

MINUTES

DECATUR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2020

PRESENT: CHAIRMAN PETE STEPHENS, VICE CHAIRMAN DENNIS BRINSON, COMMISSIONERS RUSTY DAVIS, 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, County Attorney Bruce Kirbo gave the invocation and all those assembled pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Brock made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Anderson 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 Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the Commissioners' Meeting held January 28, 2020 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

Decatur County Board of Education Annual Update – Tim Cochran. Chairman Stephens recognized Mr. Tim Cochran. Mr. Cochran, Decatur County Schools Superintendent, gave an update on the state of the school system. He began by addressing the 14.3 % 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 19.6% decline in the number of employees. Another area of concern is looking at ways to save money on buildings and maintenance. Mr. Cochran stated that the demolition of Elcan King School is almost complete and they are converting 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 82%. 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. Mr. Cochran named several programs that are offered in different schools throughout Decatur County. Mr. Cochran stated that Bainbridge High School's CTAE in partnership with Southern Regional Technical College and local businesses and industries is excited to offer a College and Career Academy concept that gives students a head start on preparing for their futures. While in school, students will be able to gain dual enrollment credit and industry recognized certifications through Southern Regional Technical College while getting hands-on training in local businesses and industry related skill sets.

Department of Family and Children Services – Jackie Bridges. Chairman Stephens recognized Director of Family and Children Services, Jackie Bridges. Mrs. Bridges gave a brief update on foster care in Decatur County, stating that there are 75 foster children in Decatur County alone. Mrs. Bridges requested that the County consider increasing their budget for Foster Care to \$10,000.00. Mrs. Bridges stated that these funds are used to assist foster parents for the extra goods and services each foster child needs every year, money that the state government does not include in its budget. County Administrator Thomas thanked Mrs. Bridges for coming before the Board before the budget process began to allow him to work it in if the Board approves it.

Consider Approval of Bid – Lease for Decatur County Farm Land. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated bids were received and opened February 6th for the Farm Land located at the Industrial Park. County Administrator Thomas stated that two bids were received, one for \$23,000.00 per year and one for \$24,000.00 per year. County Administrator Thomas presented the Board with a proposed Lease Agreement; however, it includes in that agreement that any additions to the irrigation system must remain. County Administrator Thomas stated that the irrigation system is old and has a lot of mechanical issues. County Administrator Thomas stated that he was told that the lessee would like to put a new tower up but the well and the irrigation system will remain the same. County Administrator Thomas stated that he would like to have the authority to negotiate with the lessee of this property that any repair work will be his responsibility and any additions to that will be his responsibility. If the lessee puts the new tower up and if he only leases the property for a year or two, he would like to be able to take his tower down and replace it with ours. If he stays during the duration of this contract, which he has the right to renew the lease for up to five years; the tower system that he installs will remain with the County. County Administrator Thomas stated with all that said, he recommends the Board approve the bid from Mr. Alex Harrell in the amount of \$24,000.00 per year and allow him to negotiate these changes in the Lease Agreement. Commissioner Brock made a motion to approve this recommendation. Vice Chairman Brinson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Approval of Bid for Articulated Truck – Landfill. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that bids were received and opened February 5th for an articulated truck for the Landfill. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board approve the low bid from Yancey Brothers in the amount of \$350,000.00 with a trade-in of \$61,500.00 and buy-back at \$152,000.00 which brought the total cost to \$136,500.00. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve this purchase from Yancey Brothers in the amount of \$136,500.00. Vice Chairman Brinson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Approval of Bid – Range Target System. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that our firing range that we share with the City of Bainbridge at the Commodore Park has been totally redesigned. County Administrator Thomas stated that we have shared this range with the City for 20 years or more. County Administrator Thomas stated that he has met with the City Manager and thought it would be a good idea to update the target system as well. County Administrator Thomas stated that the City sent out a request for bids and the lowest price was \$57,850.00 with a 3-year maintenance agreement for an extra \$5,700.00. County Administrator Thomas stated that the City has agreed to pay half of this cost. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board approve to go into an agreement with the City of Bainbridge to pay half of this cost to upgrade the Range Target System, which the County's cost will be \$31,775.00. Commissioner Brock made a motion to approve this recommendation. Commissioner Anderson 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 commended Mr. Cochran and Mrs. Bridges for their presentations.

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

Approved: 
Chairman

Attest: 
County Clerk