

MINUTES

DECATUR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2015

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

AMENDMENTS / APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

There were no Special Presentations.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no Public Participation.

APPROVE MINUTES

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Meeting held November 24, 2015. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

**Proposed Environmental Health Fees.** Chairman Brinson recognized Environmental Health County Manager Ansley Johnson. Mr. Johnson stated the Decatur County Health Department, Environmental Health Division is proposing to increase Environmental Health fees. Mr. Johnson stated the Environmental Health fees have not been increased in nearly 12 years due to the past downturn in the economy. As the County continues to grow, the demand for Environmental Health services have increased and as a result of this growth there are more inspections as well as increase in complaints. The proposed fee increase is comparable to fees charged by surrounding counties of similar size and population. Mr. Johnson explained in depth each fee schedule and the proposed increases. Mr. Johnson asked the Board to approve the proposed Environmental Health fees as presented. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Mosely made a motion to approve the proposed Environmental Health Fees presented by Mr. Johnson. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved. Attached to these minutes is a copy of the proposed Environmental Health Fees.

**Health Insurance – Taylor Benefits.** Chairman Brinson recognized John Taylor, Vice President of Client Services with Taylor Benefits. Mr. Taylor presented three quotes for the County's insurance renewal and recommended the Board approve the quote from HCC with an annual fixed

cost of \$416,536.31 showing expected claims at \$1,235,379.65 with an expected plan cost of \$1,651,915.96. Renewal premium for employee is \$103.40 and for family is \$252.43. County Administrator Thomas stated that the County is in negotiations with combining health insurance with the City of Bainbridge and Memorial Hospital in order to hopefully get a better price on insurance. If the County decides to go with a joint provider, the County can give Taylor Benefits a 30 day notice and drop out of this plan. Mr. Taylor agreed that the County could do this. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Smith made a motion to accept this proposal as recommended by Mr. Taylor. Vice Chairman Stephens seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Mr. Taylor stated under the Affordable Care Act, the County's group health plan is required to pay Transitional Reinsurance fee on plan years 2014 through 2016. This fee is temporary and assessed for each member or covered life under the health plan and are to be paid annually. The Transitional Reinsurance Fee was designed to provide funding to insurers that incur high claim costs for enrollees in the individual marketplace. This fee will be \$63.00 per member annually for 2014 and \$44 per member annually for 2015. The fee for 2016 have not yet been established. Self-funded plans are responsible for funding and paying the Reinsurance Fee. Decatur County owes for 2014 and 2015. For 2014 plan year the total lives for Decatur County were 240.97 and the fee was \$44.00 per covered live on the plan totaling \$15,180.90 and that amount needs to be before the end of year 2015. For 2015 plan year the total lives were 237.25 and the fee was \$44.00 per covered live on the plan totaling \$10,439.00 and needs to be paid by January 15, 2016. Vice Chairman Stephens made a motion to approve payment on the 2014 fees in the amount of \$15,180.90 and to check on the amount owed for 2015 to see how it would affect the County if they decided to combine health insurance with the City of Bainbridge and Memorial Hospital. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

**Consider Approval of Motor Grader for Public Works.** Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated this is a motor grader that was put out for bids for Public Works. County Administrator Thomas stated that two bids were received and recommended the Board approve the low bid from Yancey in the amount of \$217, 787.00. County Administrator Thomas stated that Yancey has agreed to give an interest rate of 2.19% on this piece of equipment along with two other pieces of equipment that was put out for bid if they were awarded the low bidder on all three pieces of equipment. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the low bid from Yancey in the amount of \$217,787.00. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

**Consider Approval of Compactor for Landfill.** Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated this is a compactor that was put out for bids for the Landfill that is past the 5 year buy-back plan. County Administrator Thomas stated that three bids were received and recommended the Board approve the low bid from Yancey in the amount of \$800,911.00. Flint Equipment Company has agreed to honor the trade-in allowance of \$168,062.00 on the compactor that is now at the landfill. Vice Chairman Stephens made a motion to approve this purchase from Yancey Brothers in the amount of \$800,911.00. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

**Consider Approval of Excavator for Landfill.** Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated this excavator was out of the range for the buy-back program but was damaged in an accident at the landfill. The County received a check from the insurance company in the amount of \$27,922.50 to replace the cab on this excavator. Due to the extensive damage done to this excavator, County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board replace it with a new Excavator and apply the money from the insurance company in the amount of \$27,922.50 toward the purchase of a new one. County Administrator Thomas stated two bids were received on a new excavator and recommended the Board approve the low bid from Yancey in the amount of \$310,370.00 with a trade in of \$67,600.00 which would make the amount to be financed \$214,847.50 at 2.19%. The buy-back amount would only have been around \$90,000.00. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve this purchase. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A brief discussion followed on tracking systems that would monitor the hours and maintenance on equipment. Jeff Rich with Yancey Brothers stated that all new equipment has GPS systems installed and can be utilized by just setting up a password. The Board agreed that the County should utilize this program. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

**Consider Approval of Holidays for County Employees.** Chairman Brinson recognized County

Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas presented the Board with a current list of holidays that is taken by the County employees. County Administrator Thomas stated that there has been some discussion on the number of holidays that are given to the County employees. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board approve the first two holidays on the list; New Year's Day and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and bring the remaining holidays before the Board to discuss at a later date. Commissioner Mosely made a motion to approve County Administrator's request and approve the first two holidays of 2016. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

**Consider Approval of Employee Performance Incentives.** Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated historically the Board has approved \$100.00 for full time employees and \$50.00 for part-time employees. County Administrator Thomas asked County Attorney Bruce Kirbo to look into this matter to make sure the Board of Commissioners could legally do this. County Attorney Kirbo stated recognizing employees' performance is legal as long as it stays within the budget. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve these Employee Performance Incentives. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

**Consider Canceling December 22, 2015 Commissioners' Meeting.** Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated it was traditional to cancel this meeting due to the Christmas Holidays. Commissioner Mosely made a motion to cancel the December 22, 2015 Commissioners' Meeting but note that the County Administrator could request to hold a Special Called Meeting if necessary. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

**Magistrate Judge Ralph Smith's Resignation.** Commissioner Mosely made a motion to accept Magistrate Court Judge Ralph Smith's resignation. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

**Internet Service.** Chairman Brinson recognized Commissioner Smith. Commissioner Smith and Vice Chairman Stephens both said they have had numerous complaints about the internet service from Turner Broadband in the unincorporated areas of the County. Some of the equipment used to provide internet to the County is attached to Decatur County towers. Commissioner Smith said he felt the County needs to have a contract with Turner Broadband to deliver quality internet service to the customers. Vice Chairman Stephens said this needed to be addressed, the citizens are not getting what their tax dollars paid for. County Attorney Bruce Kirbo said if a private company was using equipment on towers that belong to the County, there should be a contract between the two entities. The Board of Commissioners directed County Attorney Kirbo to begin drafting a contract with Turner Broadband to address these issues. The Board of Commissioners directed County Administrator Thomas to arrange a meeting with Shane Turner to allow him the opportunity to fix these problems.

**Discuss Litter Control.** Chairman Brinson recognized Commissioner Smith. Commissioner Smith stated after he received several complaints of roadside litter in his district, he thought the Board should discuss ways to control litter. Chairman Brinson stated it wasn't just a problem in the unincorporated area of the County but also within the City Limits. Commissioner Smith proposed the County designate a detail crew specifically for the task of litter cleanup. Commissioner Smith also suggested talking with Sheriff Griffin about writing citations for littering. Vice Chairman Stephens said the issue not only falls on irresponsible residents throwing trash on the sides of the road, but also an internal problem of getting the county employees to do what they are supposed to do. Chairman Brinson requested that the local newspaper do an article on litter control that might make the citizens aware of the problem. The Board of Commissioners plans to continue to develop ways to reduce the litter problem in Decatur County.

#### COMMISSIONERS / ADMINISTRATOR'S REMARKS

Commissioner Anderson thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and wished everyone a Safe and Merry Christmas.

Vice Chairman Stephens thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. Vice Chairman Stephens commended the Bainbridge Bearcats for a good season in football. Vice Chairman Stephens wished Judge Cato and Magistrate Court Judge Ralph Smith a Happy Retirement. Vice Chairman Stephens said he was very proud of the accomplishments that were made over the year of 2015 and thanked

County Administrator Thomas for accepting the position as County Administrator. Vice Chairman Stephens wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Smith said he dittoed what Vice Chairman Stephens stated and he too would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas. Commissioner Smith said he would like to thank the City Officials for continuing to cooperate with the County in joining services to help save the citizens of Decatur County money and provide better service.

Commissioner Mosely said he agreed with what has already been said and he would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Davis thanked everyone for attending the meeting and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

County Administrator Thomas said he wished everyone a safe and Happy Holidays.

Chairman Brinson said he too would like to commend the Bainbridge Bearcats for a great football season. Chairman Brinson wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year.

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

Approved:   
Chairman

Attest:   
County Clerk