

MINUTES  
ELBERT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MONDAY, AUGUST 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2014

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

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 Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0. Chairman Lyon then called for a motion to amend the agenda by moving Item 15 to 4a and to add an Executive Session under 19a. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the changes to the agenda. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Adoption of minutes for Monthly Meeting July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014.** Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the minutes as read. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion of Elbert Memorial Hospital's request for additional funding from the BOC.** There have been major changes in health care, but one thing that has always been is that a hospital cannot refuse to treat anyone whether they are insured or not. This creates the hospital's greatest loss. The hospital administrator and board have searched for other grants and monies thru different state agencies, but there are none. County Administrator Bob Thomas recommends to the Board to propose increasing one mill for one year and reassess after that time. Before a vote can be taken on a millage increase, we must hold three public hearings on this issue. It has to be advertised in the August 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the Elberton Star. The Tax Commissioner has to submit the property tax digest to the State by September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve holding three public hearings for input on a one mill increase for one year to benefit Elbert Memorial Hospital. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Alexander against.

**Discussion and approval of a request by Commissioner Reynolds to direct Attorney Bill Daughtry to draw up a resolution for funding of indigent medical care in rural communities to be introduced to the Georgia General Assembly by Rep. Tom McCall.** Commissioner Reynolds made a motion to have County Attorney Bill Daughtry do a resolution from the Elbert County BOC requesting that Rep. Tom McCall introduce in the Georgia General Assembly the need for legislation to provide sources of funding for indigent medical care in rural communities.

**Request from residents of Bond Drive to place three speed bumps on Bond Drive to control speed.** As told by residents on Bond Drive, there are a number of children in this area that play in their yards. A petition has been gathered with the signatures of all residents. County Administrator Bob Thomas suggests trying to make this work with two speed bumps in the beginning. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to approve putting two speed bumps on Bond Drive. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Approval of a contract with the Elbert County Chamber of Commerce to provide tourism services for Elbert County using the Hotel/Motel Tax funds.** It is law that forty per cent (40%) of revenue from Hotel/Motel Taxes be used by the Chamber of Commerce for tourism. This is an annual agreement to be renewed. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the contract between the Chamber of Commerce and Elbert County BOC. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**A state required update to the Elbert County Comprehensive Plan is due on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015.** The BOC needs to request the assistance of the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission to assist in the update of our plan. There will also have to be a public hearing held for citizens input on this issue. Commissioner Jones made a motion to move forward with updating the Comprehensive Plan with help from the NEGA Regional Commission. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Approval of a Beer and Wine License for BTNT Foundation & Hot Ventures, LLC, DBA/Shell Elberton Mart, located at 1431 Bowman Hwy., Elberton, GA 30635.** There has been a change of ownership, and the new owner has met all requirements for this license. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the license. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Second Reading and approval of the Pawn Shop/Secondhand Dealer Ordinance to provide standards for these businesses.** This ordinance will only apply to businesses in the County. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the Pawn Shop/Secondhand Dealer Ordinance. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 3-2, with Commissioners Harper and Reynolds against.

**Request from the Elbert County Environmental Health Department to approve the updates to the following documents:**

- a. Dept. of Public Health Rules & Regulations Tourist Accommodations, Chapter 511-6-2
- b. Dept. of Public Health Chapter 511-3-1 On-Site Sewage Management Systems
- c. Dept. of Public Health Chapter 511-3-6 Portable Sanitation Contractors

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve these updates requested by the E.C. Environmental Health Department. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion Carried 5-0.

**Request from Veronica Jackson to approve road maintenance for Melvin Jackson Drive.** Mr. Thomas has been corresponding with Ms. Jackson on this issue. This is a dirt road and is not in the County system. There are five property owners on this road with no postal delivery and no school buses. It will take about \$7,000 to upgrade this road to compliance. Mr. Thomas recommends that we not accept this road into the County system. Commissioner Reynolds made a motion to accept Mr. Thomas' recommendation on Melvin Jackson Drive. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Request from Attorney Keith J. Whitaker and Sheriff Melvin Andrews to reconsider the budgets for the Sheriff's Department and the Detention Center.** County Administrator Bob Thomas and County

CFO Phil Pitts have continued to study the County's budget for this request made by Sheriff Andrews. The budget adopted in June, 2014, is already tight and shows no possibility of making increases in the Sheriff's Department and Detention Center nor any other departments. There was no action taken for lack of a motion.

**Request from EMS Director to seek bids for a replacement/remount for an ambulance.** The remount/replacement will be on a 2005 450 Chassis with 217,000 miles, which is beginning to have mechanical problems. Chuck Almond, Director, is asking for approval to seek bids by sending out specs. He will send specs to International, Freight Line and Dodge. Commissioner Alexander made a motion to allow the EMS Director to seek bids. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of a quote for grinding services of limbs/brush at the Transfer Station.** There was only one bid received for this job, and it is for an estimated \$8,000. They charge \$700/hr. There has been about \$19,000 collected, which will be used to pay for the grinding. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the bid for grinding services. Commissioner Reynolds seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and adoption of a resolution to amend the Defined Benefit Plan for the County retirement plan.** This change will be exclude Earned Annual Leave and One-Time Bonuses from County retirement deductions. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of bids for HVAC units for the Detention Center.** There were three bids received on these units and are listed below.

1) Southern Pride Services	(2) 7 ½ Ton Units	\$19,875
2) McGee Heat/Air	"	\$29,225
3) Health Climate	"	\$27,708

Mr. Thomas recommends the low bid of \$19,875 from Southern Pride Services. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the low bid. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Finance Report given by CFO Phil Pitts.** Mr. Pitts informed the Board that the County received \$70,000 in taxes from the Corp on over 20,000 acres around Lake Russell and an Insurance Premium Tax check for around \$680,000. We have collected 83.7% of total taxes at this time. Our total budget is \$10,131,760.00. He has added a % column so that the Board can see with each report what percentage of the budget is left or spent. SPLOST continues to decline, but the new "payback" plan to General Fund allows us to have more money for projects.

**Public comments on agenda items.** There were a few citizens to speak on the hospital issue. One wanted to know that the City of Elberton was giving. Chairman Lyon stated that EMH has requested \$181,000 annually from the City of Elberton, and they are waiting on a response. Another wants to know how the money will be monitored. Chairman Lyon attends the meetings and will report back on hospital expenditures.

**Executive Session for litigation.** Commissioner Ashworth 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 re-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.