MINUTES

DECATUR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 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 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 Stephens gave the invocation and all those assembled pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Stephens asked that the Board approve the following amendment: Add Executive Session following #2 on the Agenda to Discuss Board Appointments and Add 2A; Board Appointments. Vice Chairman Brinson made a motion to approve the agenda with these amendments. Commissioner Brock seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

There were no Special Presentations.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no Public Participation.

APPROVE MINUTES

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes of the Commissioners' Meeting held October 22, 2019 as presented. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Discuss – Planning Commission. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Alan Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that previously this Board discussed the existing Planning Commission standing them down and develop a joint Planning Commission with the City of Bainbridge. County Administrator Thomas stated that is why this item is on the agenda, to discuss this issue and take any direction that is necessary. Commissioner Davis made a motion to eliminate the existing Decatur County Planning Commission and develop a new joint Planning Commission with the City of Bainbridge. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Chairman Stephens stated the Board discussed some board appointments for the new Joint Planning Commission during executive session. Commissioner Davis made a motion to appoint Alan Davis for a 2-year term; Zack McClendon for a 1-year term; and John Marshall for a 3-year term on the new joint Planning Commission. Vice Chairman Brinson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

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

Consider Approval of Lease Agreement – SOWEGA Council on Aging. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Alan Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that this is a 10-year lease agreement between Decatur County and the SOWEGA Council on Aging for the Senior Center located at 402 West Water Street. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board approve this agreement. Commissioner Murray made a motion to approve this lease agreement. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Purchase of Excavator – Public Works. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas presented a bid tabulation for an excavator for Public Works. County Administrator Thomas stated that bids were opened November 6 and the low bid was from Flint Equipment with a total price of $219,000; a trade-in value of $95,000; and a guaranteed buy-back in the amount of $100,000. County Administrator Thomas stated the amount to be paid out is $124,000. County Administrator Thomas stated the trade-in consists of two pieces of equipment; a 2007 Caterpillar E324D Excavator and a 2008 Caterpillar E330DL Excavator. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board approve this purchase. Commissioner Brock made a motion to approve this purchase from Flint Equipment. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Approval of Error and Releases Report from Tax Commissioner. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas presented the Board with an Error and Releases report from the Tax Commissioner for their consideration of approval. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve this report. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Board Appointments. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that there has been some discussion concerning Glen Heard being reappointed to the Industrial Development Authority; consideration of an individual to fill the position that Alan Davis held on the Board of Tax Assessors; Ms. Tynese Jones on the Recreation Authority; and Mr. Ted Martin on the Joint Development Authority. Chairman Stephens stated that he talked with Mr. Glen Heard and he was willing to serve another term on the Industrial Development Authority. Commissioner Murray made a motion to reappoint Mr. Glen Heard to the Industrial Development Authority. Commissioner Brock seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.
Chairman Stephens stated that Mr. Ted Martin has also agreed to serve another term on the Joint Development Authority. Commissioner Davis made a motion to reappoint Mr. Ted Martin on the Joint Development Authority. Commissioner Brock seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.
Chairman Stephens stated that Ms. Tynese Jones was possibly moving out of Bainbridge but that she was willing to continue to serve on the Recreation Authority for as long as she lives in Bainbridge. Vice Chairman Brinson made a motion to reappoint Ms. Tynese Jones to the Recreation Authority. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.
Chairman Stephens stated that the only name that he has is Mr. Kevin Rentz and he has agreed to serve on the Board of Tax Assessors. Commissioner Anderson stated that Ms. Gloria Freeman has agreed to serve on the Board of Tax Assessors also. Commissioner Brock made a motion to appoint Kevin Rentz to the Board of Tax Assessors. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. After a lengthy discussion, the Board decided to defer this Board Appointment for a later date.

Discuss SPLOST Referendum. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that March 2021, our current SPLOST will end. County Administrator stated that he would like to get in gear and put before the voters in March of 2020 the request to continue the SPLOST, which will carry it for another six years. County Administrator Thomas stated this will make a seamless transition from SPLOST VI to SPLOST VII on collections and that he would like to move forward and put it on the ballot for March 2020. County Administrator Thomas stated that if anyone would like to discuss this further, he will be glad to talk with them.

County Administrator Thomas stated that last week the bids were opened for the Jail Roof Replacement and the low bid was in the range of 1.3 million dollars. County Administrator Thomas stated that this project will be paid with SPLOST funds which saves the County from having to use taxpayer's money to fund this project.

COMMISSIONERS / ADMINISTRATOR'S REMARKS

All the Commissioners thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and thanked Mr. Marshall and Mr. McClendon for their willingness to serve on the Planning Commission.

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

Approved: Pete Stapler
Chairman

Attest: Beverly King
County Clerk