

MINUTES

DECATUR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2015

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

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED 2015-2016 BUDGET

Chairman Brinson called the Public Hearing to order at 8:30 a.m. After the call to order, Chairman Brinson gave the invocation and all those assembled pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Alan Thomas. County Administrator Thomas introduced Perry Henry, who was interim County Administrator during the budget process. Mr. Henry highlighted certain areas of the budget and discussed them in length, including the Service Delivery Strategy Agreement. Mr. Henry stated that some of the departments within the County was moved into an enterprise fund and explained how that works. Mr. Henry discussed some issues with the Decatur County Prison and the Golf Course. Mr. Henry stated if it wasn't for the Service Delivery Strategy Agreement there would not be a tax increase for the County. Mr. Henry explained the millage rate increase stating that both the City of Bainbridge and Decatur County taxpayers will see an increase of 1.5 mills to fund the Recreation Authority and up to 2 mills of property tax to the Memorial Hospital to help cover the costs of providing indigent care. Mr. Henry stated he is waiting on a report from the Hospital Authority to determine what their millage rate will be. Mr. Henry stated that the millage rate increase will likely be 3.5 mills for the City of Bainbridge property owners and approximately 3.9 mills for people who own property outside of Bainbridge City limits. Property owners outside of the City of Bainbridge will have that additional increase due to funds for fire and rescue and other county only services.

With there being no further discussion, Commissioner Anderson made a motion to close this public hearing. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Chairman Brinson welcomed Alan Thomas to the first regular scheduled board meeting as the County Administrator. Chairman Brinson stated that Alan has hit the ground running and has already proven to be an asset to this County. Chairman Brinson asked everyone to welcome Alan by giving him a round of applause.

Chairman Brinson welcomed Mayor Edward Reynolds and Council Woman Glennie Bench.

Mayor Edward Reynolds thanked the Board of Commissioners on behalf of the Recreational Authority in partnering with the City to offer this great opportunity for the quality of life for the citizens of Decatur County. Mayor Reynolds stated these programs that will be offered through this Recreational Authority will give opportunities for all citizens throughout the county. Mayor Reynolds stated the City was opened to continue negotiations in going forward with this project.

Council Woman Glennie Bench thanked the Board of Commissioners and the citizens of Decatur County on behalf of the Hospital Authority for agreeing to assist the Hospital with the cost of indigent care, which will help the hospital make much needed improvements to the facility and to purchase equipment. Many of the needed facility improvements and equipment purchases have been delayed due to having to use the funds to cover the operational expense of providing care to

the indigent patients. Mrs. Bench said this shows that we can all work together to reach a common goal.

AMENDMENTS / APPROVAL OF AGENDA

County Administrator Alan Thomas asked the board to approve the following amendment: Add Under New Business; Consideration of Request from Keep Decatur County Beautiful. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the agenda with this amendment. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

There were no Special Presentations.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chairman Brinson recognized Basil Lucas. Mr. Lucas asked some questions that pertained to the proposed 2015-2016 budget. Mr. Perry Henry answered some of his questions and explained some of his concerns. Mr. Lucas suggested that the County hold some classes to help educate citizens on the budget. Chairman Brinson suggested that Mr. Lucas contact Perry Henry when the next Civics 101 meeting would be held and that he could possibly come to the meeting and answer some of their questions and help them better understand the budget and how their tax dollars was spent.

APPROVE MINUTES

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the Commissioners' meeting held July 28, 2015. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

SIPS. Vice Chairman Stephens stated that he talked with Development Authority Director Rick McCaskill last week concerning the update on SIPS and the removal of the debris. Vice Chairman Stephens stated that Mr. McCaskill said there has been some movement on the removal of the debris and asked that the Board give them another two weeks.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Approval of Invoice for Report on Fact Findings at DCCL. Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Alan Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated he requested this item be put on the agenda because he did not initiate this service. Mr. Perry Henry stated this fact finding service was requested after some former employees of the Decatur County Prison made some allegations of misconduct and mismanagement by the Warden. Mr. Henry stated the County saved a lot of money by going this route. Commissioner Mosely made a motion to approve the invoice from Ed Mercer in the amount of \$3,060.00. Vice Chairman Stephens seconded the motion. A vote was taken and approved with a 4 to 1 vote. Commissioner Anderson opposed. Commissioner Anderson disagreed with the final invoice, claiming that original discussions with Mr. Mercer was for \$1,000.00. Commissioner Smith abstained from voting because of his involvement in bringing Mr. Mercer on board for the investigation.

Consider Waiving Landfill Fees for Bainbridge Bikefest. Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Alan Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated this is a request that is made yearly by the Bainbridge Bikefest. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Stephens said the Board needs to look at the cost and consistency of the give-away programs the County participates in. A vote was taken and approved with a 5 to 1 vote. Commissioner Anderson opposed.

Consider Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between Decatur County and the Hospital Authority. Chairman Brinson recognized Perry Henry and County Attorney Bruce Kirbo. Mr. Henry stated this project started after the Service Delivery Strategy Agreement took place. Mr. Henry stated this memorandum further details what is expected of the Hospital

Authority and Decatur County. County Attorney Bruce Kirbo said that although the Service Delivery Strategy Agreement was clear as to what Decatur County was responsible for in regards to the hospital, the cooperation of the Hospital Authority in agreeing to this memorandum of understanding demonstrates how two entities can work together and it also benefits the citizens of Decatur County. Commissioner Mosely made a motion to approve this Memorandum of Understanding. Vice Chairman Stephens seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Approval of Request made by Keep Decatur County Beautiful. Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Alan Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that he had a discussion to possibly gift a recycle trailer that is housed at Bainbridge Public Safety to the City of Bainbridge to alleviate having the issue of liability for this trailer. Since then, Keep Decatur County Beautiful Board of Directors met and agreed this would be the best and appropriate action. City Manager Chris Hobby signed a letter indicating the City is willing to accept and maintain this trailer. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board approve to proceed with transferring ownership to the City of Bainbridge. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

COMMISSIONERS / ADMINISTRATOR'S REMARKS

Vice Chairman Stephens thanked Mayor Reynolds and Council Woman Glennie Bench for coming to the Commissioners Meeting and said he looks forward to having a working relationship with the City.

Commissioner Smith said he would also like to thank Mayor Reynolds and Council Woman Glennie Bench for coming to the meeting and looks forward to working with them. Commissioner Smith said with the two working together it could possibly help bring businesses to Decatur County.

Commissioner Mosely said he also would like to thank Mayor Reynolds and Council Woman Glennie Bench for coming to the meeting. Commissioner Mosely said he was proud of rebuilding a broken relationship between the City and County and he was going to do his part in keeping the relationship good between the two.

Commissioner Davis said he dittoed what the other commissioners have said and he would like to welcome Alan Thomas back. Commissioner Davis said Mr. Thomas has already done some good things for the County and looks forward to working with him.

County Administrator Alan Thomas said he appreciated all the compliments and support he has been given from the Board and the staff. Mr. Thomas stated he has an excellent staff and he looks forward to working with everyone and working together with the City and Hospital Authority.

Chairman Brinson said he would like to give a special welcome to County Administrator Alan Thomas and he looked forward to working with him in moving the County forward. Chairman Brinson thanked the City members for coming to the meeting and said he was grateful for the working relationship that has developed between the City and County.


Chairman Brinson recognized Carol Heard, the newly appointed Board of Elections supervisor.

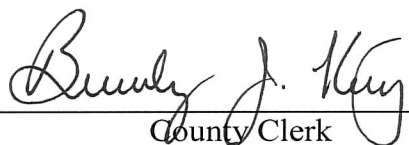
Commissioner Anderson made a motion to go into executive session to discuss Personnel. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

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

Chairman Brinson stated the Board discussed a personnel matter during executive session and no action is to be taken and this time.

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

Approved: 
Chairman

Attest: 
County Clerk