

MINUTES

DECATUR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 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 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, Reverend John Thomas gave the invocation and all those assembled pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

APPOINTMENTS

Commissioner Smith made a motion to appoint Dennis Brinson as Chairman, Pete Stephens as Vice Chairman, Bruce Kirbo as County Attorney and Beverly King as County Clerk for year 2016. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

AMENDMENTS / APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Davis asked that the Board approve the following amendment: Add under New Business, the Pines Golf Course. County Attorney Bruce Kirbo asked that the Board approve the following amendment: Add under Executive Session, Litigation. Commissioner Anderson 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 asked that former City Councilman Luther Conyers come forward and he read aloud and presented Mr. Conyers with a Resolution on behalf of the Board of Commissioners. The Board of Commissioners each thanked Mr. Conyers for his many years of service.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chairman Brinson recognized Roger Lane. Mr. Lane stated he was a Commissioner for Seminole County and had recently been elected on the ACCG Board of Managers for District 10 which included Decatur County, and that he was available to them if they should need him.

Chairman Brinson recognized Lucas Basil. Mr. Lucas expressed concerns pertaining to the Recreational Authority. Mr. Basil stated that he thought they had too much authority. Mr. Lucas also spoke concerning the litter problems in Decatur County. Mr. Lucas suggested that the Board of Commissioners form a committee to help tackle the problems that exist.

APPROVE MINUTES

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Meeting held December 8, 2015. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Pataula Judicial Circuit Regional Drug Task Force. Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated this item was discussed in a recent Board of Commissioners' meeting and was tabled to allow the County Attorney to

change some of the language in the agreement to reduce some of the liability for Decatur County.

Chairman Brinson recognized Sheriff Griffin. Sheriff Griffin stated that the County Attorney has now changed some of the language in the agreement to reduce the liability for Decatur County as much as possible. Sheriff Griffin stated that he thought this action would help get a handle on the serious drug problem that this County has. Sheriff Griffin stated it would cost approximately \$30,000.00 for Decatur County to join this Task Force and that he would take this money out of the Sheriff Department's budget. County Attorney Kirbo stated that he thought this agreement now has the correct language to limit the liability for Decatur County as much as possible. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve this agreement to join the Pataula Judicial Circuit Regional Drug Task Force. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Sheriff Griffin presented the Board of Commissioners with a rebate check for \$3,500.00 from Georgia Power. Sheriff Griffin stated that Roy Reynolds recently changed out some of the light bulbs at the Sheriff's Department with LED bulbs which will result in saving money on the light bills. Georgia Power had this program promoting LED lighting and this was a rebate from Georgia Power for our participation in that program.

Turner Broadband – Shane Turner. Chairman Brinson recognized Shane Turner. Mr. Turner stated that it was brought to his attention that the Commissioners have been getting several complaints about Turner Broadband's services and the current arrangement with the county pertaining to a contract. County Attorney Kirbo stated there is no contract with Turner Broadband at this time. County Administrator Thomas stated that Mr. Turner was present at his request to explain how to improve his services. County Administrator Thomas stated at this time there is no contract between the County and Turner Broadband and never has been one. County Administrator Thomas stated that a contract needs to be produced as soon as possible. Commissioner Smith stated that speaking with Mr. Turner, all of the equipment needs to be upgraded, but he can't spend the money that needs to upgrade the equipment until he gets a contract. Commissioner Smith urged the Board of Commissioners to prioritize putting in place a contract that will provide better service for the residents. County Attorney Kirbo stated that he needed Mr. Turner to provide some sort of proposal as to what equipment that belongs to the County he wishes to continue to utilize, what services he will provide and the minimum standards. Once that is done, a contract can be produced that will not only benefit his company, but also benefit the County. Commissioner Mosely suggested that a third party consultant be a part of developing Decatur County's contract with Turner Broadband. Vice Chairman Stephens made a motion to appoint the County Attorney, the County Administrator, Mr. Turner and a consultant to get together and try to prepare a contract to be presented to the Board for consideration at the next meeting. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Approval of Intergovernmental Contract with City of Bainbridge for Vehicle Maintenance. Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated this agreement with the City of Bainbridge was approved at a previous meeting but did not have the Intergovernmental Contract prepared at that time. County Administrator Thomas stated a copy of the contract is now prepared for your approval. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve this Intergovernmental Contract with the City of Bainbridge for vehicle maintenance. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved. Commissioner Mosely encouraged County Administrator Thomas to look into more services the County and the City could merge to save money and better serve the citizens. County Administrator Thomas stated that more negotiations were already in place to combine more services.

Consider Approval of Holidays for County Employees. Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that some of the Commissioners expressed concerns of the number of holidays the County employees receive. County Administrator Thomas stated at the last meeting the Commissioners approved the first two holidays of the year. County Administrator Thomas presented the Board with a list of the current holidays and recommended exempting President's Day and Employee's Birthday from the holiday list. The Commissioners asked that information be gathered on what holidays the surrounding counties and the City of Bainbridge employees receive. The Board tabled this issue until the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Lease Agreement – Flint River Heights Access. Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated this was a standard agreement with the Corp of Engineers to continue the access for Flint River Heights. In the past, the agreement was for a term of 5 years and this agreement has now moved up to a term of 25 years. County Administrator Thomas stated the County has approved these contracts for approximately 20 years or more and recommended the Board approve this Lease Agreement. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve this Lease Agreement with the Corp of Engineers for 25 years. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Disposal of Salvage Vehicles and Equipment. Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas presented the Board with a list of salvage vehicles and equipment that is stored at the Industrial Park. County Administrator Thomas stated this is an eyesore for the Industrial Park and recommended the Board approve to list these vehicles and equipment on Govdeals.net to sale. If they fail to sale on Govdeals.net, advertise them locally to receive sealed bids. County Administrator Thomas stated there was also a trailer load of scrap wire and recommended to dispose of it the same way. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Approval of Invoice from Hall Booth Smith, P.C. Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated this is an invoice dated December 1, 2015 with a statement indicating that an invoice dated December 12, 2014 was never paid. County Administrator Thomas stated it was his understanding that the County never received this invoice. County Administrator Thomas stated he was not with the County at this time so that is why he was bringing before the Board for approval. Vice Chairman Stephens questioned why the firm waited a year to inquire about his invoice. County Administrator Thomas stated the invoice did detail a description of the services with dates and times. Commissioner Davis made a motion to pay this invoice. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and approved with a 5 to 1 vote. Chairman Brinson and Commissioners Mosely, Davis, Smith and Anderson voted in favor. Vice Chairman Stephens opposed.

Consider Approval of Mileage Reimbursement Rate. Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated he received notice to communicate changes to State travel reimbursement rates for calendar year 2016. County Administrator Thomas stated the County has historically stayed in line with the State for mileage reimbursements. The rate went from \$0.55 per mile to \$0.54. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the change of the mileage reimbursement rate to \$0.54 per mile. Vice Chairman Stephens seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Contract with City of Bainbridge to Operate Natural Gas System. Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that he had requested that the City look at our Natural Gas System at the Industrial Park to see if they could provide assistance with the operations. County Administrator Thomas stated the City has massive years of operating gas systems and employees with experience and capabilities for performing work with the Natural Gas system. County Administrator Thomas presented a preliminary contract for the City to manage and operate the gas system while the County retains ownership. County Administrator Thomas stated this contract also calls for the County to enter into a contract with the Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia for subscribed regulatory compliance services. County Administrator Thomas stated the City will bill us for the cost only for their services. County Administrator Thomas stated he was very pleased with this agreement and recommended the Board approve it. Commissioner Mosely made a motion to approve this contract. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Commissioner Mosely confirmed that this was a labor contract at cost only. Vice Chairman Stephens also confirmed that the City will be providing services with the Natural Gas System but the County will retain ownership. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

County Administrator Thomas stated he has received some interests from some industries at the Industrial Park to allow the City to provide them sanitation services. County Administrator Thomas stated he spoke with the City Manager concerning this matter and they are also interested in

providing these services. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board approve the City of Bainbridge to provide sanitation services to industries at the Industrial Park. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve this request. Vice Chairman Stephens seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Mosely stated the County has had sanitation services with Seminole Sanitation for years with no limitations. Commissioner Mosely recommended that these services be put out for bid. County Administrator Thomas stated this matter has been discussed with the City and the County Attorney. County Administrator Thomas stated one option is to consider mandatory garbage services for the County as it is in the City. This would guarantee funds for the City or whoever provided the service to buy the equipment that would be necessary to provide the service.

Consider Appointment for Ga. Dept. of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities. (Larry Nichols) Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated he has discussed this matter with Mr. Nichols and he is willing to serve in this capacity if the Board so desires. Vice Chairman Stephens made a motion to appoint Larry Nichols to serve on this Board. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

The Pines Golf Course. Commissioner Davis stated the County has paid thousands of dollars of tax payer's money on this golf course and he would like to discuss whether or not the County wishes to close it or phase it out. After a brief discussion, the Board decided to table this matter and allow the Recreational Authority to discuss it at their next meeting. Commissioner Mosely opposed to closing it and recommended that the County see if someone might be interested in leasing it.

COMMISSIONERS / ADMINISTRATOR'S REMARKS

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 wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Vice Chairman Stephens thanked Chairman Brinson for serving as Chairman another year. Vice Chairman Stephens commended the Emergency Management team for the outstanding job they did on helping with the flood and encouraged everyone to get out and vote this year.

Commissioner Smith thanked County Administrator Thomas and City Manager Chris Hobby for working together to help better this community. Commissioner Smith thanked District 5 for all their support while serving as their commissioner and announced that he will not run again this year.

Commissioner Mosely stated that he has served as commissioner for 12 years and also announced that he has elected not to run again. Commissioner Mosely stated that he has enjoyed serving as commissioner and encouraged everyone to continue to work together in the future. Commissioner Mosely stated he too appreciated County Administrator Thomas and City Manager Chris Hobby for working together and making progress to help save this community money and provide better service.

Commissioner Davis thanked Commissioners Smith and Mosely for serving as commissioners and wished them well in their future endeavors. Commissioner Davis said he too would like to thank County Administrator Thomas and City Manager Hobby for working together and hopes that everyone will continue to work together in a positive way.

County Administrator Thomas thanked Commissioners Smith and Mosely for serving as commissioners and that he has enjoyed working with them. County Administrator Thomas commended all of the commissioners for their cooperation and look forward to continue working together. County Administrator Thomas stated that he appreciated Commissioner Mosely's statements concerning working together in the future.

County Administrator Thomas announced the Decatur County Firefighter's Banquet to be held January 16th at 6:00 p.m. at the Cloud Livestock Pavilion and encouraged the Board to attend to show their support.

Chairman Brinson listed some of the accomplishments made during the year 2015: The installation of Natural Gas Line; the Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades; began construction on Cell 5 at the landfill; the Courthouse Bell Tower restored; Repairs to the Courthouse roof; The Solar Farm at the Industrial Park; the Mutual Aid Agreement with the City for Fire Services; Combine services with the

City of Bainbridge for Vehicle Maintenance and just today the agreement with the City of Bainbridge for services with the operations of the Natural Gas System. Chairman Brinson stated these actions are proof that this Board of Commissioners are concerned with moving this County forward which will result in making Decatur County a better place to live. Chairman Brinson thanked all the commissioners and County Administrator Thomas for working together and that he looks forward to having a great year 2016. Chairman Brinson thanked the Board for electing him to serve another year as Chairman. Chairman Brinson announced Monday, January 18th the Martin Luther King celebration will be held starting at the Courthouse and convene at Hutto Middle School. Chairman Brinson encouraged everyone to participate in those services.

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

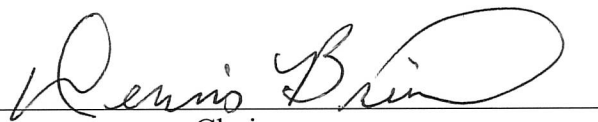
After the executive session the Commissioners assembled back in the board room. Vice Chairman Stephens made a motion to go into regular session. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

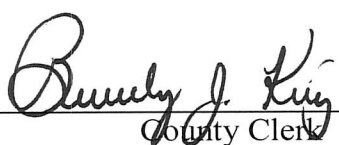
Chairman Brinson stated during executive session the Commissioners discussed some real estate matters. Commissioner Davis made a motion to declare the portion of Bettstown Road that was abandoned by the Board of Commissioners to be surplus property and put out for sealed bids. Vice Chairman Stephens seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to declare 850 Pearl Street that was acquired through a tax sale to be surplus property and put out for sealed bids. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Chairman Brinson stated during executive session the Commissioners discussed a personnel matter. Vice Chairman Stephens made a motion to announce Gordon Screen as a sole candidate for the Warden position at the Decatur County Prison. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

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

Approved: 
Chairman

Attest: 
County Clerk