

MINUTES

DECATUR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2014

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Loeffler called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. After the call to order, Reverend Randy Moseley gave the invocation and all those assembled pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

AMENDMENTS / APPROVAL OF AGENDA

County Administrator Breedlove asked the board to delete item #3, SPLOST Revenue / TAN Status, from the agenda. It will be put on the agenda for the first meeting in February. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the agenda with this amendment. Commissioner Godwin seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

County Employee of the Year (Two Nominees - James Coddington & Johnny Gibson).

Warden Elijah McCoy and Public Works Superintendent Dennis Medley both gave testimonies for their employees, James Coddington and Johnny Gibson, for superior jobs and workmanship both employees have performed during their employment with the County. James Coddington was announced Employee of the Year. Both employees were presented with an employee incentive by the Chairman.

New County Agent. Chairman Loeffler recognized Lindsey Hayes. Mrs. Hayes introduced the new County Agent, Justin Ballew. Mrs. Hayes gave a brief description of his background and stated that he was a great asset to Decatur County.

Contract Award at Industrial Park (Water System). Chairman Loeffler recognized Stacey Watkins with Watkins & Associates Consulting Engineers. Mr. Watkins presented bid results from four bids received for the High Service Pump Building Rehabilitation. Bates Engineers/Contractors, Inc. with a total base bid of \$1,082,051.00 was determined to be the low bidder. Mr. Watkins recommended the Board enter into an agreement with Bates Engineer/Contractors, Inc. to construct this project. The project will be funded by the GEFA Loan and EDA Grant. Commissioner Mosely made a motion to approve the bid from Bates Engineers/Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$1,082,051.00. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chairman Loeffler recognized Elizabeth Gibson. Ms. Gibson expressed concerns pertaining to homestead exemptions. Ms. Gibson stated that when she paid her taxes on her property they had increased a considerable amount. After inquiring about the homestead exemption, she was told that it was taken off because it was reported to the Tax Assessor's office that she didn't live at that property any more. County Attorney Moseley recommended that she talk with Tax Assessor Ruth Eakin and present her concerns to the Tax Assessor's Board.

Chairman Loeffler recognized Daughtry Melton. Mr. Melton expressed concerns with falling trees in roadways and along county roads. Mr. Melton suggested that each commissioner monitor their districts and have any trees taken down that were on county property that could possibly fall into the roadways and cause accidents. Chairman Loeffler suggested to Mr. Melton for him and other citizens that see possible problems with trees falling to report them to the County.

APPROVE MINUTES

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Meeting held December 10, 2013. Vice Chairman Brinson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Golf Course Budget Proposal. Chairman Loeffler recognized the Golf Course Manager, Roland Hebert. Mr. Hebert presented to the Board a list of additional funds needed to pay for repairs or parts for the County Golf Course equipment. Mr. Hebert asked the Board to amend his budget by \$5,485.46 for these additional funds that are needed. County Administrator Breedlove recommended that since the Board of Commissioners agreed to appropriate funds to keep the golf course open during the budget session, he recommended that the Board approve this amendment to carry the golf course through the rest of this budget year. Commissioner Mosely made a motion to approve this request. Vice Chairman Brinson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and approved with a 4 to 2 vote. Commissioner Mosely, Chairman Loeffler, Vice Chairman Brinson and Commissioner Sellers voted in favor. Commissioner Godwin and Commissioner Smith opposed.

Budget Status / TAN Status. County Administrator Breedlove gave a brief update on the TAN status and stated that \$2,545,861.43 was the TAN balance that was paid in 2013.

GEFA Loan Status. County Administrator Breedlove gave a brief update on the GEFA loan status stating that the County was waiting on paperwork to start draws from the loan.

Landfill Dozer Status. County Administrator Breedlove presented a picture of the dozer that was recently approved by the Board of Commissioners and purchased from Caterpillar. Col. Breedlove stated that the dozer should be delivered within a couple of days.

Motorola Annual Contract. County Administrator Breedlove presented a Service Agreement from Motorola Solutions in the amount of \$28,173.12. Col. Breedlove stated this was a budget item that the Board of Commissioners has already approved and this was for information only.

NEW BUSINESS

Appoint County Clerk and County Attorney. Commissioner Mosely made a motion to reappoint Beverly King as the County Clerk. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Smith stated that he did not think that the County needed a full time attorney and because of budget issues, the County should consider having an attorney on retainer to use as needed. Commissioner Smith stated it was nothing personal against County Attorney Moseley but he thought it would be a way to save the County money. Commissioner Godwin made a motion to reappoint J. Brown Moseley as the County Attorney. Commissioner Sellers seconded the motion. A vote was taken and approved with a 5 to 1 vote. Chairman Loeffler, Vice Chairman Brinson, Commissioners Sellers, Mosely, and Godwin voted in favor. Commissioner Smith opposed.

Approve Resolution to Set Qualifying Fees. County Administrator Breedlove stated that Georgia law specifies that the governing authority of the County shall set the qualifying fees for elected county offices of any year in which a general, nonpartisan election, or general election is to be held. Commissioner Mosely made a motion to approve this resolution to set the qualifying fees. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Approval of Resolution for 5311 Program. County Administrator Breedlove stated that is a yearly request from the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission that authorizes them to apply for a grant for public transportation assistance. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve this resolution. Vice Chairman Brinson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Annual Audit. County Administrator Breedlove stated that an auditor is in the office today and will be completing the audit. Col. Breedlove said the audit should be complete and ready to present to the Board at the next meeting.

Annual Rainfall Report. County Administrator Breedlove presented the Board with a chart showing the amount of rainfall received for each month from 2007 to 2013 and the monthly average for the last five years.

COMMISSIONERS' REMARKS

Vice Chairman Brinson asked about the status on Global Air. County Administrator Breedlove stated that there is some equipment being delivered. There was a delay due to the electrical challenges in that building.

Chairman Smith thanked everyone for their support during his year as Chairman and that he hoped everyone would give Chairman Loeffler the same support.

Commissioner Mosely stated he was appointed to the Southwest Regional Commission on behalf of the Governor's office. Commissioner Mosely commended County Administrator Breedlove and all the County staff for helping with the budget situation, stating that he was proud that the County is moving in the right direction.

Commissioner Sellers asked for the status on Carters Mill Road. Public Works Superintendent Dennis Medley briefed Mr. Sellers on the status, stating they are making progress.

Chairman Loeffler said he agreed with Commissioner Mosely on commending the staff with helping with the budget situation.

County Attorney Moseley thanked the Board for reappointing him as County Attorney.

County Administrator Breedlove made several announcements: Col. Breedlove announced some bid openings; Col. Breedlove stated that he has scheduled a SPLOST meeting for Thursday, January 16, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.; The Firefighter Banquet is Saturday, January 18, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at the Cloud Livestock Pavilion; Monday, January 20, 2014 is Martin Luther King ceremonies; There will be a Public Hearing at the beginning of the next scheduled commissioners' meeting, January 28, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. for a CDBG grant; February 11, 2014 there will be a budget review meeting and February 25, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. a Road Workshop.


Commissioner Smith made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel. Commissioner Sellers seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

After the executive session the Commissioners assembled back in the board room. Commissioner Smith made a motion to go into regular session. Vice Chairman Brinson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Chairman Loeffler stated the Board discussed some board appointments for the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission and the Georgia Pines Community Service Board. There was no action taken at this time.

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

Approved: 
Chairman

Attest: 
County Clerk