

## MINUTES

### DECATUR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

#### COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM

TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2016

PRESENT: CHAIRMAN DENNIS BRINSON, VICE CHAIRMAN PETE STEPHENS, COMMISSIONERS RUSTY DAVIS, RUSSELL SMITH AND GEORGE ANDERSON, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR ALAN THOMAS, COUNTY CLERK BEVERLY KING, AND NEWS REPORTER POWELL COBB.

#### INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

#### AMENDMENTS / APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

#### SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

**Rural Electric Washington Youth Tour.** Chairman Brinson recognized Savannah Padgett. Ms. Padgett stated that she was sponsored by Grady County EMC to represent Decatur County at the 2016 Washington Youth Tour. Ms. Padgett stated this trip brings together more than 1,600 ambitious young people from across the country for an incredible week in the nation's capital to further develop their leadership skills and ambitions. Ms. Padgett stated the Washington Youth Tour teaches high school students about U.S. History, government and the importance of public service. Ms. Padgett stated this was a very educational and great experience.

#### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chairman Brinson recognized Gary Breedlove. Mr. Breedlove made several comments pertaining to the City of Bainbridge's mileage rate and the City's recent arrangement to return to using the Decatur County landfill instead of hauling its trash to Campbellton. Mr. Breedlove stated this was a positive move in the right direction. Mr. Breedlove commented on the financial condition of Memorial Hospital, stating that they were having to borrow money to pay their employees. Mr. Breedlove stated the situation with the hospital is not going in the right direction. Mr. Breedlove stated he hoped decisions would be made in the near future that will be better for the citizens of Decatur County.

#### APPROVE MINUTES

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Meeting held July 26, 2016. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

#### OLD BUSINESS

**Turner Broadband Update.** Chairman Brinson recognized Shane Turner. Mr. Turner came before the Board to give an update on the Turner Broadband Internet Service. Mr. Turner stated the upgrades is not going as fast as he would like them to go. Mr. Turner stated that he has some investors that are really interested in his company and they are moving forward with the upgrades. Mr. Turner stated in order to keep his current subscribers he has opted to bring in the same type of equipment that he currently has. Mr. Turner stated this will get people back on line that has currently lost service. Mr. Turner stated that this is a temporary fix but that the LTE equipment should be in place within six months. Mr. Turner stated that he will begin a market strategy to try to get back the customers he has lost along with new customers. Mr. Turner stated this system should stabilize the internet service for the rural areas of Decatur County.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Consider Contract Award – FY-14 CDBG Project.** Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated this Block Grant originated in 2014 for Simmons McIntyre Road. County Administrator Thomas stated the County has already cleared and grubbed this road in preparation for this contract. County Administrator Thomas stated that two bids were received and opened July 29. County Administrator Thomas presented a bid tabulation of the two bids received. County Administrator Thomas also presented a letter from Watkins and Associates, the Consulting Engineers on this project, recommending that the Board of Commissioners enter into an agreement with the low bidder, Peavy & Son Construction Company to construct this project for street and drainage system improvements in the amount of \$471,571.00. Commissioner Anderson made a motion to award this contract to Peavy & Son Construction Company. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

**Discussion – Indigent Care Fund Deficiency (Memorial Hospital and Manor).** Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that he put this item on the agenda for informational purposes to the Board. County Administrator Thomas presented the Board a letter from the Hospital CEO Billy Walker, stating they have had their auditors complete the deficiency in the Indigent Care Fund with a total amount of \$1,347,745. County Administrator Thomas stated for comparison sake, last year that number was \$1,715,732. County Administrator Thomas stated that the Forest Land Protection is exempt from collection of taxes by the Hospital. County Administrator Thomas stated that this changed the millage rate that was previously figured for the Hospital. County Administrator Thomas stated that the millage rate he would be recommending for the Hospital's Indigent Care Fund at the next commissioners' meeting will be 1.58 mils, which last year it was 2 mils.

**Consider Approval for Janitorial Services Contract – USDA Office.** Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated this issue was voted on a couple of meetings ago. County Administrator Thomas stated that due to unforeseen circumstances, we were not able to continue with that contract. County Administrator Thomas presented the Board with another contract that is from the next bidder, and stated that this is the same contractor that has provided service from day one to the USDA office. County Administrator Thomas stated this contract is with Mister Professional in the amount of \$200.00 per week. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board approve this contract. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve this contract. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

**Consider Approval for Disposal of Items as Requested by the Board of Elections.** Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas presented the Board with a list of items that the Board of Elections has requested to dispose of. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board declare these items surplus property and allow them to be put on Govdeals to sale them. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve this request. Vice Chairman Stephens seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

**Consider Employment Agreement – Administrator.** Chairman Brinson recognized County Attorney Bruce Kirbo. County Attorney Bruce Kirbo stated that County Administrator Thomas' 1-year contract expired July 28. County Attorney Kirbo presented the Board with copies of a proposed agreement that meets all requirements and is agreeable with County Administrator Thomas. The term of this agreement shall be for a period of 12 months. Chairman Brinson made a motion to approve this agreement. Vice Chairman Stephens seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

## COMMISSIONERS / ADMINISTRATOR'S REMARKS

Vice Chairman Stephens thanked County Administrator Thomas for taking on the position as County Administrator and commended him for doing a great job. Vice Chairman Stephens commended County Administrator Thomas for mending the relationship with the City of Bainbridge. Vice Chairman Stephens requested prayers for CPA Perry Henry and his mother.

Commissioner Davis thanked County Administrator Thomas for doing a great job and stated he looked forward to working with him another year.

Commissioner Smith dittoed what the other commissioners have already said.

Chairman Brinson thanked County Administrator Thomas for doing a great job and getting the County going in the right direction.

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

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

Chairman Brinson stated that the Board discussed a personnel and litigation matter. Chairman Brinson stated that the County has received a request submitted by Officer Adam Mobley from the Decatur County Sheriff's Department for attorney fees that was inquired during an incident that occurred while performing his duties. Chairman Brinson stated that the Grand Jury has decided not to indict Officer Mobley, so he is requesting that the County pay his attorney fees in the amount of \$1,000.00. Chairman Brinson stated that the Board has the authority to review these requests on an individual case by case basis. Commissioner Anderson made a motion to pay the attorney fees in the amount of \$1,000.00. Commissioner Smith 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