

MINUTES

DECATUR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2017

PRESENT: CHAIRMAN PETE STEPHENS, VICE CHAIRMAN DENNIS BRINSON
COMMISSIONERS RUSTY DAVIS, GREG MURRAY, STEVE BROCK AND GEORGE
ANDERSON, 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, Mr. Newton Cranford gave the invocation and all those assembled pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

County Administrator Alan Thomas asked that the Board approve the following amendment: Add #1B; Consider Request from Sheriff's Department. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the agenda with this amendment. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Justin Long – Farm Bureau. Chairman Stephens recognized Justin Long, President of Georgia Farm Bureau. Mr. Long gave a brief history of the Georgia Farm Bureau Federation of Georgia, stating that it is Georgia's largest and strongest voluntary agricultural organization with almost 300,000 members. Mr. Long introduced Field Representative Jeff Nunnery. Mr. Nunnery stated that Farm Bureau is a proud partner with 4-H and FFA and helps with a lot of programs that they participate in. Mr. Nunnery stated that Farm Bureau is a membership organization first, founded in 1941 and starting the insurance company in the late 50's. Mr. Nunnery stated that Farm Bureau represents producers of all major agricultural commodities grown or raised in the state, and being the voice of the Georgia farmers. There are numerous benefits to Farm Bureau membership and you don't have to be a farmer or purchase insurance to join, all Georgians are welcomed and encouraged to join.

Billy Ward – Collaborative Impact for Decatur County (CIDC). Chairman Stephens recognized Billy Ward with Collaborative Impact for Decatur County. Mr. Ward explained that the Collaborative Impact for Decatur County (CIDC) is a team of partners committed to identify and address healthcare disparities in Decatur County. Mr. Ward stated they were sponsored by the Healthcare Georgia Foundation, a planning grant under a program called the Two Georgia's Initiative. Mr. Ward introduced Newton Cranford, Project/Grants Manager with Memorial Hospital and Manor. Mr. Cranford stated they were developing a community health improvement plan (CHIP) proposal which will be submitted to the Healthcare Georgia Foundation in the spring of 2018 seeking implementation funding for the proposed (CHIP) being developed. Mr. Cranford stated that the plan needs to include the voice of the citizens and asked that the Board of Commissioners encourage all of Decatur County employees and adult citizens to participate in a survey to help gather that voice. Mr. Cranford stated that data from the survey will identify the needs to improve healthcare equity and reduce disparity in Decatur County. Mr. Ward stated this program is designed to help build a healthier community through partnership, inclusion, equity, collaboration and education.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chairman Stephens recognized Johnnie Mae Whigham. Ms. Whigham stated that the stop signs on the corner of Cooter Bouie and Cool Springs Road had no reflectors on them. Chairman Stephens stated that he would have that looked into.

APPROVE MINUTES

Commissioner Brock made a motion to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Meeting held November 28, 2017 as presented. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. A vote

was taken and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business to be Discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Request from Sheriff's Department. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Alan Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated he received a letter from Chief Deputy Wendell Cofer requesting for five shotguns and five shotgun racks belonging to the Decatur County Sheriff's office be transferred to the Decatur County School Police. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board approve this request. Commissioner Murray made a motion to approve this request. Vice Chairman Brinson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Approval of Lease Agreement – District Attorney's Office. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated this is an annual lease agreement between Decatur County and the District Attorney for the South Georgia Judicial Circuit Court for the office space identified in this lease that they occupy in the Courthouse Annex. County Administrator Thomas stated nothing other than the dates have changed in this lease and recommended the Board approve this agreement. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve this lease agreement. Commissioner Brock seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Request to Close a Portion of Viola Farm Road. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that he received a letter from Curtis Ward stating that he has had and continues to have problems with poachers cutting through the loop where he lives and asked that the Board of Commissioners consider closing this portion of Viola Farm Road to eliminate this problem. County Administrator Thomas stated that Mr. Ward owns all the adjoining property on both sides of this section of the road and that it would not affect travel for anyone since each end of this loop connects directly to Highway 309. Mr. Ward has met with Commissioner Anderson and Public Works Supervisor Dennis Medley, both agreed it would benefit Decatur County by eliminating road maintenance on this section of road. County Attorney Bruce Kirbo explained the legal procedures to follow if Mr. Ward wanted to pursue in purchasing this piece of property if the Board approved this request. Vice Chairman Brinson made a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Purchase of Vehicle – Sheriff's Department. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that he received a letter from Chief Deputy Wendell Cofer requesting that the Board of Commissioners approve the purchase of a 2018 Dodge Durango in the amount of \$23,710.00, originally listed for \$32,000.00. Mr. Cofer stated in his letter that this vehicle was ordered by the Pataula Drug Task Force that was to be used as a law enforcement vehicle prior to them closing. Commissioner Brock made a motion to approve this purchase. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Approval of Budget Amendments. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that the County's auditor is now in the process of completing the audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017. County Administrator Thomas presented the Board with some amendments that amends the budget but does not change the net in the overall budget. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board approve these budget amendments. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve these budget amendments. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Cancellation of Commissioners' Meeting 12/26/2017. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated the next commissioners' meeting is scheduled for December 26, 2017. County Administrator Thomas stated that traditionally the Board has cancelled this meeting and presented this to the Board for their consideration. Commissioner Anderson made a motion to cancel the commissioners' meeting scheduled for December 26, 2017 with the understanding that the Board could have a special called meeting if necessary. Vice Chairman Brinson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

After the executive session, the Commissioners assembled back in the board room. Commissioner Davis made a motion to go into regular session. Commissioner Brock seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Chairman Stephens stated the Board discussed some personnel issues pertaining to board appointments. Chairman Stephens stated that the Board has considered the following appointments: Appoint Fred Rudbeck to the Bainbridge/Decatur County Industrial Development Authority; Reappoint Dennis Brinson, Revonn Miller and Billy Poppell to the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission; Reappoint Dr. Winston Price and Jim Beck to the Board of Health; Reappoint Jim Rentz to the Airport Advisory Committee and Reappoint Jeff Lynn to the Recreation Authority with the understanding that the Board of Commissioners will be looking for a replacement at the request of Mr. Lynn due to some personal issues he is having. Commissioner Brock made a motion to approve these appointments as stated. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

COMMISSIONERS / ADMINISTRATOR'S REMARKS

All the Commissioners thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Chairman Stephens stated that it has been an honor to serve Decatur County as Chairman and thanked the Board, the county staff and county administrator for the great job everyone has done and looks forward to another great year.

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

Approved: Pete Hyter
Chairman

Attest: Dorothy J. King
County Clerk