

MINUTES

DECATUR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM

TUESDAY, JULY 8, 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 John Thomas 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 approve the following amendment to the Agenda: Add Motorola Contract Under New Business. Chairman Loeffler asked the Board to approve the following amendment to the Agenda: County Attorney Moseley and County Administrator Gary Breedlove's Employment Agreements Under Old Business. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the agenda with these amendments. Commissioner Godwin seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Southern Paws Animal Rescue. Chairman Loeffler recognized Sally Miller. Ms. Miller stated that Southern Paws Animal Sanctuary is a no-kill sanctuary to provide homes and spay/neuter service for unwanted animals. Ms. Miller stated their sanctuary has three main objectives: one is to provide a no-kill alternative to the overcrowded conditions at the local Humane Society; second is to provide a low-cost spay/neuter program and third is to provide an education program to help local population deal with a variety of issues. Ms. Miller stated she was not asking for any funding but only support from the Board of Commissioners.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Special Recognition of County Administrator Gary Breedlove. Chairman Loeffler recognized E911 Director Tonya Griffin. Ms. Griffin along with several of the Decatur County department heads recognized Col. Breedlove stating he was one of the best assets that Decatur County has had in a long time. Attached to these minutes is the recognition letter read by Tonya Griffin.

Commissioner Sellers stated this recognition of the County Administrator by these department heads told him a lot about the working relationship Col. Breedlove has with the employees.

APPROVE MINUTES

Commissioner Mosely made a motion to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Meeting held June 24, 2014. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

EMS Transition Status. Warden Elijah McCoy gave an update on the status of the County's ambulances, stating that all of the ambulances should be back on the road and operating this week. One ambulance has been taken to Atlanta to be restored. Warden McCoy gave a brief update on the renovations of the EMS building, stating within the next couple of weeks the entire facility should be completed.

Carters Mill Road – CDBG. Public Works Superintendent Dennis Medley gave a brief update on Carters Mill Road stating that Oxford Construction has completed mobilization of the

equipment and should start Friday putting down the prime on Beaver Circle. Asphalt should be complete by the end of the month and start the striping around the 1st of August.

Landfill Timber Management. County Administrator Breedlove stated that Southern Forestry Consultants will work out a plan for the landfill property and the property on Butler Ferry Road in detail and should have a recommendation for the Board to consider at the next commissioner's meeting.

Landfill Cell 4 Status. Chairman Loeffler recognized Landfill Manager Andrew Jones. Mr. Jones gave a brief update on the status of Cell 4 at the landfill stating that it was approximately 75% complete. Mr. Jones stated if the weather permits Cell 4 construction should be completed by August and come in under budget. Mr. Jones stated that the Bomag compactor was down due to employee negligence and would cost approximately \$35,000.00 to repair it. Mr. Jones stated the employee responsible for this damage was terminated and a plan was put in action to prevent this from happening again. Commissioner Mosely made a motion to approve this repair. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

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 and is still being negotiated.

Waste Water Treatment Plant System Status at Industrial Park. Chairman Loeffler recognized Industrial Park Manager Eric Swain. Mr. Swain announced that the waste water treatment facility underwent a Compliance Evaluation inspection from EPD and was found to be in compliance with our national pollutant discharge elimination system permit. EPD was pleased with the changes and upgrades that have been made since 2012. Mr. Swain also gave a brief update on the rehabilitation construction at the water treatment high service building.

County Attorney Brown Moseley and County Administrator Gary Breedlove's Employment Agreements. Chairman Loeffler read aloud a letter written by County Attorney Moseley. Attached to the minutes is a copy of the letter. County Attorney Moseley recommended that the Board rescind the contract approved at the last commissioners' meeting on June 24, 2014 and consider a contract that terminates at the pleasure of the commission and does not contain the severance payment provision for the County Attorney.

Vice Chairman Brinson made a motion to rescind the contract for County Attorney Moseley that was approved at the last commissioners' meeting on June 24, 2014. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Vice Chairman Brinson made a motion to approve the new contract for County Attorney Moseley to expire June 30, 2015 with the language in the contract to stay the same as Brown Moseley's previous contract and without the severance payment provision. Commissioner Godwin seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Chairman Loeffler suggested that the Board change County Administrator Breedlove's contract to expire in 12 months, to allow the three new commissioners taking office in January 2015 a chance to give their input on both contracts.

Commissioner Mosely said he had been a critic of Col. Breedlove at times but credited him for helping improve the county's financial situation. Commissioner Mosely explained multi-year contracts that he has had as school superintendent as well as Dr. Rayfield who is the school superintendent for Decatur County. Commissioner Mosely said he was going to vote for this revision but his contention was that the original agreement with Col. Breedlove would stand up as legal and the bottom line was that Col. Breedlove has done a good job and deserves to stay. Commissioner Mosely encouraged the three incoming commissioners to judge county employees based on what they see and not what they have previously heard.

Commissioner Mosely made a motion to rescind County Administrator Breedlove's employment agreement that was approved at the last commissioner's meeting on June 24, 2015. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Vice Chairman Brinson made a motion to approve the new contract for County Administrator Breedlove that was the same as the one adopted by the commissioners on June 24, 2014, except that the term had been shortened from 18 months to 12 months, ending June 30, 2015. Commissioner Godwin seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Georgia Pines Facility Contract. The Board of Commissioners agreed to renew the Georgia Pines Facility Contract which states that the County will maintain and provide maintenance on the facility.

ACCG 100 Years Emphasis “You Are Why We’re Here” County Administrator Breedlove explained that this was a communications campaign for county residents that ACCG has developed to help county officials and staff increase awareness of programs and services. Col. Breedlove explained about ways our county and surrounding counties can get involved.

Consider Payment for Vehicle Damaged on Beaver Circle. County Attorney Moseley stated he received a letter from Brooklyn German stating that her car was damaged due to construction on Beaver Circle. Ms. German was asking for \$712.00 for damages. Public Works Superintendent Dennis Medley presented pictures of warning signs posted at both ends of the road and also had flagmen present during construction. Commissioner Smith made a motion to deny payment for this claim. Chairman Loeffler seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Supplemental Agreement from Department of the Corps of Engineers for Big Slough Park and Smith Landing. County Administrator Breedlove stated these were supplemental agreements to the Department of Army for the continuing operation of Big Slough Park and Smith Landing. These agreements add an additional ten years to the term of both leases. Commissioner Mosely made a motion to approve these agreements. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Approval of Errors and Reliefs Report from the Tax Commissioner. County Administrator Breedlove presented the Errors and Reliefs report from the Tax Commissioner for the Board’s approval. Chairman Loeffler stated he would like to see an explanation for all properties that are revalued in the future. Commissioner Mosely made a motion to approve the Errors and Reliefs Report presented. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Approval of Alcoholic Beverage License for Robert Estes – Faceville Community Store. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the alcoholic beverage license for Robert Estes pending an inspection by the Building Inspector. Commissioner Godwin seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Motorola Contract. Chairman Loeffler recognized E911 Director Tonya Griffin. Ms. Griffin stated this was a lease/purchase agreement with Motorola to upgrade the 911 phone system that was installed in 2002. Decatur County’s share is a little under \$43,000.00. Grady County Board of Commissioners approved their agreement at their commissioners’ meeting last night. Ms. Griffin stated this would not affect this year’s budget, the first payment would be due August 1, 2015. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve this contract with Motorola. Commissioner Sellers seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

COMMISSIONERS’ REMARKS

Commissioner Godwin announced there would be a Welcome Home Celebration for Miss Georgia, Maggie Bridges on Thursday, July 17, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. at the Kirbo Center. Commissioner Godwin thanked all the department heads for recognizing Col. Breedlove and for all that they do for Decatur County.

Vice Chairman Brinson stated as a team player he voted to reduce Col. Breedlove’s employment contract from 18 months to 12 months but stated that he would like to see Col. Breedlove remain the County Administrator through his term as Chairman. Vice Chairman Brinson said he had a wonderful working relationship with both Col. Breedlove and County Attorney Moseley and asked that the incoming commissioners get to know Col. Breedlove and Brown Moseley before making any decisions on their employment with the County.

Chairman Loeffler discussed Miss Georgia signs and a proclamation to be presented to Maggie Bridges at her Welcome Home Celebration.

Commissioner Smith stated he echoed what Commissioner Godwin and Vice Chairman Brinson stated about Col. Breedlove. Commissioner Smith stated that the County had a long road to hoe

but that Col. Breedlove had done a great job in working with the department heads and with the finances to get the County back on the right road. Commissioner Smith thanked Commissioner Mosely for agreeing to change the contracts so that it didn't obligate the incoming commissioners.

Commissioner Mosely discussed a van for the County Agent Office and directed County Administrator Breedlove to look for a van for them and have this item on the agenda for the next commissioners' meeting. Commissioner Mosely stated that the District Director has made some contact in Decatur County and stated that we could get another County Agent at a cost of \$20,000.00. Commissioner Mosely asked that this matter be discussed also at the next meeting.

County Attorney Moseley discussed Senate Bill 60 that was recently passed.

County Administrator Breedlove stated he was going to have County Agent Justin Ballew to give the commission some information on Farm Gate at the next commissioners' meeting. Col. Breedlove stated that Rick McCaskill has invited Craig Smith and himself to a round table discussion on Planning, Permitting and Industry.

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

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

Chairman Loeffler stated a litigation matter was discussed but no action was taken at this time.

Chairman Loeffler stated a board appointment was discussed. Commissioner Godwin made a motion to appoint Tony Cooper to the Workforce Board. Vice Chairman Brinson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Chairman Loeffler stated a personnel matter was discussed pertaining to the Planning Director. Vice Chairman Brinson made a motion to appoint Craig Smith as Planning Director. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and passed with a 5 to 1 vote. Chairman Loeffler, Vice Chairman Brinson, Commissioners Godwin, Smith and Sellers voted in favor. Commissioner Mosely opposed.

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

Approved: _____


Chairman

Attest: _____


County Clerk