

MINUTES

DECATUR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2019

PRESENT: CHAIRMAN PETE STEPHENS, VICE CHAIRMAN DENNIS BRINSON, COMMISSIONERS RUSTY DAVIS, GEORGE ANDERSON, GREG MURRAY AND STEVE BROCK, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR ALAN THOMAS, COUNTY ATTORNEY BRUCE KIRBO AND COUNTY CLERK BEVERLY KING.

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 Stephens 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 Brock seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Chairman Stephens recognized Mr. Tim Cochran with the Board of Education. Mr. Cochran, Decatur County Schools Superintendent, gave an update on the state of the school system. He began by addressing the 9.6 percent decline in enrollment the Decatur County School system has seen. As the state funding to the schools is based on enrollment, the result is a decline in funding. Mr. Cochran stated that this presents many budget challenges to the school system, but they are planning ahead to meet the future. There has also been a decline in the number of employees, yet the system is seeing an increase in the cost of benefits. Another area of concern is looking at ways to save money on buildings and maintenance. Currently the system is looking to tear down Elcan King School and convert that property into a parking lot for the Centennial Field. Mr. Cochran stated that the old West Bainbridge Middle School campus is going to be remodeled for the central offices. Mr. Cochran stated in spite of all the challenges, there is good news to report from the high school. Mr. Cochran stated that the graduation rate is at 93% and that is a 4-year graduation rate; the state average is 80%. Mr. Cochran said the five-year accreditation was recently completed at Bainbridge High School and received glowing reviews. Mr. Cochran attributed the success to the hard work of all the staff.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chairman Stephens recognized Ms. Laura Wiggins. Ms. Wiggins stated that no one has been out to Palmer Road to address the issues she brought before the Board at the commissioners' meeting in December. Ms. Wiggins stated that her property is continuing to flood. Ms. Wiggins stated that she hasn't heard anything from the County pertaining to the survey they were going to take of the property adjoining her property. County Administrator Thomas stated that Decatur County has received a tremendous amount of rain recently and the ground has been too wet to do anything with the ditches. County Administrator Thomas stated as soon as the weather permits and the ground dries up some he will get someone out there. County Attorney Kirbo stated that he has met with a surveyor from Cairo and they were planning a site meeting next week. Ms. Wiggins stated that she would like to be informed before they come for the site meeting so that she can have her surveyor present.

APPROVE MINUTES

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the Commissioners' meeting held February 26, 2019 as presented. Commissioner Brock seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business to be Discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Audit Report – Mr. Ben Lee. Chairman Stephens recognized Mr. Ben Lee. Mr. Lee of Coastal CPA presented the Board of Commissioners with an audit report for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2018. Mr. Lee stated an unqualified opinion, which is a clean opinion, was issued on the County's financial statements. Mr. Lee stated there were no non-compliance in any of the federal laws or regulations over the expenditures of those funds discovered. Mr. Lee stated that Decatur County is in a stable financial condition. The County's net position totaled \$54,424,679 for its governmental and business-type activities, an increase of \$5,121,054 from the previous fiscal year. The General Fund resources available for appropriation were \$971,792 more than budgeted and expenditures were \$1,502,692 less than budgeted, which is good management. Mr. Lee reported that the general fund had a net change in fund balance of \$1.3 million for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018, which is the excess of the revenues over the expenditures, which is a good thing. Mr. Lee stated these general fund positive budgetary results are due to effective budgetary control by management. Mr. Lee stated this is a great turn-around and a great job done by the County Administrator and staff. Mr. Lee said the trend for the County needs to continue to have growth in the unassigned fund balance of the general fund. Mr. Lee stated that the general rule for a government is to have a minimum of six months to a year of operating expenditures in the unassigned fund balance in the general fund, somewhere between 10 to 20 million dollars, in order to be financially sound. Mr. Lee stated that the County has gone from 0 to 5 million, which is good but encouraged the Board and the County staff to continue to have good budgetary management in order to reach that goal. Mr. Lee stated that the schedule of expenditures for federal awards met the threshold for a single audit for the year ended June 30, 2018. Mr. Lee stated those procedures were performed and that he included an opinion on compliance with laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts or grant agreements that could have a direct and material effect on each major program in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments and the Uniform Guidance. Mr. Lee explained the schedule of expenditures of the Federal Awards the County received which was over 2.7 million and reported there were no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance. Mr. Lee also provided the Board with a Communication of Audit Results and a Financial Assurance Requirements for the landfill. Mr. Lee reported to the Board that everything looks good and commended the County staff.

Chairman Stephens and all the commissioners thanked Mr. Lee for the audit report and commended County Administrator Thomas for heading the County in the right direction with his great leadership.

Consider Proposal for Spring Creek Road Crossing Repair. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Alan Thomas. County Administrator Thomas presented the Board with a proposal from Southworks Construction, LLC to repair the Railroad Crossing on Spring Creek Road, at Georgia Gulf Sulphur, which belongs to the County. County Administrator Thomas stated the price of this bid is \$34,950.00 and recommended the Board approve this bid and get this work initiated as soon as possible. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve this proposal. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Approval for Disposal of Surplus Equipment – Industrial Park. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Alan Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated this is a request from the Industrial Park Manager to declare a 2010 Bad Boy Zero Turn Mower surplus property and advertise for sale on GovDeals. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board approve this request. Vice Chairman Brinson made a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Brock seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Appointment – Regional Advisory Council of the Georgia Dept. of Behavior Health and Developmental Disabilities. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Alan Thomas. County Administrator Thomas presented the Board with a memo from Heather L. White stating that she was interested in serving on the Regional Advisory Council of the Georgia Dept. of Behavior Health and Developmental Disabilities. County Administrator Thomas stated that the Commissioners was sent an email containing her application and recommended the Board approve this appointment. Commissioner Brock made a motion to appoint Ms. White to this Board. 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 and commended Mr. Cochran and Mr. Lee for their presentations. All of the commissioners commended County Administrator Thomas for his leadership and putting the County back into much better financial condition.

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