

**Public Hearing  
Elbert County Board of Commissioners  
Monday, December 14, 2015**

The Elbert County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing to hear input of the Planning Commission's recommendations to changes to the Zoning Ordinance regarding required setbacks of poultry houses from 1500 feet to 800 feet. Charles Linkard owns property adjoining property of Flatwoods Pentecostal Holiness Church in the Fortsonia community. He would like to build 2 chicken houses on the property and cannot due to the current regulations. Several members of the church were present and came before the commissioners to ask that the ordinance not be changed as it will affect the church and community.

The Elbert County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing to hear input of the Planning Commission's recommendation of rezoning 87 acres at 2619 Athens Highway from industrial to agricultural. There was no public input regarding this change.

**Minutes  
Elbert County Board of Commissioners  
Monday, December 14, 2015**

**Chairman Lyon called the meeting to order.** Present were Chairman Lyon, Vice Chairman Horace Harper, Commissioner Lee Vaughn, Commissioner Chris Alexander, Commissioner Kenneth Ashworth, Commissioner Freddie Jones, County Administrator Bob Thomas, County Attorney Bill Daughtry, and County Clerk Tamara Butler. CFO Phil Pitts was not present.

After the pledge to the United States flag, the invocation was given by Chairman Lyon.

**Adoption of Agenda.** Commissioner Harper made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Adoption of the Minutes of meeting of November 9, 2015.** Commissioner Harper made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Request from Parks White, District Attorney, for the Elbert County Administrative office to service their General fund account.** Mr. White has requested this office to handle the issuing of checks for their office's general fund account with an estimated monthly balance of less than \$30,000. The agreement will be for a year and at that time will be reevaluated for continuance. Commissioner Vaughn made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of a Resolution to adopt changes to the documents from the GBCORP Retirement Plan for county employees.** These are actions that must be taken to restate our Defined Benefit Plan and file with the IRS in order to protect the plan's tax-qualified status. This is a requirement only for compliance purposes. There are no changes to the benefits. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the Resolution. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. At

this time Mr. Thomas asked as part of the motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the following documents:

- 1) Resolution to adopt 2014 Amended and Restated Plan
- 2) Adoption of Defined Benefit Adoption Agreement
- 3) Addendum to Adoption Agreement
- 4) IRS forms 2848 and 5300

Chairman Lyon asked to amend the motion to include modifications to the plan documents. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of the Georgia Forestry Commission grant in the amount of \$4,816.** This grant requires a 50/50 match from the local department. Funds will be allocated from the existing budget of the Fire Department and will be spent on turn-out gear for the volunteer firefighters. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the grant with the 50/50 match. Commissioner Vaughn seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of a bid for a new pumper truck for the Fire Department.** This was approved in the 2011 SPLOST funding. Three bids were received and opened on December 10, 2015. The bids were as follows:

- |                                |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| 1) TS Rescue-Ferrara Apparatus | \$259,243.00 |
| 2) NAFECO                      | 244,541.00   |
| 3) Fireline, Inc.              | 228,966.00   |

Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the purchase of the low bid with Fireline, Inc. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion regarding a new fire station for the Centerville community and a new building to house the water trucks that have been converted for the shuttle program.** After some discussion; Mr. Thomas asked the commissioners for approval to seek bids for the new fire station building and a building to house the water trucks. Commissioner Vaughn made a motion to approve the request. Commissioner Ashworth seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of a Resolution reappointing James Purcell to the Board of Tax Assessors.** Mr. Purcell has agreed to serve; this is a three year term. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve Mr. Purcell's reappointment. Commissioner Vaughn seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of a Resolution governing the issuance and use of county-issued purchasing cards and or credit cards.** Beginning in 2016 the Georgia legislature requires that all counties and cities adopt policies applicable to elected officials; but Mr. Daughtry pointed out that we also need a comprehensive ordinance that covers all county employees since at times county employees will use the credit card for training, travel, etc. Therefore we've adopted a series of rules and regulations that states that no department go over budget, all charges have to be for official county business, and there will be certain review requirements that the County Clerk will be in charge of such as requiring supporting documentation for all purchases and expenditures. Commissioner Vaughn made a motion to approve the Resolution. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of the Planning Commission's recommended changes to the Zoning Ordinance and Map:**

A: Rezone 87 acres from Industrial to Agricultural at 2619 Athens Hwy.

B: Change text of the Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 7.14.01 (1) (c) Commercial Poultry house setback from 1500 to 800 feet.

Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the rezoning of 87 acres on Athens Hwy. from Industrial to Agricultural. Commissioner Vaughn seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the change in text for Commercial Poultry house setback from 1500 to 800 feet. Commissioner Vaughn seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of declaring as surplus property a 1993 Caterpillar 140G motor grader, serial # 72V16075 with over 9,900 hours and using the funds to lease a new motor grader for a 36 month term.** Offers for bids were sent out and two were received to purchase the used motor grader. The funds will go towards the lease of a new John Deere motor grader with a lease price of \$1415.27 per month for 36 months. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approve the sale of the used motor grader and leasing a new motor grader. Commissioner Vaughn seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of Beer and Wine license renewals for 2016.** Mr. Thomas asked the commissioners to approve the renewals that have been submitted provided that all requirements have been met by December 2015. Commissioner Ashworth made a motion to approved the renewals provided that all requirements be met by December 2015. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion regarding proposed SPLOST projects.** Mr. Thomas stated that the Board of Education will be on the March 1, 2016 Presidential ballot, therefore he would recommend that we be on the May 24, 2016 General Primary election ballot. A list of proposed projects and amounts need to be turned into the Probate Judge by the end of January in time for the May vote. A tentative list of projects has been compiled in the amount of \$8,328,000.00. The estimated collections for the SPLOST term will be \$11,880,000.00. The county receives 66%, City of Elberton 29% and the City of Bowman 5%. All projects will be looked at and some reduced or cut accordingly.

**Discussion regarding the Chamber of Commerce moving to the Civic Center.** Some discussion has been ongoing between the Chamber and the county concerning their building and its need of repairs. We have offered the use of the Civic Center at no cost to them and think it would be beneficial to us and them.

**Discussion and approval to purchase a LUCAS Device (a patient care device) for the EMS with partial grant reimbursement.** Chuck Almond came before the commissioners at the work session and went into detail about this device and its importance to the patient when needed. This is a hands free device for CPR. EMS has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$15,000. Some equipment has been needed for the new ambulance that has come out of this grant, but \$10,000 will be used towards the purchase of the device. The cost of the device is \$14,670. Commissioner

Ashworth made a motion to approve the purchase. Commissioner Alexander seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Discussion and approval of a county-wide communications project for the next SPLOST cycle.**

Chuck Almond with EMS and Rick Mewborn with the Fire Department came before the board to request purchasing a Digital Talk Group, i.e. Frequencies. The Federal Communications will be cutting bandwidth making communications more difficult. Mr. Almond stated that we have an opportunity to purchase a U.S. Coast Guard wide band, wide area frequency with an unlimited power source for \$30,000, which should last at least 10 years. These funds would come from the current SPLOST. Commissioner Harper made a motion to approve the purchase of the county-wide communications project. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Finance Report.** As Mr. Pitts was not present, Mr. Thomas gave the financial report. Concerning General Fund expenditures, we are 1.9% under budget at this point and would like to see this trend continue. Property tax revenues are steadily coming in.

**Public Comments.** Wayne Childs spoke in regards to the vote of the poultry house setback change.

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