

MINUTES

DECATUR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM

TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 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, Reverend Bernard Burke 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

Lindsey Hayes – Decatur County 4-H - (Introduce New County Agent). Chairman Brinson recognized Lindsey Hayes. Mrs. Hayes introduced the new County Agent, Ty Torrance. Mrs. Hayes stated that Mr. Torrance comes with a Bachelor's degree in Horticulture and a Master's degree in Plant Protection. Mr. Torrance will start as the new County Agent on May 1, 2016. Mr. Torrance said he was glad to be in Decatur County and looks forward to working and meeting with everyone. Mrs. Hayes introduced the 4-H students that were participants in the recent 4-H competition. Mrs. Hayes stated they had 31 participants and out of those 31, 20 received first place. Mrs. Hayes stated the mission of Decatur County 4-H is to assist youth in acquiring knowledge, developing life skills, and forming attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive and contributing members of society. Decatur County 4-H strives to help its members build communication skills and leadership skills by participating in numerous events. Mrs. Hayes thanked the Board of Commissioners for their continued support.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chairman Brinson recognized Ted Snell. Mr. Snell spoke of ear marks in the Federal government and commented on their budget. Mr. Snell discussed adding a River Boat to the Boat Basin area to draw tourism in Decatur County. Mr. Snell again encouraged the commissioners to consider combining the two governments, the City and the County, to help save money.

Chairman Brinson recognized Roland Hebert. Mr. Hebert requested that the Board of Commissioners approve for the Public Works department to assist him in dumping some sand in piles so that he could spread it throughout the greens at the golf course. Mr. Hebert stated that the Recreation Authority voted to close the golf course and asked that the Board rescind their previous motion to transfer the golf course over to the Recreation Authority and consider renewing his contract to keep the golf course open. Mr. Hebert presented the Board with a budget for them to consider which is approximately \$14,000.00 less than last year's budget. Chairman Brinson stated that he did not like the way the Recreation Authority voted on closing the golf course without all the voting members present but that he did not think it would be beneficial to the County to rescind the Board's motion because the Recreation Authority has been established. Commissioner Mosely stated that he has always supported the golf course and he was in hopes that the Recreation Authority would have kept the golf course open for at least a year to see how it would do before considering closing it. Commissioner Davis stated that he couldn't see having over \$90,000.00 come out of the Recreation Authority's budget for a golf course that just a few people use. After a brief discussion the Board agreed to table this issue until the next commissioners' meeting.

Chairman Brinson recognized Gary Breedlove. Mr. Breedlove gave some background information on a Town Hall meeting put on by the City of Bainbridge on services approximately 18 to 20 months ago. The City presented their budgetary numbers, including the budget for recreation, listing 1197 participants, which estimated about \$1000.00 per participant. Mr. Breedlove compared those figures to Roland Hebert's figures for the golf course. Mr. Breedlove spoke of the operation and maintenance of portion of the county roads that are in the City limits that the City of Bainbridge took over during the Service Delivery Strategy which the County now pays the City \$125,000.00 per year to maintain. Mr. Breedlove stated the County is funding the City five times what the County's Public Works Department is getting for their roads per mile.

APPROVE MINUTES

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Meeting held April 12, 2016. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing held March 22, 2016. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Consider Approval for Sale of Walls Road Tract to R.R. Heard Farms, Inc. Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated the Board recently held a Public Hearing and voted to close a portion of Walls Road. County Administrator Thomas stated that all legal procedures with this closure have been taken and this tract of Walls Road was advertised for sealed bids. There was one bidder, Glen Heard with R.R. Heard Farms, Inc. in the amount of \$1,000.00. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board accept this bid. Vice Chairman Stephens made a motion to accept this bid for this tract of Walls Road. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Sheriff Wiley Griffin – City of Climax. Chairman Brinson recognized Sheriff Wiley Griffin and the Mayor of Climax, Charles Haddock. Sheriff Griffin stated that recently the City of Climax closed their police department and since then Decatur County Sheriff's department has taken over the law enforcement for them. Sheriff Griffin stated that by Georgia Law, his department cannot enforce their city ordinances without a contract with the City of Climax. Mayor Haddock stated he would like to keep the city ordinances that are in place because it provides a level of comfort for his citizens. After a brief discussion the Board of Commissioners directed County Attorney Bruce Kirbo to meet with Sheriff Griffin and Mayor Haddock to draw up a contract that would allow the sheriff's department to enforce these ordinances for the City of Climax. Mayor Haddock commended Sheriff Griffin for sending letters out to all of his citizens providing them with their contact information after they took over the law enforcement for the City of Climax.

Consider Health Care Provider. Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that the County, the City of Bainbridge and Memorial Hospital have been in several meetings discussing a proposed healthcare cooperative that will help save money. County Administrator Thomas recognized Scott Forsyth with Forsyth Insurance. Mr. Forsyth said the idea is to consolidate with one plan, have fewer administrators working the plan and have more people on the plan, which gives you better access to reinsurance costs. Mr. Forsyth stated among the major goals during the construction of the plan was to drive more people to Memorial Hospital which will be offering a discount for healthcare services to those on the cooperative plan, which would help drive claims cost down. Employees have the option to use other hospitals, if they choose, however, if Memorial Hospital offers that service, then employees will pay a higher out of pocket cost for those same services at other hospitals. Mr. Forsyth stated there will be no change in cost per pay period for employees and the benefits would pretty much stay the same. However, there are some improvements including adding an extra benefit; Long Term Disability. Mr. Forsyth stated that Decatur County employees will continue to offer a wellness program similar to the program that exists now whereby employees can deduct credits toward their deductible. Life Insurance will stay the same except for employees earning more than \$50,000 per year, they will receive an enhance life insurance benefit equal to 1x their salary.

The proposal includes a switch from First Health PPO to Blue Cross Blue Shield, which will lower claims costs by an average of 6% to 8% through better discounts under Blue Cross Blue Shield. This plan will provide a separate TPA to help provide data which is key in keeping costs down. This proposed plan presented shows a projected savings of \$176,838.00 the first year. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Smith made a motion to accept this proposed health care plan to begin July 1, 2016 and to cancel Decatur County's existing health care policy effective June 30, 2016. Vice Chairman Stephens seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Approval of Intergovernmental Contract for Animal Control Services. Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that the County currently uses a guard from the prison for animal control services and when he has to go out on a call it leaves the prison a guard short which is not an efficient way to do this service. County Administrator Thomas said he discussed this issue with the City Manager and came up with this intergovernmental contract. For the City to provide these services, the County will pay the City monthly invoices for a part time (less than 30 hours a week) Animal Control Officer at \$12.56 per hour. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board approve this intergovernmental contract. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve this intergovernmental contract for Animal Control Services. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Approval of Access Control for Courthouse. Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that he frequently receives reports that the security access control system for the courthouse is failing. County Administrator Thomas said he believes this system was installed during the renovations in 1999 and needs to be upgraded. County Administrator Thomas stated request for bids were put out and the County received two different bids. One bid was to install a complete new system from Ace Technologies in the amount of \$54,910.00. The other bid was to upgrade the existing system from Hi-Tech System Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$14,852.76. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board approve the low bid from Hi-Tech System Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$14,852.76 to upgrade the existing system to provide security for the courthouse. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the bid from Hi-Tech System Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$14,852.76. Vice Chairman Stephens seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

COMMISSIONERS / ADMINISTRATOR'S REMARKS

Commissioner Anderson thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and reminded everyone to vote and make good choices to get the right people in the right places.

Vice Chairman Stephens dittoed what Commissioner Anderson had said. Vice Chairman Stephens welcomed Ty as the new County Agent and stated that he looked forward to working with him.

Commissioner Smith dittoed what has already been said by the previous commissioners.

Commissioner Mosely commended the 4-H students for a job well done and welcomed Ty as the new County Agent.

Commissioner Davis dittoed what all the other commissioners have said.

County Administrator Thomas welcomed Ty and stated that he looked forward to working with him. County Administrator Thomas commended Lindsey Hayes for her great leadership and stated that she represents Decatur County well.

Chairman Brinson thanked County Administrator Thomas, City Manager Chris Hobby, members of the Memorial Hospital and Mr. Forsyth for working diligently in putting together the health insurance program. Chairman Brinson also welcomed Ty as the County Agent and said he looked forward to working with him.

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

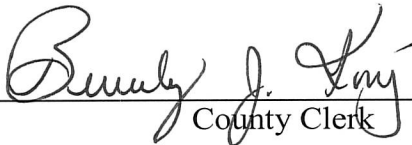
After the executive session the Commissioners assembled back in the board room. Commissioner Davis made a motion to go into regular session. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. A

vote was taken and unanimously approved.

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

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

Approved: 
Chairman

Attest: 
County Clerk