The cost of the project is estimated to be \$15,155.30. The project can be paid from the American Rescue Plan Act. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve this project. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a County Extension Personnel Memorandum of Understanding between the UGA Cooperative Extension and Elbert County and the Elbert County Board of Education. The agreement is for the School Board to pay \$15,000 to supplement the full-time county funded 4-H Program Assistant/Educator on an annual basis. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve the MOU with UGA, Elbert County and the BOE. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Discussion and approval of bids for the Tax Anticipation Note with a \$3 million line of credit. Mr. Pitts stated 2 bids were received. Pinnacle Bank proposed a 1.35% interest rate; Northeast Georgia proposed a 1.49% interest rate. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to go with the low bid turned in by Pinnacle Bank. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Discussion and approval of the purchase of outdoor weather sirens to be paid from ARPA funds. These weather sirens have been recommended in the Elbert County Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan. Each siren cost approximately \$20,000. This is for the purchase of an additional six (6) weather sirens to be placed around the county for a total of about \$120,000. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the purchase of six (6) weather sirens. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Discussion and approval to purchase three (3) Power Pro/ Stair Pro power stretchers from Stryker Medical. Total purchase price is \$73,055.43. Funds will come from ARPA. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve the purchase. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Discussion and approval to move forward with a bid proposal to purchase a new ambulance. Mr. Thomas stated even if we put in a bid now, it could possibly be June of 2022 before delivery. His

recommendation is to go ahead now with the bid proposals. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to move forward with bid proposals. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Finance Report. Mr. Pitts stated this is the first month of fiscal year so some numbers could be off. We are under budget at this point. SPLOST and TSPLOST funds are continuing to come in good and more than predicted a year ago.

Public Comments. Two residents of Quill Road thanked the Commissioners for their vote in approval of denying Mr. Maxwell's conditional use request.

Executive Session for Personnel and Real Estate. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to enter Executive Session. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Upon returning, Commissioner Freeman made a motion to enter general session. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Vaughn stated no action was taken.

Adjournment. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.