

MINUTES
ELBERT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONDAY, OCTOBER 17TH, 2011

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

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 4-0.

Adoption of minutes for Called Meeting 9/2/11, Monthly Meeting 9/12/11 and Called Meeting 9/14/11. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Eaves seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Request from Elbert County DAR to erect an Elberton/Elbert County Heritage Quilt Trail on the grounds of the Courthouse. This will be a 4 x 4 sign, of which there are many designs, and the cost is around \$200. Mr. Thomas thinks that he can get a donation to cover the cost. There are others being put on other historic buildings in the County. The commission will get to choose the design. There will be an inventory of quilts on-line for those interested in history to locate and follow the trail. Commissioner Jones made a motion to erect a "quilt trail" sign on the courthouse grounds. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Daniel Graves, Chamber President, to give an update on Chamber events. Mr. Graves started by thanking the Commission Board for the hotel/motel tax money that is given to them by the County for the events/projects they do. They still provide t-shirts, tote bags, cookbooks, books. Etc. advertising for Elbert County. They are still working on the "Historical Marker Project" and have seven sights so far throughout the County. The fireworks display in July was a success with 2,000 plus attending. There were 356 participants in the triathlon, and it was attended by over 900 people. They have sponsored two bass fishing tournaments. Coming up are the Granite City Fall Festival on November 5th, and the Twilight Stroll in January.

Discussion and approval of Development Authority incentives for Project Red Point to locate in Elbert County. Anna Grant Jones came before the Board to speak on this project. She has been working on this for about two and a half months. It is not final yet; there are legal documents to be signed, which she anticipates will be signed within a week. They will occupy the Patillo Building, which used to be Lyons Plastics. They will use the local Department of Labor to recruit employees, and they say there will be 90-100 jobs in the first two years. They are a manufacturer. They are asking for incentives in tax abatements from the County. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the incentives as attached for Project Red Point. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Review and approve an airport easement and acquisition for runway extension; contingent upon receiving a grant. Randy Haralson, Airport Manager, informed the Board

that he had talked with the DOT, and they will supply funding for the easement or acquisition. We will receive confirmation in the next day or two. These tracts of land are needed to remove trees so that we will meet FFA standards. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the airport easement and acquisition for runway extension with the DOT funding. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Review and approve bids for concrete work at the Emergency Management Agency building.

There were three bids received for the concrete project. There are two phases to this project. Phase 1 is for the front of the building, and Phase 2 is for the side of the building. Listed below:

| | Phase 1 | Phase 2 |
|-------------------|----------|---------|
| Ferguson Concrete | \$24,965 | \$7,346 |
| Finley Concrete | \$29,106 | \$7,820 |
| MGH Concrete | \$26,180 | \$7,500 |

Mr. Thomas recommends that we do only Phase I at this time, due to low funds. We can wait for Phase 2 at a later date. He informed the Board that we will use Road SPLOST funds allocated for paving projects to cover this project. He also recommends the low bidder Ferguson Concrete in the amount of \$24,965. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the bid submitted by Ferguson Concrete. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Review and approve bid specifications for RFP for a new ambulance for the EMS Department. Chuck Almond, EMS Director, is asking for approval to send out RFP's for sealed bids on a new ambulance. Assembly of an ambulance can take four to six months. He will be replacing a 2005 with 151,000 miles. He will send out two bid packages – one for the same type he has now and one for a mid-size ambulance. He says the mid-size is more economical; but if the bids are much higher, he will fall back on the current bid package. At Commissioner Eaves' request, Mr. Almond will request bids on Ford, Chevrolet and International as an attachment to the RFP. Commissioner Eaves made a motion to approve bid specifications for RFP for a new ambulance. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Announcement of "Open House" for new Fire Stations. Mr. Thomas announced that the three new fire stations will hold an "Open House" on October 30th, 2011, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. He asks that everyone at least visit the station that is in your area.

Finance Report given by Phil Pitts, CFO. Mr. Pitts stated that our independent auditors have already started our audit ending June, 2011. He says that revenues are not good at this time. Tax bills have been received, and payments will start to come in from those. Charges for services provided by different departments are in line at this time. EMS is a large revenue generator each month. Since July 1st to date, rent at the Civic Center is \$7,491. Our insurance premium tax dropped some from last year; \$612,809.94 was received for this year. This is collected state-wide and then allocated based on county population. Elbert County's population did drop a little. There has been a lot of road work done this past summer; and therefore, a lot of fuel used. That should be considerably lower during the winter months.

Public Comments. There were no public comments.

Executive Session for litigation and property acquisition. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to come out of Executive Session and return to General Session. Commissioner Eaves seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Lyon called for a motion to approve the Offer to Purchase Real Property presented by the County Attorney, and to authorize the County Attorney to transmit the Offer to the Elbert County School Board. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the Offer to Purchase Real Property from the Elbert County School Board. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Lyon called for a motion to approve and authorize the Chairman and County Attorney to enter into the proposed Tolling Agreement with Sweet City Landfill. Commissioner Eaves made a motion to enter into the proposed Tolling Agreement with Sweet City Landfill. (copy attached) Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.

Adjournment. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Eaves seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-0.