

MINUTES

DECATUR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2016

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 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, Vice Chairman Pete Stephens gave the invocation and all those assembled pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

AMENDMENTS / APPROVAL OF AGENDA

County Administrator Alan Thomas asked that the Board approve the following amendments: Add Under Special Presentations; Audit Report by Ben Lee; Add to #4, Consider Approval of Resolution Conveying Land to the State of Georgia; Add #9, Consider Approval of Off Road Dump Truck Repair. Commissioner Smith asked that the Board approve the following amendment: Under Old Business 3B, Update on Turner Broadband. Vice Chairman Stephens made a motion to approve the agenda with these amendments. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Chairman Brinson recognized Ben Lee. Mr. Lee of Coastal CPA presented the Board of Commissioners with an audit report for Fiscal Year ending June, 2015. Mr. Lee stated an unqualified opinion, which is a clean opinion, was issued on the County's financial statements. Mr. Lee stated the County spent over \$1.9 million in federal funds this year. Mr. Lee stated there were no non-compliance in any of the federal laws or regulations over the expenditures of those funds discovered, so that resorted in a clean report. Mr. Lee stated, of all the funds the county has, the primary fund, the most important fund is the General Fund; that is what the County operates by. Mr. Lee explained fund balance, how the County manages the resources collected and the expenditures that are spent. Mr. Lee explained the fund balance deficit the County is showing and advised the Board to try and work to get that deficit to a positive number. Mr. Lee stated the Board should also work toward getting that number to recover to at least a minimum of six months of a budget year. Mr. Lee stated the only two ways to do that is raise revenues or cut expenditures to get to a black bottom line and to get to a positive unassigned fund balance. Mr. Lee stated this is the most important focus that the governing Board needs to understand and know.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chairman Brinson recognized Ted Snell. Mr. Snell asked that a moment of silence be given to the lives that were lost in the Pacific in WWII that occurred 71 years ago. Mr. Snell spoke of the concerns of the deficit in the audit report. Mr. Snell encouraged the Board of Commissioners to do more to bring industry to Decatur County to help bring in more taxes to avoid raising property taxes again.

APPROVE MINUTES

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Meeting held February 9, 2016. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Consider Approval of Sale of Land – Portion of Bettstown Road. Chairman Brinson recognized County Attorney Bruce Kirbo. County Attorney Kirbo stated that in a meeting held on January 27, 2004, the Board of Commissioners voted to close a portion of Bettstown Road. In a meeting held January 12, 2016, the Board of Commissioners declared this portion of Bettstown Road to be surplus property and put out for sealed bids. The bids were opened on February 10, 2016 at 4:10 p.m. and the high bidder was Donna Bryan with a bid of \$2,500.00. County Attorney Kirbo recommended the Board accept this bid and allow him to prepare the necessary deed to close out this transaction within 10 days. Commissioner Mosely made a motion to approve this recommendation by County Attorney Kirbo. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Termination of Lease Agreement – The Pines Golf Course. Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated the Recreational Authority voted to accept the Pines Golf Course effective July 1, 2016. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board terminate the current lease agreement with the Pines Golf Course effective June 30, 2016, allowing the Recreational Authority to take over July 1st. County Administrator Thomas stated that he has discussed this with Mr. Roland and he understands these procedures. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve this recommendation by County Administrator Thomas. Vice Chairman Stephens seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Turner Broadband Update. Chairman Brinson recognized County Attorney Kirbo. County Attorney Kirbo stated there was no progress since the last meeting this was discussed. County Attorney Kirbo stated that he has not heard from Shane Turner or received any additional information from him that is needed to draw up a contract. County Attorney Kirbo stated he will continue to work on this.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Approval of Resolution Conveying Land – Commodore Industrial Park. Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated this was a resolution that has unanimously been approved by the City of Bainbridge, conveying all land contained within the Commodore Industrial Park to the Development Authority of Bainbridge and Decatur County. County Administrator Thomas stated having this undeveloped land titled in the name of the Development Authority would expedite and improve the recruitment process and recommended the Board approve this resolution. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve this resolution. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Approval of Resolution Conveying Land to the State of Georgia. Chairman Brinson recognized Development Authority Director Rick McCaskill. Mr. McCaskill stated that the State of Georgia is interested in the development of a Trans-loading multimodal transportation site on approximately 28 acres at the Industrial Park. Mr. McCaskill stated in order to facilitate this project it is necessary that the Decatur County Board of Commissioners transfer ownership of this property to the State of Georgia. Mr. McCaskill stated the County would receive tax money from this project. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve this resolution. Vice Chairman Stephens seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Agreement for Insurance Brokerage Service. Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated the County has been working with the City of Bainbridge and Memorial Hospital in coordinating a Healthcare cooperative. County Administrator Thomas stated we are now at the point of having an agreement for Insurance Brokerage service with Forsyth Insurance Company. This agreement states that Forsyth will become agent on record and that a feasibility study will be completed by March 30th. This feasibility study should provide information to allow all three entities to decide whether to move forward with this Healthcare Plan or not. Any party may elect at its sole discretion and without penalty to cancel this agreement if the feasibility study does not reveal that a group purchasing arrangement will be to its advantage. Vice Chairman Stephens made a motion to approve this agreement. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Approval for Groundwater Monitoring Services – 309 Landfill. Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that Harbin Engineering has recommended this cost proposal for groundwater monitoring services at the Decatur County 309 landfill and that it complies with the EPD guidelines. The cost of this proposal is \$16,750.00. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve this proposal for Groundwater Monitoring services at the 309 landfill. Commissioner Mosely seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Transfer of Vehicles – Planning Department. Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas recommended transferring two Planning Department vehicles; a 2002 Ford F-150 and a 2005 Chevrolet C150 to the City’s building operation and building official. County Administrator Thomas stated that the City has already started performing inspections in the County. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the transfer of these vehicles. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Road Closure – Portion of Walls Road. Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas requested the Board of Commissioners authorize the County Attorney to proceed with the necessary steps in the closure of the west end of Walls Road. County Administrator Thomas stated there was one residence on that road. County Administrator Thomas stated that one owner owned the property on both sides of the road and is inclined to have this portion of the road closed. Vice Chairman Stephens made a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Approval of Off-Road Dump Truck Repair. Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that the landfill had a bad day with some problems with the scales, a flat tire and a blown engine on an off-road dump truck. County Administrator Thomas stated he received three bids for the off-road dump truck repair and recommended the Board approve the low bid from Flint Equipment in the amount of \$21,152.66. Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve this repair. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

COMMISSIONERS / ADMINISTRATOR'S REMARKS

Commissioner Davis thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and welcomed the candidates that were running for the upcoming commissioners’ districts. Commissioner Davis encouraged them to bring some ideas to the Board to help improve the County.

Vice Chairman Stephens also thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Commissioner Anderson thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and encouraged everyone to vote this year to get the right people in the right places that would help benefit Decatur County. Commissioner Anderson thanked Public Works Superintendent Dennis Medley for giving a good report and thanked all the taxpayers.

Chairman Brinson dittoed everything Commissioner Anderson. Chairman Brinson announced that all Decatur County Schools will be closed tomorrow due to the expected bad weather.

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

Approved:  _____
Chairman

Attest:  _____
County Clerk