

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Elbert County BOC held two Public Hearings today prior to the regular Monthly Meeting at 5:30 p.m.

- 1) 5:00 P.M. A Public Hearing to consider changing the name of Sanders Road to Hunt Road.
- 2) 5:15 P.M. A Public Hearing to consider a proposed Zoning Ordinance for the unincorporated areas of Elbert County.

MINUTES ELBERT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MONDAY, AUGUST 13TH, 2012

Present for the Monthly Meeting for August 13th, 2012, 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, CFO 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 Jones.

Adoption of agenda. Commissioner Harper made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0. Chairman Lyon then made a request to amend the agenda by adding under 19A "Approval of a request from the City of Elberton to help with a celebration for the 30th Anniversary of the Sister City Program with a monetary donation." Commissioner Eaves made a motion to adopt the amended agenda. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion passed 5-0.

Adoption of minutes for Monthly Meeting July 9th, 2012. Commissioner Reynolds made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Request from Commissioner Eaves. Before continuing with the meeting, Commissioner Eaves made a request to the Board to change his vote on "Item 5" on the July 9th, 2012, agenda. Item 5 read: "Request from Sweet City Landfill, LLC for discussion and consideration of a proposed "Host Agreement" associated with a solid waste facility". The vote was 5-0 to not enter into a "Host Agreement" with Sweet City Landfill. Commissioner Eaves wishes to change his vote from "yes" to "abstention". Upon Chairman Lyon calling for any objections, Commissioner Reynolds responded with an objection. Chairman Lyon called for a vote on those objecting to Commissioner Eaves changing his vote on Item 5 on the July 9th, 2012, agenda from a yes to abstention. The vote carried 4-1, with Commissioner Eaves against. When posing the question for those in favor of Commissioner Eaves changing his vote on Item 5 on the July 9th, 2012, agenda, the vote failed 1-4, with Commissioner Eaves being the sole vote for this change.

Request from Rev. John Barnett to address the Board about this year's Granite City Cook-off. Rev. Barnett stated that this will be the 5th Granite City Cook-Off. He asked the Board to consider entering a grill in the event at a cost of \$75 or to sponsor a grill for \$100. In the past, the Commission Board has made personal donations to this event. Chairman Lyon said that he will talk with the other commissioners and see if they are in agreement to do the same this year. Rev. Barnett informed the Board that donations are needed by August 31st. Proceeds from the cook-off go towards scholarships for high school seniors.

Request from the Chamber of Commerce Chairman Greg Gunter to come before the Board with an update on the Chamber. Chairman Gunter first expressed his appreciation to the Board for their continued support of the Chamber. The Chamber continues to provide brochures, guides, maps, etc. to local and other area businesses. T-shirts, bags and other items are still for sale. The Historical Marker Program is still going on. The Chamber co-sponsored a bass tournament on April 28th, 2012. There were 99 boats and 199 fishermen. The fireworks in July were attended by over 2500 people thru the gate. Many were watching from the water in boats. They assisted with a triathlon in August at Lake Russell State Park where over 350 attended and participated.

Recognition of Judge Susan Sexton for her donation towards the flower box in front of the Government Complex. Judge Sexton made a monetary donation to buy flowers and potting soil to go in the new flower box built by Dennis Young of the County Building Maintenance Department. We appreciate her generosity, and the flowers are being enjoyed by everyone.

Discussion and approval of proposed road name change from Sanders Road to "Hunt Road" from the intersection of Hwy. 77 and Sanders Road eastward to Ridge Road. A Public Hearing was held today prior to the meeting at 5:00 P.M. County Administrator Bob Thomas explained and illustrated on a map to the Board and the public where this change will be. There were no objections voiced at the Public Hearing. Commissioner Eaves made a motion to approve the road name change from Sanders Road to Hunt Road. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and approval of a request from ForeStar Group for a tax refund of \$11,092.58 for tax years 2008 thru 2011 for Tax Parcel No. 023-004. County Attorney Bill Daughtry received this request. They are requesting to be refunded for four years, but the law only allows us to refund three years. We have up to twelve months to make a decision on this. We can refund the money if East West Timberland makes the payments they should have made in the beginning. When it went to ForeStar group, they didn't realize the taxes were not paid on these years. ForeStar can actually sue Timberland. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion that we table this for now and maybe refund later once we get a payment from East West Timberland. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Adoption of proposed Resolution to enact an Excise Tax on Energy used in manufacturing for Elbert County. Mr. Daughtry informed the Board that the General Assembly passed HB386, which gives cities and counties the opportunity to recoup some lost revenue. We can get this over a period of four years - 25% the first year, 50% the second year, 75% the third year and 100% of the 2% the last year. Both Cities are interested in doing this. This could amount to as much as \$83,000 for one year for the County based on energy lost. We have until the end of December of this year to make a decision on this. The Chairman recommended studying this for a while longer. Commissioner

Harper made a motion to table this to a later date. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion passed 5-0.

Review and approve bid proposal for the purchase of 60 Motorola XPR4550 mobile radios with antennas and installation for the Fire Department. These radios will be used by the Fire Departments and First Responders. Three bids were received and are listed below:

1) Mobile Communications of Athens	\$32,040
2) East Georgia Communications (Does not include installation & antennas)	\$31,500
3) Radio Wholesale	\$33,865

County Administrator Bob Thomas recommends going with the low price of \$32,040 submitted by Mobile Communications of Athens. Commissioner Eaves made a motion to accept the bid from Mobile Communications of Athens. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Review and approve upgrade to 9-1-1 CAD System. This upgrade will greatly enhance the 911 System in emergencies. They already have all land line phone numbers in the system. Citizens can add their cell phone numbers, e-mail addresses, etc. to the system. Everyone will be notified of severe weather emergencies, a lost person or any type emergency that occurs. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the upgrade to the 911 system. Commissioner Eaves seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion passed 5-0.

Review of EMS statistical reports. EMS Director Chuck Almond compiled this report for information purposes only. The EMS are experiencing an increase in calls and use of services (ambulances). They very often have two to three ambulances out at one time. More "out of county" transfers are occurring. He is concerned that there might be a call that will have to wait. If this continues, the Board might have to consider adding another ambulance and increased staff to handle the calls.

Approval of the appointment of Elbert County Administrator to the Regional Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council. Commissioner Reynolds made a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Thomas to this council. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

1st Reading to review the Elbert County Planning Commission By-Laws. The Planning Commission has been working on this for about three years, and they have held the required public hearings. The By-Laws will govern the meetings held by the Planning Commission once the Zoning Ordinance is passed. A Chairman will be elected from the Planning Commission every two years. The Planning Commission shall adopt an annual calendar that establishes meeting dates and times. The Department of Planning and Development shall prepare and submit all draft agendas to the Chairman for approval.

1st Reading to review the Elbert Count Zoning Ordinance and Map. This zoning ordinance is for the unincorporated areas of Elbert County, and a Public Hearing was held on this issue today prior to the Commission Meeting. If an area is already "commercial", it will be grandfathered in that way. If an area is residential now, no commercial can go in.

Review and approve bids for patching on Evergreen, Heardmont, James Bailey, Lena, Paul Motes and Porter Drives. Three bids were received on this project and are listed below.

1) Stratton and Sons	\$74,830
2) Allied Paving	\$100,640
3) E.R. Snell	\$100,164

Mr. Thomas recommends going with the low bid of \$74,830 submitted by Stratton and Sons. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the low bid from Stratton and Sons. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion passed 5-0.

Review and approve bids for patching and paving Von Trina Drive. Only two bids were received on this project. They are:

1) E.R. Snell	\$82,777
2) Stratton and Sons	\$82,655

There has been a lot of traffic on this road since the work on the extension of the runway has been on going. There is about a \$150 difference in the two bids; and since E.R. Snell did the initial airport at the airport, he is recommending E.R. Snell to do the work for \$82,777. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the bid from E.R. Snell. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Review and approve bids for a single axel dump truck for the Road department. We currently have a 1995 dump truck at the Road Department, and it is used every day. It has a lot of problems – oil leaks, gears smoking and problem with the lights to mention a few. In the past we have had various problems with International equipment. We currently have two Mack tandems that are working out great, and we do know more about them. There is also a program that can be purchased through Mack that will enable us to diagnose problems on site after our warranty is gone. Three bids received on the dump truck are listed below:

1) Interntationl	\$88,000.00
2) Mack – Atlanta	\$111,774.86
3) Mack – Gainesville	\$116,092.86

County Administrator Bob Thomas recommended the low bid from International. There is a big difference in the price, but we can buy an extended warranty. Chairman Lyon called for a motion on the bid from International. This failed for lack of a motion. Chairman Lyon then called for a motion to go with the bid from Mack. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the bid submitted by Mack - Atlanta in the amount of \$111,774.86. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

At the work session, Mr. Thomas was asked to get some bids on a sweeper for the Road Department. This is needed to clean the roads after they cut the grass on the roadsides. We are responsible for having the roads clean before they can be striped, and we presently have a grant to stripe more roads. Mr. Thomas contacted three companies, but received only one bid. Flint Equipment submitted a bid in the amount of \$17,563.49. Blanchard Equipment stated that they are not authorized to do heavy equipment. Green South said that Flint Equipment has the franchise locked up, and they would not quote. Commissioner Harper made a motion to accept the bid from Flint Equipment. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. In further discussion, Commissioner Eaves asked Mr. Thomas to check further with Green South,

because he wants more than one bid if possible. Chairman Lyon requested that we amend the motion to state that after Mr. Thomas contacts Green South ; and if Flint Equipment is still the best bid, we will stay with Flint. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Discussed at the work session, also, was the need of a heavy duty trailer by the Road Department. We are in need of a longer one, as some of our equipment is hanging off. Road Superintendent Shannon Teasley has found a used one in Hartwell that is being sold for \$10,000. It belongs to his brother that was in the grading business. Mr. Thomas went to check on the trailer and advised the Commission Board that he got a bid on an identical trailer from Globe Trailer Mfg., Inc. in the amount of \$18,633.22. Commissioner Eaves made a motion that we purchase the trailer in Hartwell for a maximum of \$10,000. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Approval of a request from the City of Elberton to help with the cost of the 30th Anniversary Celebration of Sister City. They are requesting \$2,000 to help with the cost of this event. We will take the money from the Hotel/Motel Tax Fund. Chairman Lyon recommends that we participate in this event. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to make a donation towards this event in the amount of \$2,000. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Finance Report given by CFO Phil Pitts. Mr. Pitts informed the Board that July was a decent month for revenues. At the end of July, 4.3% remains unpaid on the digest. There was a property sale on delinquent taxes. Only thirteen properties sold, but a good many did come in and pay their taxes after it was ran in the paper. He is expecting the auditors in late August. They hope to get the audit finished before Christmas this year.

Public comments on agenda items. Robert Size has an issue with the Zoning Map. He has a warehouse that was bought as C4 commercial. It is not shown that way on the map, and he wants to have that changed. He was assured that it will be taken care of.

Mr. Thomas advised the Board and those in attendance that the County website should be up the next day with links to all departments.

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

Commissioner Harper made a motion to come out of Executive Session and enter into General Session.

Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

No action was taken in Executive Session.

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