

MINUTES

DECATUR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM

TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 2018

PRESENT: CHAIRMAN PETE STEPHENS, VICE CHAIRMAN DENNIS BRINSON, COMMISSIONERS GREG MURRAY, RUSTY DAVIS, GEORGE ANDERSON 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 7:00 p.m. After the call to order, Reverend Fred Anderson gave the invocation and all those assembled pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

County Administrator Thomas asked the Board to approve the following amendment: Add #5 to the Agenda; Request from Sheriff's Department for Disposal of Surplus Vehicles. Commissioner Brock made a motion to approve the agenda with this amendment. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

There were no Special Presentations.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chairman Stephens recognized Mr. James Conyers. Mr. Conyers questioned if there was a homeless shelter in Bainbridge and inquired about recycling trailers at various businesses. Mr. Conyers would like to encourage recycling to prevent filling up the landfill with recyclable materials.

APPROVE MINUTES

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the Commissioners' Meeting held April 10, 2018 as presented. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Vice Chairman Brinson made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Called Joint Meeting held April 12, 2018 as presented. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

PUBLIC HEARING

Commissioner Davis made a motion to go out of the regular meeting and enter into a Public Hearing for the Closure of a Portion of Viola Farm Road. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Alan Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated the purpose of this public hearing is to consider the matter of closing a portion of Viola Farm Road. The point of beginning of that portion of Viola Farm Road is the point of intersection of said road with an extension of the east right of way line of Ward Road and the point of ending is 1,848 feet from said point of beginning as measured along the centerline of Viola Farm Road in a generally southeasterly direction of Viola Farm Road with the east right of way line of Ward Road. The purpose stated for this request was to stop through traffic and poachers. County Administrator Thomas stated that the Board held this public hearing prematurely at the last commissioners' meeting, it was an error on our part. County Administrator Thomas stated that the public hearing is being held again tonight as it was advertised for April 24th to allow any citizens to present their input.

Chairman Stephens stated if this portion of the road was closed, it would inconvenience the Public Works Department by forcing them to go around to the other end of the road when grading it. Commissioner Murray stated that he felt it was a safety problem if emergency personnel were ever called to that area. Commissioner Murray said he felt that it would cost less money to keep this portion of the road open and maintain it than it would to close it. Commissioner Anderson disagreed and said he felt the County could save money by closing it rather than having to maintain it.

Chairman Stephens recognized Elwood Ward. Mr. Ward stated that he is a resident on Viola Farm Road and owns property on both sides of this section of road. Mr. Ward stated that he has had a lot of problems with people night hunting and shooting guns in this area. Mr. Ward stated another problem he has is large amounts of trash are being dumped out in this area. Mr. Ward stated if taken in consideration, the cost of County resources that it takes to keep the trash picked up and to properly maintain this portion of road, it would be beneficial to close it. Mr. Ward stated if the county is going to keep it open, they need to properly maintain it. Mr. Ward stated that the trees haven't been cut back in over two years, and the ditches haven't been cleaned out.

Commissioner Brock stated that the problem with night hunting and trash being dumped out is a problem throughout the County. Commissioner Murray stated that he didn't think closing it would solve these problems.

There being no more comments, Vice Chairman Brinson made a motion to close this public hearing and enter into the regular scheduled meeting. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to close this portion of Viola Farm Road. Vice Chairman Brinson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and failed with a three to three vote. Vice Chairman Brinson, Commissioners Davis and Anderson voted to approve the closure. Chairman Stephens, Commissioners Murray and Brock opposed.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business to be Discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Approval of Department of Transportation Contract for Land Acquisition – Airport. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Alan Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated this is a draft agreement pertaining to the land acquisition at the airport for the property of Lane Bush, known as Bush Aviation. County Administrator Thomas stated in this agreement it is identified that the total amount of this purchase is \$875,435.00. The Department's obligation will include state funds in the amount of \$43,199.00 and federal funds in the amount of \$787,891.00. The local share of this project is \$44,345.00. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board approve this contract and authorize Chairman Stephens to sign all the recommended documents to proceed with this project. Vice Chairman Brinson made a motion to approve this contract and authorize Chairman Stephens to sign the necessary documents. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Approval of Supplemental Contract with Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that he received this request from Eric Groom by email, stating that the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia is validating all their contracts, and this provided them with the opportunity to move all of their recent members, including Decatur County, from Indemnity to Obligation Share Participants. County Administrator Thomas stated that this changes nothing materially, but it does clean things up for their attorneys. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board approve this supplemental contract. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve this supplemental contract. Vice Chairman Brinson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Approval of Errors and Reliefs Report from Tax Commissioner. 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. Commissioner Murray made a motion to approve this report. Commissioner Brock seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Request from Sheriff's Department for Disposal of Surplus Vehicles. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas presented the Board with a letter from Major Wendell Cofer of the Decatur County Sheriff's department requesting the consideration of the Board of Commissioners for the disposal of two surplus vehicles to be sold on Govdeals.net. Commissioner Murray made a motion to approve this request. Vice Chairman Brinson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

COMMISSIONERS / ADMINISTRATOR'S REMARKS

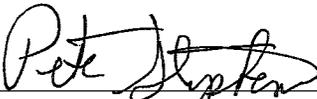
All of the Commissioners thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Commissioner Anderson reminded everyone to vote in the upcoming election.

Vice Chairman Brinson stated that since this portion of Viola Farm Road is going to remain open, the County should do its' duties to properly maintain it as requested by Mr. Ward.

Chairman Stephens announced that Vice Chairman Brinson had a daughter that was inducted into the National Honor Society tonight and congratulated her.

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

Approved: 
Chairman

Attest: 
County Clerk