

MINUTES

DECATUR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2018

PRESENT: CHAIRMAN PETE STEPHENS, VICE CHAIRMAN DENNIS BRINSON  
COMMISSIONERS RUSTY DAVIS, GREG MURRAY 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, Reverend Bryan Hatchett gave the invocation and all those assembled pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

APPOINT CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIRMAN, COUNTY CLERK & COUNTY  
ATTORNEY FOR THE YEAR 2018

Commissioner Davis made a motion to reappoint Commissioner Pete Stephens as Chairman and Commissioner Dennis Brinson as Vice-Chairman. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved. Vice-Chairman Brinson made a motion to reappoint Beverly King as County Clerk. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved. Vice-Chairman Brinson made a motion to reappoint Bruce Kirbo as County Attorney. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Stephens asked that the Board approve the following amendment: Delete Executive Session from the Agenda due to the absence of Commissioner Brock. Commissioner Murray made a motion to approve the agenda with this amendment. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

**Mr. Tim Cochran – Decatur County Board of Education Update.** Chairman Stephens recognized Mr. Tim Cochran. Mr. Cochran updated the Board of Commissioners on the state of the school system and future plans, including ideas for rezoning, downsizing facilities and relocating central offices to the old West Bainbridge Middle School Campus. Mr. Cochran said the school system could potentially downsize their facilities saving the system in overhead and labor cost, without having to let any teachers go. Mr. Cochran said despite falling enrollment, extra space and state funding slipping, he is very proud of the work the faculty and staff are doing in the Decatur County School System. Mr. Cochran thanked the Board of Commissioners for their continued support and all they do for the community.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

**Chairman Stephens recognized Mr. Redell Walton with the Decatur County Sheriff's Department.** Mr. Walton stated that he has been an investigator with the Sheriff's Department for several years but recently he has been put over implementing neighborhood watch programs. Mr. Walton stated that he is ready to enhance the programs and start them in new neighborhoods. Mr. Walton stated that the key factor is to improve communication with the citizens. Mr. Walton said witnesses and people in the communities can really help in major cases by just reporting what they saw. Mr. Walton said for communities that are interested in participating in this program can contact the Sheriff's Department or him directly.

APPROVE MINUTES

Commissioner Murray made a motion to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Meeting held December 12, 2017 as presented. Commissioner Anderson 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 E911- Transfer Equipment to DNR.** Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Alan Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated he received this request from E-911 Director Tonya Griffin. Mr. Thomas explained that with the new radio system upgrade, Motorola gifted Decatur and Grady Counties with 24 VHF repeaters and associated equipment that was used on the old system. As part of the new paging system, E-911 reused 9 of those repeaters and equipment, leaving 15 that would not be used. The Law Enforcement Division of DNR has made a request to E-911 to donate the remaining VHF Repeaters for their use at sites throughout the state to enhance their VHF coverage in areas where the coverage is poor. Both Motorola and the 911 Committee has approved to recommend this request to the Board of Commissioners for their consideration. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board approve this request. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

**Consider Approval of Modification – Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA).** Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated this is a modification to an agreement with GEFA that was originally approved by the Board of Commissioners in January 2015. County Administrator Thomas stated that part of that agreement at that time called for the Landfill's Cell 5 completion date to be November 2017 and that completion date was not achieved. County Administrator Thomas stated this modification moves that completion date for Cell 5 from November 2017 to July 2018. County Administrator Thomas stated that everything else in this agreement stays the same; the interest rate remains at 1.52%, it is a 10-year loan and the loan amount is for \$2,595,000, in which that total amount is not anticipated on being used. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board approve this modification. Commissioner Murray made a motion to approve this modification. Vice-Chairman Brinson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

**Consider Approval of Resolution to set Qualifying Fees for 2018.** Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas presented a resolution to set the qualifying fees for elective county offices of Decatur County for the 2018 elections. Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve this resolution. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

**Consider Amendment to Decatur County's Human Resources Standards of Practice – Family Medical Leave.** Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that our current policy for Family Medical Leave requires that once an employee is out on a serious injury or illness for five or more days, the employee would file for FMLA and have his/her doctor to fill out all the proper documents. County Administrator Thomas explained that under this amendment to the policy, the employee is allowed to use all of his/her sick leave and PTO time before filing for FMLA. County Administrator Thomas stated that this amendment actually extends the period of time that an employee can be out for a serious injury or illness. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board approve this amendment. Commissioner Murray made a motion to approve this amendment. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

**Consider Board Appointments – Board of Tax Assessors and Recreation Authority Board.** Chairman Stephens stated that the Board appointment for the Recreation Authority Board is tabled until the next meeting. Commissioner Davis made a motion to appoint Greg Smith to the Board of Tax Assessors to carry out the term of Mr. Joe Hartzog. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

### COMMISSIONERS / ADMINISTRATOR'S REMARKS

All the Commissioners commended Mr. Cochran for the informative update on the Board of Education. The Commissioners also thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and wished everyone a Happy New 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 Hughes  
Chairman

Attest: Dwight J. Lee  
County Clerk