

MINUTES

DECATUR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2019

PRESENT: CHAIRMAN PETE STEPHENS, VICE CHAIRMAN DENNIS BRINSON, COMMISSIONERS RUSTY DAVIS, GEORGE ANDERSON, GREG MURRAY AND STEVE BROCK, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR ALAN THOMAS, COUNTY CLERK BEVERLY KING, COUNTY ATTORNEY BRUCE KIRBO AND NEWS REPORTER POWELL COBB.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Pete Stephens called the regular scheduled meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. After the call to order, Pastor Tyrone Jacobs gave the invocation and all those assembled pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

There were no Special Presentations.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no Public Participation.

APPROVE MINUTES

Vice Chairman Brinson made a motion to approve the minutes of the Commissioners' Meeting held July 23, 2019 as presented. Commissioner Brock seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business to be Discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Planning Commission Recommendation – Cool Springs Solar Project – Steve O'Neil. Chairman Stephens recognized Bainbridge-Decatur County Planning Coordinator Steve O'Neil. Mr. O'Neil stated that the Planning Commission met August 6, 2019 to discuss Cool Springs Solar Energy Project, who is proposing to construct and operate an up to 220-megawatt solar photovoltaic generating facility on approximately 1,700 acres in unincorporated Decatur County near the intersection of Faceville Highway and Hutchinson Ferry Road. Mr. O'Neil stated that setback requirements for Decatur County were met for this project. Mr. O'Neil stated that currently there are no regulations on Solar Farms for Decatur County. Mr. O'Neil stated that after discussions on this project, the planning commission voted unanimously to approve their proposal. Mr. O'Neil recommended the Board of Commissioners approve their proposal as well. County Administrator Thomas stated that this project is not currently contracted, that they are doing preliminary groundwork on their part. County Administrator Thomas stated that he has a draft of an ordinance on solar panels that he will send out to the commissioners for their review and further discussions. Commissioner Brock made a motion to approve the proposal as submitted by Cool Springs Solar, LLC. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Request from Sheriff's Department – Sheriff Wiley Griffin. Chairman Stephens recognized Sheriff Wiley Griffin. Sheriff Griffin asked the County Board of Commissioners to consider approving a five-year payment plan to Axon, a law enforcement equipment company, that

will equip 25 sheriff department vehicles with new cameras. Sheriff Griffin stated that the current camera system the sheriff's department is running is a patchwork of multiple systems together, the Axon upgrades work better with the body cameras deputies are using now, also made by Axon. They have the benefit of cloud-based storage, meaning additional hours of loading the footage onto a computer manually is a thing of the past. Sheriff Griffin stated that this is a very modern, up-to-date system and it has a lot of history behind it. Sheriff Griffin stated that in today's world, cameras are necessary and fortunately, even our citizens are putting up cameras, which helps us a lot as far as law enforcement and dealing with a lot of stuff that goes on in this world. Sheriff Griffin stated the cost of this camera system is \$217,156.68 and will be paid over the next five years. The sheriff's department will pay \$32,829.41 its first year which they have in this year's budget. Sheriff Griffin stated that payments for years 2-5 are set at \$46,081.80, which hopefully we can fit into our budget in future years. Sheriff Griffin stated that his department tries to run a lean budget, and it worked well for them this year. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve this purchase. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Approval of Speed Zone Ordinance – Georgia Dept. of Transportation. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that this is an ordinance that was prepared by the Georgia Department of Transportation to establish a 45 MPH school speed zone on SR 97 at the new Spring Creek Charter Academy. County Administrator Thomas stated after the documents are executed, the signs will be posted in their appropriate places. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board approve this ordinance. Commissioner Brock made a motion to approve this ordinance as presented. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Purchase of Vehicle. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that invitation for bids on a pick-up truck for the landfill were sent out to eight vendors. County Administrator Thomas stated that two bids were received and opened on August 7th. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board approve the low bid from Wade Ford for a 2020 Ford F150 pick-up truck in the amount of \$28,880.00. Vice Chairman Brinson made a motion to approve this purchase from Wade Ford in the amount of \$28,880.00. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Request from Industrial Park – Disposal of Surplus Vehicle. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that this is request from the Industrial Park to declare a 2004 Ford Crown Victoria, with 261,362 miles surplus property to be sold on Govdeals.net. County Administrator Thomas stated that this vehicle was used as a courtesy car at the airport and that the County has recently purchased a replacement for this vehicle. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board approve this request. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Approval of Error and Releases Report. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas presented the Board with an Error and Release Report from the Tax Commissioner for their consideration of approval. Vice Chairman Brinson made a motion to approve this report. Commissioner Brock seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

COMMISSIONERS / ADMINISTRATOR'S REMARKS

All of the Commissioners thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting, on motion by Vice Chairman Brinson, was duly adjourned. Commissioner Brock seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Approved:  _____
Chairman

Attest:  _____
County Clerk