

Minutes
Elbert County Board of Commissioners
Monday, March 8, 2021 5:30 PM

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.

Because of the expected large turn-out; the meeting was held in the Superior Court courtroom.

After the pledge to the United States flag the invocation was given by Commissioner Ashworth

Adoption of the Agenda. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Adoption of the Minutes of February 8, 2021. Commissioner Harper made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

John Van Brunt with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs to present Chairman Lee Vaughn with the Elbert County Broadband Ready Community Designation. Mr. John Van Brunt presented Chairman Lee Vaughn with a plaque designating Elbert County as a "Broadband Ready Community".

Ben Maxwell has requested to address the Board regarding his property on Quill Road. Mr. Maxwell stated this was a private club that he started a few years ago for himself and friends to ride, cook-out, and fellowship and is family friendly. He stated that he does not charge but does accept donations which he puts back into the upkeep. He requests that everyone leave by 8:00 pm. He also provided a petition from many people that are in support of this park.

Mr. Bob Thomas asked if there are restroom facilities. Mr. Maxwell replied that he did not, but there was a store up the road that could be used. Mr. Thomas also asked about any concessions being sold; which Mr. Maxwell replied that he did not; that everyone pitched in and brought their own.

Mason Sterling and Emily Jones have requested to address the Board regarding Timber Falls 4 x 4 Park on Quill Road. Mason Sterling stated that he has lived in the area a year, but when he purchased his property there was no indication that this park was there. He also stated that he did ride there, but the noise became so excessive that he did not want to be there anymore. He has several police reports of loud noise and, also personal threats on "social media".

Discussion and Approval of the Elbert County Airport proposed improvement projects and funding sources. These projects include new runway lighting, a new weather system, relocation of utility power poles and running utility lines underground. The county's portion is around \$114,000. Total project cost is \$763,485.67. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the airport improvement projects. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and Approval of Rita Harper to replace Allen Nicas for his unexpired term on the Elbert County Library Board. This term will expire December 31, 2021. Commissioner Ashworth made a

motion to approve the appointment of Rita Harper to the Library Board. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and Approval to reappoint Susan Fricks to a 3-year term to the Elbert County Library Board.

Her new term will expire June 30, 2023. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the appointment of Susan Fricks to the Library Board. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Finance Report. Mr. Pitts reported we were well under budget thru February. SPLOST and TSPLOST funds both have good balances. Also, Hotel/Motel tax fund is in good shape. He also stated that the airport improvements could come from TSPLOST funds. Commissioner Alexander said that commissioners voted for TSPLOST funds were to be used for roads only.

Public Comments. Matt Bogal, D.D. Phillips, Todd Maxwell, Jacob Wallace, and Candace Veal spoke in support of Timber Falls 4 x 4 Park.

Mason Sterling spoke against the park.

Adjournment. Commissioner Harper made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.