

**Minutes of Called Meeting  
Elbert County Board of Commissioners  
September 21, 2022**

Chairman Lee Vaughn called the meeting to order, Present were Chairman Vaughn, Commissioner David Hunt, 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.

After the ledge to the United States flag the invocation was given by Mr. Daughtry.

**Adoption of the Agenda.** Chairman Vaughn asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add 8b) Discussion of the Plantation Road property and 8c) Discussion of the new County Extension/4-H building. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Discussion and Approval of an Amended Budget for FY 2022.** Mr. Pitts stated that during the year some adjustments were made to the Special Revenue fund; but the total General Fund budget balanced out, with some departments being over budget and some under. Also, the Senior Center and Transit departments were separated. The Solid Waste fund was a little over budget for the year. Mr. Pitts is asking for approval to amend the 2022 budget to allow for these changes. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve these changes and the amended budget. Commissioner Freeman seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Discussion and Approval of the FY 2023 Budget Resolution.** Mr. Pitts stated due to increases in personnel related cost and with the rising cost of goods and services, the budget for 2023 is much higher than last year. The recommended budget for 2023 is \$15,124,995. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve the 2023 budget. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Second Reading- Discussion and Approval of an Ordinance to amend Section 2-3 (Purchasing Policy) of the Code of Ordinances of Elbert County to comply with the Georgia Procurement Registry.** Mr. Daughtry stated there are two (2) charges which are publication requirements starts at purchases over \$25,000 and the purchasing agent must sign and approve invoices requiring bids before payment can be made. Commissioner Freeman made a motion to approve these changes to the Purchasing Policy. Commissioner Hunt seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Discussion and Approval of a donation to the City of Bowman for their Fall Festival, The Big Iron Crankup.** Mr. Pitts stated \$1,000 was requested by the City of Bowman, which will come from our Hotel/Motel tax fund. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of a request by the Fire Department to fund \$300,000 for the new fire department building. Funds to come from ARPA.** This item has been discussed previously, but has actually not been approved by the board; therefore Mr. Pitts recommended the board approve this

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request. Commissioner Freeman made a motion approve \$300,000 from ARPA funds for the new fire department building. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Discussion of the Plantation Road property.** Mr. Allen Hulme stated after discussions with companies and individuals that have knowledge of this type of thing, the best option to collect more money is to auction the equipment by separate lots. There is a lot of work to be done, to moving the equipment and getting it into lots. Also, there are lots of motors and parts that weeds and grass have overgrown. So, there is a lot of clean up to do. A representative from Richey Brothers has been out to look at the property and seem to be interested and has asked for a material list of the items and then they can give an idea of the value. Chairman Vaughn recommends that the equipment be sold as lots then we could sell the real estate separately. Chairman Vaughn also stated that Michael Ambrose recommended the single-buyer option, but feels that is not the best option.

Chairman Vaughn asked Mr. Daughtry to let Attorney Rob Leverette know that we are ready to go forward with an auction company and not a single-buyer.

Deputy Darren Scarborough asked about the limited space. Mr. Hulme did say this would be an on-line auction and not a live auction. There would be a time scheduled for people to come out and look at the equipment prior to the auction.

**Discussion of the new County Extension/4-H building.** Commissioner Freeman stated \$500,000 has already been allocated for the building along with \$2,000,000 from the new SPLOST funds. He stated the next thing is to look at the plans with the new arena and show ring. Chairman Vaughn said that we will engage an architect to design the building along with a land planner to help design the arena and show ring area. Mr. Daughtry stated to borrow money, we could do a traditional bond that does take longer and takes voter approval or do a phantom bond which is a quicker process and does not require voter approval. Commissioner Alexander stated we needed to get an estimate of what the arena and show ring would cost and then to go ahead and get the process started with the half million that is already set aside. Commissioner Alexander said we need to get an estimated cost and get the process started. Mr. Hulme said the estimated building cost is roughly \$1.8 million without the additional arena and show ring.

**Public Comments.** There were no public comments.

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