

MINUTES

DECATUR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2018

PRESENT: CHAIRMAN PETE STEPHENS, VICE CHAIRMAN DENNIS BRINSON, COMMISSIONERS RUSTY DAVIS, GREG MURRAY, GEORGE ANDERSON AND STEVE BROCK, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR ALAN THOMAS, COUNTY ATTORNEY BRUCE KIRBO, COUNTY CLERK BEVERLY KING 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, Chairman Pete Stephens gave the invocation and all those assembled pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice Chairman Brinson asked the Board to approve the following amendment: Add Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue. Commissioner Murray made a motion to approve the agenda with this amendment. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chairman Stephens recognized Johnnie Mae Livingston. Ms. Livingston expressed concerns pertaining to crop dusters spraying fields near her house and the chemicals causing some of her plants to die and causing her to have allergies. County Attorney Bruce Kirbo advised her on how to handle this issue.

APPROVE MINUTES

Vice Chairman Brinson made a motion to approve the minutes of the Commissioners' meeting held October 23, 2018 as presented. Commissioner Brock seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

PUBLIC HEARING- CDBG

Commissioner Davis made a motion to go out of the regular session and enter into a Public Hearing for the Community Development Block Grant. Commissioner Brock seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Alan Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that regulations of the Department of Community Affairs require that local government recipients of CDBG funds conduct a public hearing to discuss approved project activities. County Administrator Thomas stated the CDBG funds have been approved for construction of street and drainage improvements for Bethel Heights, benefiting 119 residents. Approximately \$33,611.00 for contingencies; approximately \$352,000.00 for street improvements; approximately \$147,690.00 for flood and drainage facilities and approximately \$5,000.00 for acquisition of property. County Administrator Thomas stated the amount of this grant is \$538,301.00 with a local match of in-kind labor and funding in the amount of \$278,474.00.

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

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business to be Discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Development Authority Update – Mr. Rick McCaskill. Chairman Stephens recognized Rick McCaskill, Executive Director for the Development Authority of Bainbridge / Decatur County. Mr. McCaskill stated Bainbridge and Decatur County are on the path for new growth and job creation. Mr. McCaskill reported on the new Taurus Company and updates on other industrial growth happening, stating nearly every existing plant has done an expansion within the last 18 months. Mr. McCaskill stated that Harrell Ag Products is a great tenant at the industrial park and they are growing. Mr. McCaskill stated that they have decided to close their other operation and move it to Bainbridge, which will require some additional work to be done to the building they are in. Mr. McCaskill stated that they had a lot of water coming into that building and so he contracted a company to replace part of the roof and that has been completed. Mr. McCaskill stated that he plans to possibly put some type of coating on the remaining part of the roof. Mr. McCaskill stated that the building received quite a bit of damage during the hurricane and hopefully the insurance will pay for some of the damages. Mr. McCaskill stated that this building was up to 600 amps of electricity when they moved in, but they are going to need to go to 2000 amps for the additional machines they are going to install. Mr. McCaskill stated that the Development Authority will need take out a loan for \$300,000 to pay for the roof, electricity and the additional work to stop the roof leaks. Mr. McCaskill stated that Harrell Ag Products have agreed to furnish the paint if the County will agree to provide inmate labor to paint it. Mr. McCaskill stated that the lease for this building is between the Development Authority and Harrell Ag Products and the money from the lease will make the payments on the loan. Once the loan is paid off, the lease payments will go to the County and the County will end up with a renovated building. Mr. McCaskill stated that he will need the County to sign the loan as they have other loans in the past.

County Administrator Thomas stated that he would recommend the Board approve this request. County Administrator Thomas stated that Harrell Ag Products has done everything they have agreed to do, and this will provide more jobs. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve this request. Vice Chairman Brinson 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 these are some additional year end budget amendments for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board approve these amendments. Vice Chairman Brinson made a motion to approve these amendments as presented. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Proposal for Engineering Services – Landfill. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated for several years, the County has done business with Harbin Engineering for the landfill operations and services. County Administrator Thomas stated that Steve Harbin is the principal consultant and Michael Biers has served as the principal engineer. County Administrator Thomas stated that Mr. Harbin informed him that he is planning to sell his business to his son-in-law and he plans to go into business to be a consultant only. Mr. Biers stated that he is removing himself from Harbin Engineering and creating his own business called Innovative Engineering Strategies, LLC. County Administrator Thomas recommended that the County continue to do business with Mr. Biers since he has been the county's principal engineer and stated Mr. Harbin recommends this as well. Mr. Biers has stated that he will continue to provide the services within the previously approved Harbin budgets and schedules. County Administrator Thomas presented the Board with a proposal from Mr. Bier's company, Innovative Engineering Strategies, LLC and recommended the Board approve this proposal. Commissioner Brock made a motion to approve this proposal. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Approval of Authorizing Resolution for 5311 Program. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated this is an annual request from the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission to apply for rural transit 5311 funds through the Georgia Department of Transportation. County Administrator Thomas stated the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission applies for these funds on behalf of the participating Counties/Cities in the Southwest Georgia region to provide rural public transportation. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board approve this resolution. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve this resolution. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Approval – Victims of Crime Act Assistance Grant Program. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated this is a memorandum of agreement between Prosecuting Attorney's Council of the State of Georgia,

Decatur County and the District Attorney. County Administrator Thomas stated it is a federal grant for funding of prosecution based VOCA program with the first allocation funds in the amount of \$238,466.00. Out of that funding is federal funds in the amount of \$190,773.00 with matching funds of \$47,693.00 provided through the District Attorney's office. The second allocation is for a total amount of \$54,672.00 in federal funds and a match waiver request of \$13,668.00. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board approve this agreement. Commissioner Murray made a motion to approve this agreement. Vice Chairman Brinson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Board Appointment – Decatur County Board of Elections. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated he received an email from Ms. Gina Burke requesting that she be reappointed to the Decatur County Board of Elections. County Administrator Thomas recommended that Ms. Burke be reappointed. Commissioner Brock made a motion to reappoint Ms. Burke to the Board of Elections. Vice Chairman Brinson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Board Appointment – Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Council. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated it was that time of year to appoint members to the Southwest Regional Commission Council and recommended that the Board reappoint Commissioner Brock as the County member; Ms. Revonn Miller as the Non-Public member and Mr. Billy Poppell as Additional member. Commissioner Davis made a motion to reappoint these members to the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission Council as stated by County Administrator Thomas. Vice Chairman Brinson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Ratify Courthouse Roof Repair. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated there was a significant amount of damage to the roof at the courthouse from the hurricane. County Administrator Thomas stated that he sent by email a proposal from New South Roofing for the repairs of the roof at the courthouse to all of the members of the Board. County Administrator Thomas stated the amount of the proposal from New South Roofing is \$157,000.00. County Administrator Thomas stated he received a positive email response from the commissioners to proceed with this proposal. This request is to ratify that approval. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Brock seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Vice Chairman Brinson made a motion to go into executive session to discuss Personnel. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

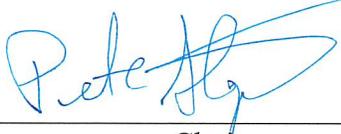
After the executive session the Commissioners assembled back in the board room. Vice Chairman Brinson made a motion to go into regular session. Commissioner Brock seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved. Chairman Stephens stated during executive session, the Board of Commissioners discussed a personnel matter and no action is to be taken.

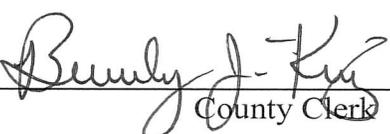
Vice Chairman Brinson made a motion to expedite a performance incentive pay of \$125.00 per employee, excluding all elected officials. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

COMMISSIONERS / ADMINISTRATOR'S REMARKS

All of the commissioners thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

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

Approved: 
Chairman

Attest: 
County Clerk