

MINUTES

DECATUR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 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, 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 7:00 p.m. After the call to order, Commissioner Greg Murray gave the invocation and all those assembled pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

There were no Special Presentations.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chairman Stephens recognized Ms. Doris Cosby. Ms. Cosby stated that she was speaking on behalf of Bainbridge Oncology Support Team, stating it was Ms. Weston's vision to start this program to provide moral and financial aide to cancer patients. Ms. Cosby stated that she was a cancer survivor as well as Ms. Weston. Ms. Cosby stated that they meet on the 2nd Thursday of every month at the Women's Center at Memorial Hospital.

Chairman Stephens recognized Ms. Betty Weston. Ms. Weston stated that she started this non-profit organization in 1990 when she found out she had cancer and had no place to go to receive help. Ms. Weston stated that this support team offers help with transportation, medication, moral and financial help to people that has been diagnosed with all types of cancer. Ms. Weston stated that they are a non-profit organization, so they survive on donations from individuals, local churches and any organization that is willing to help. Ms. Weston stated that she would welcome any help that anyone is willing to give.

APPROVE MINUTES

Vice Chairman Brinson made a motion to approve the minutes of the Commissioners' Meeting held October 8, 2019 as presented. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business to be Discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Tax Abatement for Solar Farm. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Alan Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that previously the Planning Commission recommended acceptance of a Cool Springs Solar Energy Project that is over 200-megawatts, approximately 1,700 acres in unincorporated Decatur County near the intersection of Faceville Highway and Hutchinson Ferry Road. County Administrator Thomas stated there has been discussions about giving them an abatement for a 16-year period at a 60% reduction. County Administrator Thomas stated this project is the one that initiated that discussion and before us tonight is consideration to approve that. County Administrator Thomas stated that this

will be a levelized payment, which means each of the 16 years, the County would get what ever levelized amount of those 16 years would generate. County Administrator Thomas stated if this project does transpire, it would create approximately 350 jobs for approximately 18 months during the construction process, thereafter, when completion is done, it will generate 1 to 2 full time jobs. County Administrator Thomas stated however, the investment of this company is 240 million dollars. Commissioner Brock made a motion to approve this Tax Abatement. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Lease Agreement – Harrell Agricultural Products, Inc. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Alan Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that this Board has previously dealt with this issue when the Development Authority came before us to request that we pay off a note for improvements on this property for Harrell Agricultural Products. County Administrator Thomas stated at that time the Development Authority was holding the lease agreement. County Administrator Thomas stated upon our payment then it was to become our lease agreement. County Administrator Thomas presented the Board with a lease agreement, stating that it is for \$3,000.00 per month for a five-year term. County Administrator Thomas stated this contract has the right to extend the lease for two additional five year terms; beginning August 1, 2024 rent will be adjusted to \$3,150.00 per month and terminating on July 31, 2029; and the final lease agreement, the rental rate will not exceed an increase beyond 15% of the previous rate. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board approve this lease agreement. Commissioner Brock made a motion to approve this lease agreement with Harrell Agricultural Products, Inc. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Proclamation – Retired Educator’s Day. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas presented a letter from Mr. Wooden, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources at Decatur County Schools, requesting the Board of Commissioners prepare a proclamation declaring Sunday, November 3rd as Retired Educators Day. County Administrator Thomas presented the proclamation for the Board’s approval. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve this proclamation. Vice Chairman Brinson 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. Vice Chairman Brinson made a motion to approve this report. 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 Victims of Crime Act Assistance (VOCA) program with federal funds in the amount of \$192,103.00 and matching funds provided through the District Attorney’s office in the amount of \$48,026.00. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board approve this agreement. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve this agreement. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Board Appointment – Board of Tax Assessors. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas presented the Board with a letter from Mr. Greg Smith requesting to be reappointed for another term on the Board of Tax Assessors. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board approve this request. This term is for three years and will expire October 25, 2022. County Administrator Thomas also presented the Board with a letter from Mr. Alan Davis stating that he will be resigning from the Board of Tax Assessors effective October 31, 2019 and this does not carry through his full term. Commissioner Anderson made a motion to reappoint Mr. Smith to the Board of Tax Assessors to serve another term. Vice Brock seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Request from Sheriff’s Department – Disposal of Surplus Vehicle. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that this is request from the Sheriff’s Office to declare a 1999 Mercury Marquis, with 255,000 miles surplus property to be sold on Govdeals.net. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board approve this request. Commissioner Murray made a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Approval for Alcohol License for Rosemary Fodor – Roses State Line Store.

Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that Ms. Rosemary Fodor has applied for an alcohol license for Roses State Line Store located at 1009 Cool Springs Road and has met all the requirements necessary. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board approve this request. Commissioner Murray made a motion to approve an alcohol license for Ms. Rosemary Fodor. Commissioner Davis 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 thanked Ms. Cosby and Ms. Weston for everything they do.

Commissioner Brock announced that Governor Brian Kemp will be joining a meet and greet for all farmers at the Cloud Livestock Facility, Wednesday, October 23, 2019 from 12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Chairman Stephens wished Commissioner Anderson a Happy Birthday.

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

Approved: Pete Stephens
Chairman

Attest: Bruce J. King
County Clerk