

MINUTES

DECATUR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM

TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 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 9:00 a.m. After the call to order, Vice Chairman Dennis Brinson 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 Murray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

National Donate Life Month – Ms. June Faircloth. Chairman Stephens recognized Ms. June Faircloth. Ms. Faircloth stated since the loss of her son in 2010 she remains committed to its mission to work compassionately with donor families to meet the growing local and national demand for lifesaving organ transplantation. Ms. Faircloth stated through public education and efforts to increase organ donation such as this proclamation, thousands of lives can be improved. Ms. Faircloth read aloud the Proclamation for National Donate Life Month. Ms. Faircloth thanked the Board of Commissioners for their continued support in this life changing mission.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chairman Stephens recognized Mr. Randall Kelly. Mr. Kelly stated that he lived at 460 Gratton Ward Road. Mr. Kelly expressed concerns with the probability of closing a portion of Viola Farm Road. Mr. Kelly stated that he didn't have a problem with the closing of this portion of Viola Farm Road, but he did have a problem with using tax dollars to maintain the road from this individual's home to the corner of Viola Farm Road. Mr. Kelly stated this portion of the road would basically be this individual's driveway. Mr. Kelly stated if the Board of Commissioners approve the closure of this portion of Viola Farm Road, do it in a responsible way, make sure that this individual is not the only one that benefits at the cost of all tax payers.

APPROVE MINUTES

Commissioner Brock made a motion to approve the minutes of the Commissioners' Meeting held March 27, 2018 as presented. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

PUBLIC HEARING

Vice Chairman Brinson made a motion to go out of the regular meeting and 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.

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.

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

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to deny this request and leave this portion of Viola Farm Road open to the public. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Request to Close Portion of Amsterdam Road. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that at the last meeting, Mr. Southerland, a representative with Active Minerals, requested that the Board of Commissioners consider closing a portion of Amsterdam Road. County Administrator Thomas stated at that point the Board decided to table this issue to allow them time to visit this road and make their determination. Mr. Nick John, Operations Manager with Active Minerals International, stated that temporarily closing this portion of the road, will allow more restrictive measures to limit access to the mining area and create a safer work environment. County Attorney Kirbo explained the procedures the Board would have to go through in order to grant this request and then decide what to do with the property. Commissioner Brock made a motion to move forward with the procedures to permanently close this portion of Amsterdam Road and sale this property. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and approved with a 5 to 1 vote. Commissioner Anderson opposed.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Rail Spur Lease at Industrial Park – Mr. Rick McCaskill. Chairman Stephens recognized Mr. Rick McCaskill with the Development Authority. Mr. McCaskill stated that there was an opportunity to get the railroad track at the Industrial Park repaired. Mr. McCaskill stated there is an area of that track that is in such terrible shape that it cannot be utilized. Mr. McCaskill stated that he has negotiated a contract with Harms Railcar Services, LLC. to store cars on that track. Mr. McCaskill stated that it will cost \$168,584.00 to put that track back in good shape. Mr. McCaskill stated that he has negotiated a loan with a local bank, to be paid back over a three-year period. Mr. McCaskill stated this contract that he has negotiated with Harms Railcar Services will provide the funds to pay that loan back, there is a guarantee in the contract for \$60,000 per year. Mr. McCaskill asked the Board for permission to enter into an agreement with Harms Railcar Services to store railcars on this track and allow the Development Authority to collect the lease funds to pay the loan back, after which the loan is paid off, the funds would then go to the County. Mr. McCaskill stated that in this agreement there is an exit clause if needed. Vice Chairman Brinson made a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Mr. McCaskill stated he had a second project on that rail. Mr. McCaskill stated this is the choice rail terminal that has been an ongoing project for over two years to get state funding. Mr. McCaskill stated that everything has now been approved by the state and that is a state grant in the amount of \$500,000. Mr. McCaskill stated the match for that grant is \$248,000. Mr. McCaskill stated that he has negotiated a ten-year contract with Genesee & Wyoming, Inc. to operate that choice rail terminal that will pay back the \$248,000 over a ten-year period. Mr. McCaskill asked the Board to allow the Development Authority to enter into this agreement with Genesee & Wyoming, Inc. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Brock seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Memorandum of Agreement with Carl Vinson Institute – Classification and Compensation Study. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that this project has been discussed for some time now and that he reached out to Carl Vinson Institute to inquire about them providing this service. County Administrator Thomas presented a Memorandum of Agreement between the County and the Institute of Government in the amount of \$24,000.00. County Administrator Thomas stated this study would develop a new job classification system and pay plan for all positions covered under the County's personnel plan. County Administrator Thomas stated this project will commence on August 1, 2018 and the County will have a final report by February 28, 2019. County Administrator Thomas recommended that the cost of this project be proposed in the upcoming

budget for the next fiscal year. Commissioner Brock made a motion to approve this Memorandum of Agreement and put this cost in the upcoming budget for the next fiscal year. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Purchase of Motor Grader – Public Works. Chairman Stephens recognized Public Works Supervisor Dennis Medley. Mr. Medley presented the Board with a bid tabulation for a motor grader for the Public Works Department. Mr. Medley stated that bids were solicited from three companies within the surrounding area and two bids were received. Mr. Medley recommended the Board approve the low bid from Flint Equipment in the amount of \$114,475.00. Vice Chairman Brinson made a motion to approve this purchase. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Approval of Disposal of Surplus Equipment – Landfill. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that the County is no longer transferring waste to the landfill for customers therefore the county no longer has any use for two refuse trailers that were being used for this purpose. County Administrator Thomas requested the Board declare these trailers surplus property and dispose of them by selling them on Govdeals or to anyone local that might be interested in purchasing them. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Nominees for Bainbridge/Decatur County Hospital Authority. Chairman Stephens stated that by state law, the Board of Commissioners must submit three names to the Hospital Authority for their consideration to appoint a new board member (Seat currently held by Dr. Walker). Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve Ms. Cile Warr, Mr. Wheat Kirbo and Ms. Sufronia Clark as the three names to be presented to the Hospital Authority for their consideration. 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.

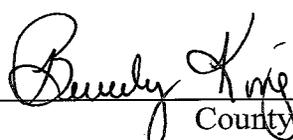
Commissioner Brock reminded everyone to keep Adam Taylor's family in their prayers.

Chairman Stephens thanked Commissioner Brock for requesting prayers for Adam Taylor's family and commended Fire Chief Charlie McCann for a superb eulogy he gave at Adam's funeral. Chairman Stephens added that Decatur County was blessed to have Mr. McCann as our Fire Chief.

Chairman Stephens announced that there will be a special called joint meeting of the City Council of Bainbridge; Decatur County Board of Commissioners; Decatur County Board of Education; Decatur County Board of Tax Assessors and the Development Authority of Bainbridge and Decatur County on Thursday, April 12, 2018 at 11:00 am at the Kirbo Center at the ABAC-Bainbridge Campus.

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

Approved: 
Chairman

Attest: 
County Clerk