

MINUTES

DECATUR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2015

PRESENT: CHAIRMAN DENNIS BRINSON, VICE CHAIRMAN PETE STEPHENS, COMMISSIONERS DR. BUTCH MOSELY, RUSSELL SMITH, RUSTY DAVIS AND GEORGE ANDERSON, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR GARY BREEDLOVE, COUNTY CLERK BEVERLY KING, COUNTY ATTORNEY BRUCE KIRBO AND NEWS REPORTER POWELL COBB.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Brinson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. After the call to order, Reverend Mike Albritton gave the invocation and all those assembled pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

AMENDMENTS / APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Mosely asked the board to approve the following amendment: Add Cedar Grove Cemetery. Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the agenda with this amendment. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

There were no special presentations.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chairman Brinson recognized Paul Trulock. Mr. Trulock spoke of concerns with the lack of communication between the Bainbridge City Council and The Decatur County Board of Commissioners. Mr. Trulock suggested that the Commissioners do a better job in looking after their own business. Mr. Trulock stated that a natural gas pipeline had already been planned. A grant between \$350,000 and \$500,000 was available to cover approximately half the cost of this pipeline. Mr. Trulock stated since no feasibility study was done, time will tell if this pipeline will be needed. Mr. Trulock stated that any piece of equipment that can run on natural gas can also be run on propane. Mr. Trulock stated the Commissioners were told by the County Administrator that part of the cost will be paid for by future tax revenue from the solar farm, and that it will be December 2016 before the County receives any tax revenues from these solar farms. Mr. Trulock stated a committee will be formed in the near future to continue to explore the possibilities of a combined City-County government and urged the commissioners to be supportive.

County Administrator Breedlove said he did not say the County would pay for the natural gas line with property taxes from the solar farms. Col. Breedlove stated he did say it would be energy to energy fee that we anticipate the fees from the north solar farm and the south farm. Also the upfront lease money from the south farm should accommodate the cost for the natural gas line. Although we had budgeted \$500,000 for this project.

Chairman Brinson recognized Richard Whigham. Mr. Whigham spoke of concerns of the need of the ditches being pulled on Bettstown Road. Mr. Whigham stated he would like to request to be put on the list for the GAB to be put on this road.

Chairman Brinson recognized Basil Lucas. Mr. Lucas said he thought the Solar Farm is a good asset for the County. Mr. Lucas questioned if the revenue from the solar farm would help lower property taxes.

Chairman Brinson stated that the County is not in a position to lower the millage rate due to the County is still borrowing money to pay bills and is still in debt. Chairman Brinson stated that the County is two years away from seeing any revenue from this project.

Chairman Brinson recognized Ted Snell. Mr. Snell spoke of economic growth and the rise and falling gas prices throughout the County. Mr. Snell spoke of the Transportation Funding Act, House Bill 170 and the changes that would reflect our area.

APPROVE MINUTES

Vice Chairman Stephens made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2015 commissioners' meeting. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Industrial Park Status. County Administrator Breedlove gave a brief update on the Industrial Park status on the personnel and the operations. Col. Breedlove also gave an update on Bainbridge Manufacturing and other industries at the Industrial Park and their anticipated gas demands.

Gas Pipeline Progress. Col. Breedlove stated that the County Policy on boring holes under the roadways was established several years ago to avoid citizens from boring under roads without having a professional perform the job and to require casing on any boring that went under roadways. To do that with the County's proposed gas line, which was not included in the original contract, would cost the County an additional \$25,000 to go under Bethel Road and Old Eldorado Road. Col. Breedlove recommended that the Board waive the current policy that would require them to case the gas line that goes under these two roads. Commissioner Mosely made a motion to waive the County's current policy requiring casing involving the County's current natural gas line. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Employee PTO / Sick Leave. County Administrator Breedlove stated that Dave Wills from ACCG took on this project to help us but has not given any recommendations yet.

Courthouse Tower. County Administrator stated that Doug Young with PDC Construction and Doug Griffin took the bell down from the Courthouse tower Monday morning. The bell is in very bad condition and Mr. Young is not sure if it can be refurbished. Col. Breedlove said he was waiting to hear back from Mr. Young on the status.

Solar Farm Status. County Administrator Breedlove stated that Southern Power Company officially took over both solar projects and now is the sole owner of the "Decatur Parkway Solar Project". It is approximately 800 acres and the Decatur County Solar Project approximately 170 acres in the Industrial Park. They are starting to move the equipment in and are looking to hire approximately 300 people.

Cedar Grove Cemetery. Commissioner Mosely stated that at the last meeting he requested some grading work be done at the Cedar Grove Cemetery in Climax. Commissioner Mosely stated that this was a public cemetery and that people can be buried there for no cost. It is not a private owned cemetery; it is controlled by a Board of Directors. Commissioner Mosely stated that the Mayor had asked if the County would help with moving the road over a little to the right to facilitate more lots. Commissioner Smith made a motion to allow the Public Works Department to fix the road going into the cemetery. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. County Administrator Breedlove asked if it was on private property. Commissioner Mosely stated the deed is in no one person's name. A brief discussion followed. Chairman Brinson read a portion of the minutes of the October 28, 2014 meeting concerning a similar situation. A vote was taken and failed with a 3 to 3 vote. Commissioner Smith, Commissioner Mosely and Commissioner Davis voted in favor. Chairman Brinson, Vice Chairman Stephens and Commissioner Anderson opposed. Chairman Brinson directed the County Attorney to check out this situation to see what procedures needed to be done.

COMMISSIONERS / ADMINISTRATOR'S REMARKS

Vice Chairman Stephens thanked everyone for participating in this meeting. The County is facing a tremendous deficit and we will be working to get out of debt.

Chairman Brinson thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and voicing their concerns.

Commissioner Smith thanked everyone for coming out and expressing their concerns.

County Administrator Breedlove stated the ACCG District Day has been cancelled. The Hospital Authority dinner invitation has been changed from March 10th to March 26th at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to go into executive session to discuss Personnel and Litigation. Vice Chairman Stephens seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

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

Chairman Brinson stated the Board discussed a litigation matter and no action was taken. The Board discussed a personnel matter and no action was taken.

County Administrator Breedlove recommended the Board approve the crushing of 10,000 tons of concrete at \$5.40 per ton. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve this request. Vice Chairman Stephens seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

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

Approved: 
Chairman

Attest: 
County Clerk