

**MINUTES  
DECATUR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM  
TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2013**

PRESENT: CHAIRMAN RUSSELL SMITH, VICE CHAIRMAN FRANK LOEFFLER, COMMISSIONERS DR. BUTCH MOSELY, OLIVER SELLERS, DENNIS BRINSON AND JAN GODWIN, COUNTY ATTORNEY BROWN MOSELEY, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR GARY BREEDLOVE, COUNTY CLERK BEVERLY KING AND NEWS EDITOR JUSTIN SCHUVER.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. After the call to order, Commissioner Dennis Brinson gave the invocation and all those assembled pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

**AMENDMENTS / APPROVAL OF AGENDA.**

Vice Chairman Loeffler asked the Board to Add Under New Business, Airport Status; County Administrator Breedlove asked the Board to Add under New Business, Excavation Agreement Between D&G Floyd Farms, Inc. and Decatur County. Vice Chairman Loeffler made a motion to approve the agenda with the additions as stated. Commissioner Brinson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

**Bainbridge High School Air Force JROTC.** Five members of the Bainbridge JROTC were honored publicly before the Board of Commissioners meeting. County Administrator Breedlove introduced the cadets and their instructors. Col. Breedlove said that the program recently received the highest rating of exceeds standards at an inspection at the JROTC headquarters at Maxwell Air Force Base. Col. Breedlove also stated that it has been named a "Distinguished Unit Award" winner each of the last nine years. There is no other program in the state of Georgia that equals up to that record. Col. Breedlove noted that JROTC cadets are very active in community service. Recently two Bainbridge High School cadets were selected to participate in national aviation camps at Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Col. Dave Stewart said that this year there are 121 cadets participating in the program at Bainbridge High School. Col. Dave Stewart said one cadet was recently accepted into the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Chairman Smith recognized Marlon Breedlove. Mr. Breedlove stated he lived in Kendrick District in the Breedlove Community. Mr. Breedlove stated that the ditches on Breedlove Road and Breedlove Lane were creating an erosion problem on the roads due to the ditches needed pulling very badly. Mr. Breedlove stated that trees and shrubs had grown up in the ditches and were taken over the roadway. Mr. Breedlove stated since these roads have gotten into such bad shape it has made this area a convenient place for people to dump their garbage. Mr. Breedlove asked the Board to consider having these ditches pulled.

Chairman Smith recognized Gracie Cooper. Ms. Cooper stated she lived in the Climax area on Bradwell Laster Road. Ms. Cooper stated during the recent flooding, the school bus was not able to travel the full length of Bradwell Laster Road to pick up her children to take them to school. Ms. Cooper asked the Board to help get this road passable during heavy rains.

Chairman Smith recognized Lane Bush. Mr. Bush, a member of the Rose City Soaring glider club, gave his input on the proposed grass landing strip at the airport. Mr. Bush presented a petition to disband the airport committee. He said that he and other glider pilots had no interest in the proposed landing strip's location, because it would require for the gliders to have to traverse the airport property in order to get to the strip. Mr. Bush stated that glider pilots are fine with landing in their current location adjacent to the existing runways. Mr. Bush stated he believed that the airport setup was safe and legal to all parties as it is now and there was no reason to change it unless required by state law.

Chairman Smith recognized Carrie Hundley. Ms. Hundley stated she lived on Fowlstown Road. Ms. Hundley stated during the recent flooding, water ran through her yard causing her to be unable to enter or leave her residence. Ms. Hundley stated this excess water was coming from the water being backed up from a gate that was put in on Country Club Road. Chairman Smith stated that this issue was on the agenda to be discussed later in the meeting.

### **APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Commissioner Mosely made a motion to approve the minutes of the Commissioners' Meeting held February 26, 2013. Vice Chairman Loeffler seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Vice Chairman Loeffler made a motion to approve the minutes of the Road Workshop held February 26, 2013. Commissioner Mosely seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Airport Committee Response.** Chairman Smith recognized Karl Young. Mr. Young stated Bill Nichols was chairman when the airport committee started and after a few years, he became chairman. Mr. Young stated the committee has no authority as it stands now, just a group of volunteers that meets to discuss airport issues. Mr. Young stated the committee mostly addressed safety concerns. Mr. Young read aloud a statement on behalf of the airport committee. Attached to these minutes is a copy of that statement. Mr. Young stated the airport committee recommends the old proposed runway be removed from the airport layout plan but would like for that area to be set aside for future plans.

County Administrator Breedlove stated he had great respect for Mr. Young. Col. Breedlove stated Mr. Young has been directly involved in addressing a lot of safety issues at the airport and the fuel issue being the most significant.

Chairman Smith recognized Rick McCaskill. Mr. McCaskill stated he met with the airport committee and thought it was a very constructive session. Mr. McCaskill said everyone has been landing on the grass strip between the runway and the hangars. That is where everyone wants to continue to land on that grass strip. Croy Engineering has stated it was illegal to land in that area. Mr. Lane Bush has stated there are some things that may have been overlooked and it may not be illegal to land on this strip. Mr. McCaskill stated if that is the case, he thinks everyone would be satisfied. The option that Croy Engineering has come up with is acceptable to the Development Authority, although it is not acceptable to the glider people. No one wins with the grass strip on the south side. Everyone wins leaving it the way it is now.

Col. Breedlove stated Croy Engineering gave five proposals; two of them were north of the runway. Croy Engineering did not say it was illegal to land in that area, Georgia Department of Transportation Aviation Branch, Ed Ratigan said you couldn't operate in that area. Mr. Lane Bush may have some alternative information that would allow this. Col. Breedlove stated his main concern was to have a safe and effective operation at the airport.

**Motorola Tower Update.** Col. Breedlove stated the contractor is working on the foundation on Spring Creek Road and the materials for this tower are scheduled to be on-site at the end of this month. The week of April 1<sup>st</sup> they will work on the wire anchors. The week of April 8<sup>th</sup> all the steel will be delivered and finished. The week of April 15<sup>th</sup> the lines, antennas and microwaves will be installed.

**Update on Elevated Water Tower Project.** County Administrator Breedlove stated the contractor is on site working on the water tower. Col. Breedlove stated the 2008 initiated engineer feasibility study estimated the tower renovations costs at \$125,000. When bids were returned, the low bid was approximately \$275,000. Now the contractor is on site and has determined additional problems resulting in a change order for catwalk repairs, strut repairs, inside tank repairs and ladder repair inside the tank in the amount of \$50,920. Col. Breedlove stated the Board would need to approve this change order. Commissioner Brinson made a

motion to approve this change order. Commissioner Sellers seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

**Update on Waste Water Treatment Plant Bids.** Col. Breedlove stated a total of four bids have been received. Col. Breedlove stated that Engineer Stacy Watkins and Industrial Park Manager Eric Swain will be reviewing the bids and making their recommendations.

**Update on GEMA Home Demolitions.** Chairman Smith recognized Public Works Director Dennis Medley. Mr. Medley stated of the 14 total homes to be demolished, 13 homes have been completed. Mr. Medley stated the weather has delayed the last remaining one from being completed. Mr. Medley stated the last home would be complete by March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Col. Breedlove stated once all the homes are demolished, GEMA will inspect all of the properties.

**Update on Landfill – Blakely / Early County.** County Administrator Breedlove stated the County is still communicating with the Mayor of Blakely to possibly secure an agreement for their solid waste disposal. Col. Breedlove stated Engineer Steve Harbin has recently been at the landfill and in the process of looking into the permitting for future landfill cells 4 through 7 which would take the landfill under current usage rate up to 30 to 35 years of lifespan.

**Update on WWII Renovation Project.** Col. Breedlove said the Georgia Department of Transportation is very interested in getting the WWII Hangar Project successfully completed. Things continue to look somewhat better and hope to be under contract by end of April.

**Budget Assessment: FY 2013-2014.** Col. Breedlove stated he met with the Department Heads and Constitutional Officers and set a timeline for March 22<sup>nd</sup> to submit a plan in writing how they would cut 5% from their budget and how they would cut 10% if necessary. Col. Breedlove said he intended to move forward with trying to cut at least \$300,000 off the remaining FY 2013 expenditures.

**Solar Project in Decatur County.** Col. Breedlove stated there were five or six proposals for 1 mega watts and they have been turned into Georgia Power as of yesterday. The decision on those comes out around the 5<sup>th</sup> of April. Col. Breedlove stated the proposal for the big plants, 15 to 20 mega watts, are not due into Georgia Power until May. There will be a total of 3 of the big plants and 45 of the small ones.

**Country Club Road (Gate).** County Attorney Moseley stated the Board had asked him to research the legal issues and county responsibilities pertaining to the gate on Country Club Road and bring back to the Board a recommendation. Mr. Moseley stated the Statutory and case law in Georgia indicate that the gate should be removed or kept open so that water flow is not diverted from its natural channel. Commissioner Sellers made a motion to remove the gate. Vice Chairman Loeffler seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Airport Committee Status.** Vice Chairman Loeffler made a motion to disband the present airport committee and form a new committee that is selected by the Board of Commissioners, the County Administrator and possibly other people the County Administrator might select, that will operate with term limits, have open public meetings, operate under bylaws and other characteristics of similar boards. Commissioner Sellers seconded the motion.

County Administrator Breedlove suggested that the existing committee remain in place until the bylaws for a county appointed committee are finalized. Col. Breedlove stated he thought it would be valuable to have a committee there for representation until the committee could be chosen and the bylaws set.

A vote was taken and approved with a 5 to 1 vote. Chairman Smith, Vice Chairman Loeffler, Commissioner Brinson, Commissioner Mosely and Commission Sellers voted in favor. Commissioner Godwin opposed.

Vice Chairman Loeffler asked the County Attorney to draft a resolution that would create a new airport committee, outline all the terms and to have that resolution ready by the commissioner's next meeting.

**SPLOST and LOST Status.** Col. Breedlove stated the status with SPLOST, one of the large tax received agencies in Decatur County got mixed up and they are in the process of adjusting those figures. Our figures will get better from that. Col. Breedlove stated in the LOST status, one of the city's senior attorneys on litigations is in legislative session and has asked for an extension.

**Ag Area Detention Pond.** Col. Breedlove stated the engineer is in the process of redesigning the detention pond to make it bigger, it will be shallower, it will be easier to construct, easier to maintain and it won't require a clay liner.


**Consider Approval of Resolution Authorizing 5311 Program.** Col. Breedlove stated each year the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission applies on behalf of the participating Counties/Cities in the Southwest Georgia region to provide rural public transportation. This resolution authorizes the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission to apply for 5311 funds on behalf of Decatur County. Commissioner Mosely made a motion to approve this resolution. Vice Chairman Loeffler seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.


**Excavation Agreement between D&G Floyd Farms, Inc. and Decatur County.** Chairman Smith recognized Public Works Supervisor Dennis Medley. Mr. Medley stated in this agreement Decatur County agrees to excavate and remove approximately 300 tons of recycled concrete and approximately 200 tons of recycled asphalt from the property of D&G Floyd Farms, Inc. at no cost to Decatur County. Mr. Medley stated the County Attorney had reviewed this agreement. Mr. Medley recommended the Board approve this agreement. Vice Chairman Loeffler made a motion to approve this agreement. Commissioner Mosely seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

**COMMISSIONERS / ADMINISTRATOR'S REMARKS**

Col. Breedlove announced there would be National Incident Management System (NIMS) training for elected officials Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Cloud Livestock Pavilion.

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

Approved:   
Chairman

Attest:   
County Clerk