

**Minutes of Called Meeting  
Elbert County Board of Commissioners  
Wednesday, June 29, 2022**

Chairman Lee Vaughn called the meeting to order, Present were Chairman Vaughn, Commissioner Casey Freeman, Commissioner Chris Alexander, Commissioner Kenneth Ashworth, Commissioner Freddie Jones, County Administrator Phil Pitts, County Attorney Bill Daughtry, CFO Macie Witcher, County Clerk Tamara Butler, media.

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 amend the agenda to add 4b) Sheriff's Department presentation and remove Item 9)- Discussion and approval of the contract for Medical Services between Elbert County and CorrCare, Inc. Commissioner Freeman made the motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

**Discussion of support for Elbert Partners for Health.** Mr. Pitts stated Elbert Partners for Health has approached the County about providing support. He also said that possibly funds from the Drug Ed fund could be used. Chairman Vaughn stated that Elbert Partners for Health are not affiliated with the hospital; and he would like to see a way to help them because they have done a lot of good things. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to table this until further discussion. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

Presentation from Officer Michael Mathews with the Sheriff's Department, giving a brief explanation of the matter of the Sheriff's Department hiring a deputy from the Elberton Police Department and the possible recouping of training expenses in the amount of \$17,000. Officer Mathews stated "It was a termination, and therefore; voiding the contract, which would be a breach of contract under Georgia's civil law". Mr. Daughtry stated if the EPD intends to pursue this, he would defend it.

**Discussion and approval of an Architectural firm that will design plans for the new County Extension office.** Mr. Howell stated proposals were sent out and interviews were held with three (3) firms. After interviews, it was decided that Lyman Davison Dooley would be the best fit. Their proposal was \$165,000, which includes blueprints and everything that needs to be done on that land. Chairman Vaughn stated that he wants to move forward with the project, but had no idea it would cost this much. Commissioner Freeman stated we need to go back and look at the plans and see exactly what the county needs and can afford. Commissioner Alexander also stated that we do need to move forward with the building, but we do need to discuss the needs and if anything can be reduced. Commissioner Ashworth stated that we need something that is a fit for Elbert County. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to table the item until further discussion and meetings with all stakeholders. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

**Discussion and approval for a used van with a rear wheelchair lift for Elbert County Transit. Request to spend up to \$70,000.** Mr. Pitts stated the transit program is mainly funded by GDOT; and they normally provide the vehicles for the program; but because of delays in manufacturing, etc. they have been unable to get a vehicle; therefore Mr. Billy Jones requested to possibly get a used vehicle now. The

program does have the money. Commissioner Alexander asked if this vehicle was approved now, would we still get the vehicles that are provided by GDOT; which Mr. Pitts replied yes, we would.

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Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve the purchase of a van up to \$70,000. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

**Discussion of selling the old County Extension building on Cloverleaf Drive and the Public Health building on Church Street.** Mr. Pitts that a couple of parties had approached him about buying the two (2) properties and wanted to get the Board's thoughts. Mr. Daughtry stated that we would either have to have a public auction or solicit sealed bids and can put a minimum on what we would accept or a reserve amount. The Public Health building is also owned by the City and Chairman Vaughn stated they have no interest in keeping the building. The old 4-H building also has some land attached. Chairman Vaughn stated he would like to move forward and asked the Commissioners to give their opinions to Mr. Pitts and possibly vote at the next meeting about how to proceed with either sealed bids or auction.

**Discussion and approval of a Resolution adopting a Continuation Budget for the Fiscal Year 2023.** Mr. Pitts stated we started working on the budget a while ago but had been a slow process in getting requests from General Fund departments; once they were all put together it was substantially higher in total so they were having to look at details of each department and try to get it down. He stated it would take a significant millage rate increase to cover the proposed budget at this time. In order to have time to go back over the budget and make any changes; we will need to approve a Continuation Budget Resolution for FY2023. Mr. Pitts stated that it should be finalized by the middle of July. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve the Continuation Budget Resolution for FY2023. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

**Public Comments.** Mike Scoggins asked about the budget for Probate Court/Magistrate Court. Mr. Pitts stated those were preliminary numbers and not the finalized budget. Commissioner Freeman stated we have had our plates full with large projects going on and a change in administration; but we are working on it.

**Adjournment.** Commissioner Alexander made a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.