

MINUTES
ELBERT COUNTY BOC MONTHLY MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 8TH, 2011

Present for the meeting were Chairman Tommy Lyon, Vice-Chair Horace Harper, Commissioner Harold Reynolds, Commissioner Frank Eaves, Commissioner Kenneth Ashworth, Commissioner Freddie Jones, County Attorney Bill Daughtry, County Clerk Judy Vaughn, County Finance Director Phil Pitts and County Administrator Bob Thomas.

Chairman Lyon called the meeting to order.

After the Pledge to the United States Flag, the invocation was given by Commissioner Ashworth.

Adoption of agenda. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0. Commissioner Reynolds then made a motion to amend the agenda to add "Discuss and approve payment of extra charges requested by Mike Hunt for work performed on one of the new fire stations" under 17A. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Adoption of minutes. Commissioner Eaves made a motion to adopt the minutes for the Monthly Meeting on Monday, July 15th, 2011, as read. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Before voting, Commissioner Ashworth asked that a correction be made in the spelling of Jule to read June. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Recognition of retirement for D.D. Shaw and Charles Maxey. Chairman Lyon read and presented plaques to D.D. and Charles for their many years of service to Elbert County. D.D. has 39 years with Elbert County, and Charles has 32 years.

Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement between Elbert County and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for expenditure of proceeds of the Hotel/Motel Tax for the twenty cabins at Richard B. Russell State Park. The percentage of proceeds that Elbert County will receive are to be used in promoting Richard B. Russell State Park. The State keeps 3% for administration. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve this agreement with the DNR. Commissioner Eaves seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Approval to submit an application to FAA for the existing runway re-paving at Patz Field - Project estimated cost is \$1,161,461. We are in the final stages of finishing work on the runway extension, which was paid for with a grant. This grant will be to re-pave the old portion of the runway. It will be a 95/5 grant with the Fed paying 95%, State 2.5% and the County 2.5%. The County's portion will be done with in-kind work by the Road Department. No cash money. The request is for approval to apply for the grant. Commissioner Eaves made a motion to give approval in applying for this grant. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0. It was also noted by County Administrator Bob Thomas

that he is looking into installing an “automatic fueling station” at the airport with money left over from the extension project. This should cost between \$12 to \$15,000. This will allow someone to get fuel at night with the use of a credit card.

Review and approval of oblique and orthogonal imagery (aerial photography) for Tax Assessor’s office. Mr. Thomas advised the Board that this had been done in 2009; so it is actually a little too soon to have it done again. Also, Commissioner Ashworth met Virgil Moon of Cobb County recently at a training session, who told him of other ways this can be done at little cost. Mr. Thomas is going to look into this and explore other ways of doing this at as little cost as possible to the County. He will report to the Board at a later date. This item is removed from the agenda at this time.

Amend the Public Defender contract to provide that Madison County will administer the budget for this office. The counties in this district take turns administering the Public Defender budget. Franklin County has been handling the budget, and the contract still reads that way. As Madison County is now handling the budget, the contract should be amended to show this. Commissioner Reynolds made a motion to amend the Public defender contract. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

First Reading of a resolution to establish a minimum tipping fee for users at the Elbert County Solid Waste Transfer Site. The minimum fee is to be \$3.00. The same paperwork and procedures are done for all tipping at the Transfer Station whether it is \$.50 or \$5.00. Therefore, we feel the need to establish a minimum fee of \$3.00 for tipping.

First Reading of an ordinance to update Sec. 62-1 of the solid waste disposal procedures and to prohibit the disposal of large dead animals by Elbert County. The wording of “City-County Landfill” needs to be updated since the City of Elberton is no longer associated with the Solid Waste Transfer Station.. Also, large dead animals can no longer be disposed of at the Transfer Station.

First Reading of an ordinance to amend the definition of the term “Private Disposal Site” as used in Sec. 62-51 through 62-55 of Chapter 62 of the Solid Waste Ordinance. This ordinance has to be amended to go back to the 2009 wording which prohibits any type of waste disposal facility in the County.

Second Reading and approval of an ordinance to amend Sec. 30-35 through 30-37 to impose a 9-1-1 charge on prepaid wireless service. This is in response to HB 256 which changes the method by which 9-1-1 fees are collected on prepaid wireless service.

There is a lot of money being lost on prepaid service. The state has changed the law to allow counties to collect a 9-1-1 fee of \$.75 per phone. Commissioner Eaves made a motion to approve the collection of a 9-1-1 fee on prepaid phones. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Approval of a resolution establishing the rate of compensation for hearing officers in property tax appeals in Elbert County. It has recently been amended by the Georgia Legislature to allow for property tax appeals before a hearing officer for any dispute involving the value or uniformity of a parcel of non-homestead real property with a fair market value in excess of \$1 million. In this event the County is to pay the hearing officer no less than \$25 an hour. Commissioner Eaves made a motion to approve this resolution as amended by the State of Georgia. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-1, with Commissioner Reynolds against.

Discussion regarding the paving of Bennett Road. County Administrator Bob Thomas informed the Board that he does have the petition signed to give rights-of-way. However, we have a file of other roads that are already on a waiting list. Mr. Thomas suggests that we table this item and schedule a called meeting to discuss road needs and come up with a list from all districts. Commissioner Eaves made a motion to table the discussion of Bennett Road. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion of offering for sale certain small County parcels that have been obtained over the years through property tax liens. This suggestion came from Commissioner Ashworth, who wanted to sell any parcels that we have no plans to use. Mr. Thomas said that we will talk to adjacent property owners first to see if they want to purchase these parcels. There are a total of twelve (12) parcels that range in size from .10 to 6.56 acres. Eight of these parcels are less than an acre. Mr. Thomas is asking for authorization to proceed with this issue. Commissioner Harper made a motion to move forward regarding the sale of these parcels. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Rafiq -n Batada of One Stop Shop to appear before the Board to request that "Sunday Beer Sales" be put on the SPLOST ballot for November, 2011. Mr. Batada feels that there will be an increase in sales, which will benefit the business owners and the County. County Attorney Bill Daughtry stated that there is a new law by which the County can offer a referendum to have beer and wine sales. If this is to be done in November, we have to start working on this now. At this time the only thing on the ballot for November is E-SPLOST for the Elbert County Board of Education. The school has to pay the entire cost. If we add to the ballot, we have to pay half the cost. Also, Commissioner Eaves stated that the SPLOST referendum is very important to the school system. He feels that it should be the only thing on the ballot. It was decided amongst the Board members that the hours of sale on Sunday should be 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to allow the Sunday beer and wine sales to be on the ballot for November, 2011. He added that he made this motion **only because a citizen has asked that it be put to vote by all citizens.** Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-1, with Commissioner Eaves against.

Mike Hunt of MGH Concrete to come before the Board to request an extra payment on work done at Sweet City Fire Department. Mr. Hunt's original bid was approved by the Board. He used an additional nine yards of concrete.. He stated that we did not have it graded right; so he had to use extra concrete, and he paid for it. County Administrator Bob Thomas said that he should not have poured it if it was wrong. There was gravel on site to fill in with if it

was too low. The Road Department employees would have done this if he had asked. Mr. Hunt is asking to be paid \$1,000 for the concrete only. Commissioner Jones asked that this be tabled to a later date until he can get a better understanding of what has taken place. Mr. Thomas said that he will put this on the Called Meeting agenda for August 23rd, 2011, at 4:00 p.m. Commissioner Jones made a motion to table to August 23rd, 2011. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0, with Commissioner Harper abstaining.

Finance Report given by CFO Phil Pitts. Mr. Pitts reported that we have used 7.8% of the budget by the end of July. Some are over due to equipment purchases and Lost Annual Leave purchases. SPLOST is declining over the months. It was \$7,270 short in July. Once property taxes start coming in, we will be in better shape.

Public comments on agenda items. None.

Executive Session. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Eaves seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Reynolds made a motion to come out of Executive Session and return to General Session. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0. No action was taken while in Executive Session.

Adjournment. Commissioner Harper made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.