

MINUTES

DECATUR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM

TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2014

PRESENT: CHAIRMAN FRANK LOEFFLER, VICE CHAIRMAN DENNIS BRINSON, COMMISSIONERS DR. BUTCH MOSELY (BY PHONE), 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 7:00 p.m. After the call to order, Vice Chairman Dennis Brinson gave the invocation and all those assembled pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Chairman Loeffler recognized Carol Lewis with the Bainbridge-Decatur County Humane Society. Ms. Lewis updated the commission on plans to build a new shelter on five acres of land off of Highway 84 West on Zorn Road donated by Dennie Nichols. Ms. Lewis stated that the shelter was in need of funding but focused on the visions of the new facility. Chairman Loeffler suggested that they look into a professional fund raising program.

Chairman Loeffler recognized Patricia Anderson with Someone Cares Food & Clothing Bank. Ms. Anderson stated that her operation has been occupying a building, known as the Old County Kitchen, which had previously been vacant at the county fairgrounds. Initially she operated a soup kitchen that fed people in need at no charge but ran into problems with the facility and the Health Department. More recently she has been collecting donated non-perishable food and clothing to provide at no charge to people in need. Ms. Anderson has been using this same facility to store these donated items. Ms. Anderson asked the commission for permission to continue using the building to operate the food and clothing bank that will be essentially be at no cost to the county and be a significant benefit to the citizens in need. County Attorney Moseley stated he has prepared a lease agreement if the Board chooses to act on this matter. The lease will be for twelve months and may be extended for additional twelve months at the option of both parties at a rate of \$1.00 per year. Commissioner Mosely made a motion to approve this lease agreement. Commissioner Sellers seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

County Administrator Breedlove announced he was trying to schedule for the New Miss Georgia, Maggie Bridges, to appear at the next commissioners' meeting if her schedule would permit her to do so for a special recognition.

AMENDMENTS / APPROVAL OF AGENDA

County Administrator Breedlove asked the board to approve the following amendment: Add #7 to New Business for Georgia Department of Transportation Air Park Inspection. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the agenda with this amendment. Vice Chairman Brinson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chairman Loeffler recognized Robert Coney. Mr. Coney presented a copy of Hose Williams' biography to the commission. Commissioner Godwin stated he was well known to the Attapulgus community.

APPROVE MINUTES

Commissioner Sellers made a motion to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Meeting held June 10, 2014. Vice Chairman Brinson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Budget Workshop held June 10, 2014. Commissioner Godwin seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing held June 16, 2014. Vice Chairman Brinson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

EMS Transition Status – Pete Richey. County Administrator Breedlove gave a brief update on the renovations of the EMS Building. Mr. Richey stated he was very pleased with the work that has been done at this facility. Mr. Richey stated the transition is in full swing with no delays. This past week E911 Director Tonya Griffin and four of her employees attended Emergency Medical Dispatcher training in Atlanta. This training enhances the E911 services and allows the dispatchers to provide medical instructions to the caller before medical staff arrives. This week the Human Resources staff is in Decatur County interviewing the 24 applicants that have applied for full and part time positions. The first ambulance will be transported to Atlanta next week to be remounted and made like new. The week of July 6th the Human Resources staff will be back in Decatur County to make contingent job offers to the applicants and have uniform fittings. August 4th will be the new employee orientation.

Carters Mill Road – CDBG. Public Works Superintendent Dennis Medley gave a brief update on the Carters Mill Road project. Oxford Construction Company was the sole bidder for the paving of this project and has been given notice to proceed.

Landfill Timber Management. County Administrator Breedlove stated he has asked for proposals for assessing the timber on the west side of swamp creek at the landfill. Col. Breedlove stated he has received various types of proposals. Col. Breedlove said he asked Southern Forestry to conduct a management review to give us a report to allow us to move forward with a more detail plan for harvesting this area and the land on Butler Ferry Road.

NEW BUSINESS

Budget Adoption for FY15. Chairman Loeffler said this is the best budget the County has had in the past four or five years. The County was able to add some things back into the budget that were cut in the past years. Chairman Loeffler mentioned pay raises for county employees, funding the Pines Golf Course as recreation, funding River Town Days and the Bass Tournament fund and pay off some of the County's higher interest rate loans.

County Administrator Breedlove explained some of the budget cuts and capital programs. Col. Breedlove stated this was a team effort and commended the County's staff.

Commissioner Godwin made a motion to increase the county's funding to the Humane Society by \$10,000.00 for a total of \$50,000.00 for the 2015 fiscal year. Commissioner Sellers seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Sellers asked that the County Administrator to explain how the commission spent \$17 million according to street talk. County Administrator Breedlove explained some of the projects that the commission approved over the years since 2004 when the County had \$12.1 million in reserve.

Vice Chairman Brinson made a motion to adopt the Budget for FY15. Commissioner Sellers seconded the motion. A vote was taken and approved with a 5 to 1 vote. Chairman Loeffler, Vice Chairman Brinson, Commissioner Sellers, Commissioner Godwin and Commissioner Mosely voted in favor. Commissioner Smith opposed. Commissioner Smith stated he didn't agree with funding the Pines Golf Course without contributing funds to the City of Bainbridge's recreation department which provides more recreational opportunities for children.

County Administrator Breedlove explained all the recreational opportunities that the County provides.

Sips – Airport Advisory Committee. County Administrator Breedlove stated the Airport Advisory Committee met last week in which Vice Chairman Brinson attended. Col. Breedlove stated that the debris that Sips has piled up at the Industrial Air Park has become an eye sore and a

safety issue. Vice Chairman Brinson stated that the committee expressed concerns about safety issues and that this matter needed to be addressed. After a brief discussion, Chairman Loeffler suggested that Col. Breedlove meet with Rick McCaskill and the owner of Sips to have him provide a clean-up schedule to be presented at the next commissioners' meeting.

Propane Operation at Industrial Park. County Administrator Breedlove stated there was a prospective user of the area that use to be the Peak Shaving Plant to put a propane plant and possibly purchase that acre of land.

Department of Transportation Airport Inspection. County Administrator Breedlove stated the Airport had its annual inspection by the Department of Transportation June 10, 2014. The report that was received stated that all standards were met with a few identifiable items to be addressed. Some of the items have already been corrected and other items will be addressed with grant funds.

Commissioner Godwin made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel and litigation. Vice Chairman Brinson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

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

Chairman Loeffler stated the Board discussed a litigation matter and no action is to be taken at this time.

Chairman Loeffler stated the Board discussed a board appointment for Decatur County Board of Health. The Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to appoint Dr. Omar Al Hadad to the Board of Health to replace Dr. Charles Walker who resigned.

Chairman Loeffler stated the Board discussed County Administrator Breedlove's evaluation and contract during executive session. Vice Chairman Brinson made a motion to extend County Administrator Breedlove's contract for 18 months to expire December 31, 2015. Commissioner Sellers seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Chairman Loeffler stated the Board discussed County Attorney Moseley's contract during executive session. Vice Chairman Brinson made a motion to extend County Attorney Moseley's contract for 18 months to expire December 31, 2015. Commissioner Sellers seconded the motion.

Commissioner Smith said he didn't think the Board should be voting on anything extending past January 1, 2015 when the new commissioners would be present on the Board. Commissioner Smith stated for the past five years, every first meeting in January is when the Board voted on the County Attorney and the County Clerk, and now it is being done different.

Chairman Loeffler said there weren't any rules against changing the contract earlier according to Georgia Law.

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

COMMISSIONERS' REMARKS

Commissioner Godwin thanked Dennie Nichols for donating the land to the Bainbridge-Decatur Humane Society. Commissioner Godwin stated she was very proud of Maggie Bridges for becoming Miss Georgia.

Vice Chairman Brinson stated that he took a tour of the facilities at the Industrial Air Park while attending the Airport Committee meeting and commended Industrial Park Manager Eric Swain for doing a good job at the Industrial Park. Vice Chairman Brinson stated he was proud to be able to add \$10,000.00 to the Humane Society and he felt the County was getting back on track to be able to support more programs.

Chairman Loeffler stated he also would like to thank Dennie Nichols for donating the land to the Humane Society and he felt they should give the professional fund raising a lot of consideration.

Commissioner Smith too commended Dennie Nichols for their generous donation of land. Commissioner Smith stated he was not opposed to the Golf Course but he felt the County should help fund the City of Bainbridge for their recreational department.

Commissioner Sellers stated that he felt the Golf Course was a necessary part of the community and this was money well spent.

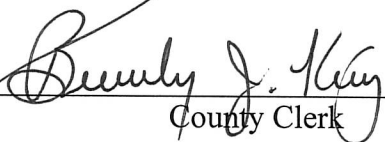
County Attorney Moseley stated he would try to attempt to keep the Board of Commissioners out of trouble for the next 18 months.

County Administrator Breedlove commended Accounting Manager Michelle West for her critical role in the budget process. Col. Breedlove stated two years ago the County eliminated the Finance Director and the Human Resources Director's positions. Col. Breedlove commended Michelle West and Beverly King for picking up those functions.

Col. Breedlove stated that Julius Byrd is looking to come back to Decatur County in a couple of years and doing something on children and adult recreation with the LEW School in Attapulcus. Col. Breedlove stated there was going to be a meeting next week to discuss this matter.

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

Approved: 
Chairman

Attest: 
County Clerk