

MINUTES

DECATUR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 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, COUNTY ATTORNEY BRUCE KIRBO 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, Chairman Brinson gave the invocation and all those assembled pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

PUBLIC HEARING – LASLIE ROAD

Chairman Brinson opened the Public Hearing then recognized County Attorney Bruce Kirbo. County Attorney Kirbo stated in a previous meeting, the Board of Commissioners approved for him to move forward with the procedures to close a portion of Laslie Road. County Attorney Kirbo stated that he had placed the advertisement in the local newspaper as required by law but needed to clarify a small error that was made in that advertisement. County Attorney Kirbo stated that he had identified a starting point as being the intersection of Laslie Road and County Road 241 and that should have been State Road 241. Chairman Brinson recognized Attorney Ben Bush. Mr. Bush stated that he was attending the public hearing on behalf of the property owners that own the property adjoining the portion of Laslie Road that is being considered to close and to answer any questions that anyone might have. Chairman Brinson opened the floor for comments. There being no comments, Vice Chairman Stephens made a motion to close the Public Hearing and enter back into the regular meeting. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

AMENDMENTS / APPROVAL OF AGENDA

County Administrator Alan Thomas asked the Board to approve the following amendments: Remove # 2 on the Agenda; Turner Broadband Update, Mr. Turner was not able to attend the meeting; Add # 10 to the Agenda; Consider Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Bainbridge for Animal Control Services. County Attorney Bruce Kirbo asked the Board to approve the following amendment: Add # 2 to the Agenda; Consider Approval of Closure on Portion of Laslie Road, Declare it Surplus Property and Authorize for Public Sale. Vice Chairman Stephens asked the Board to approve the following amendment: Add # 11 to the Agenda; Discuss Forming a Committee to Study Decatur County's Personnel Policies. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the agenda with these amendments. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

There was none to be presented.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chairman Brinson recognized Marcus Close. Mr. Close stated that he lived in Meadowbrook Subdivision and had several problems in that neighborhood. Mr. Close expressed concerns with the lot adjoining his property that needed to be cleaned up. Mr. Close stated that there was a water leak on Meadowbrook Drive. Mr. Close also expressed concerns with two holding ponds within the Meadowbrook Subdivision, stating they were not helping with the flooding situation in that neighborhood. County Administrator Thomas explained that due to flooding, FEMA had bought out two homes in this neighborhood, the County removed those homes and built those holding ponds on that property to alleviate or help with these flooding problems. County Administrator Thomas stated this neighborhood is in a low area and has had flooding problems for years. After a brief discussion, Chairman Brinson asked Mr. Close to get with Public Works Director Dennis

Medley to discuss these problems and see if Mr. Medley could help resolve any of these problems.

APPROVE MINUTES

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Meeting held October 25, 2016. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Consider Approval of Closure of a Portion of Laslie Road, Declare this Surplus Property and Authorize for Public Sale. Commissioner Anderson made a motion to abandon this portion of Laslie Road, declare it surplus property and to advertise for public sale. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Decatur EMS Annual Report. Chairman Brinson recognized Randy Williams. Mr. Williams presented to the Board an annual report on the Decatur County EMS to include; employee status, number of ambulances on hand, equipment upgrades, calls and response times, training and education. All the commissioners commended Mr. Williams on the excellent comments they have received and the great reviews. Chairman Brinson thanked Mr. Williams for a great partnership and for their interest in joining Decatur County to provide these services.

Consider Bid Award – Landfill Well Abandonment / Installation and CQA Services. Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Alan Thomas. County Administrator Thomas provided the Board with a bid tabulation of proposals received for the Well Abandonment/Installation and CQA Services for cell 5 construction and S. R. 309 landfill. County Administrator Thomas stated that Harbin Engineering has reviewed these proposals and recommends the County award Geotechnical & Environmental Consultants, Inc. both contracts in order to receive the 2% discount GEC has offered. Harbin Engineering recommends that the County only award Items #1 and #2 from the Well Abandonment & Installation and Task #3 to be awarded at another time should these supplemental tasks become necessary for the corrective action strategy at Decatur County S.R. 309 landfill. County Administrator Thomas stated the amount of this contract is \$179,212.60. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve this contract. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Personnel Policy Amendment. Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Alan Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated as the personnel policy is now, all full-time, regular employees hired before December 1, 2012, was given their annual leave time (PTO) in advance on the 1st of each year. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board approve for all full-time, regular employees hired before December 1, 2012 accrue leave monthly and their PTO will accrue on the last day of each month, in proportion to the length of continuous employment. County Administrator Thomas stated the other amendment to consider is to allow the employees on December 31 of each year, to carry up to 120 hours of PTO time over into the next year. Any unused PTO hours above 120 hours will transfer into their sick bank. As it is now, employees can carry only 24 hours over into the next year, and any unused PTO hours above 24 hours was transferred into their sick bank. County Administrator Thomas stated the last thing is not a change but only to clarify that PTO time is accrued on the contingency of the employee working, meaning you don't accrue PTO time when you are not working. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board approve these amendments. Vice Chairman Stephens made a motion to approve these amendments as stated. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Insurance Enrollment Requirement. Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated this item was put on the agenda to clarify the Board's intent on their motion and approval made in a meeting held July 23, 2013. County Administrator Thomas explained that the Board approved to eliminate funding for insurance for elected officials at the appropriate legal time through a resolution and then the Board specifies only four elected officials. County Administrator Thomas stated that he believed that during that time some of the elected officials were informed that their insurance coverage would be cancelled when their specific term ended and that term is December 31, 2016. County

Administrator Thomas stated that he has already had one elected official to call and inquire about their insurance that should end on December 31, 2016 and another one wanted to be added to the County's insurance that had previously been told that their position would not be awarded the insurance benefit. County Administrator Thomas stated that he has discussed this with the County Attorney and they both agree that this issue needs clarification and to know what the intent of that motion was at the time it was made. After a lengthy discussion, the Board of Commissioners agreed to table this issue to allow the County Administrator and the County Attorney to discuss this matter and bring a recommendation before the Board at the next commissioners' meeting.

Consider Approval of Alcohol Beverage License for Scott's Grocery Store, Applicant- Ken Dollar. Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated this was an alcohol beverage license for Ken Dollar which is the new owner of Scott's Grocery Store located on Vada Road. County Administrator Thomas stated that Mr. Dollar has met all the requirements necessary and is in compliance with the Decatur County Alcohol Beverage Ordinance. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve this license for Ken Dollar. Vice Chairman Stephens seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Approval of Lease Agreement with the District Attorney / Victim Services. Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated this is a lease agreement with the District Attorney and Victim Services for the office space they occupy at the Courthouse Annex to include water and electricity. County Administrator Thomas stated the amount of the lease is the same as last year, \$1,200.00 per month and recommended the Board approve this agreement. Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve this lease agreement. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Request from Ga Dept. of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that he received a letter requesting the Board of Commissioners appoint someone to serve on the Region 4 Advisory Council for the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities to represent Decatur County. The seat was previously held by Ms. Susan Steen who resigned. County Administrator Thomas recommended that the Board look for any persons interested in serving on this Board.

Consider Animal Control Services Agreement with the City of Bainbridge. Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that May of this year the Board of Commissioners approved an Intergovernmental Agreement for Animal Control Services with the City of Bainbridge. At that time the agreement was for the County to fund up to 30 hours per week for a part-time position. County Administrator Thomas stated because of the high volume of calls for animal control services we now need a full-time position. County Administrator Thomas presented the Board with a proposed Intergovernmental Agreement for Animal Control Services with the City of Bainbridge that provides a full-time position, 40 hours per week. County Administrator Thomas stated the individual that holds this position is already an employee with the City that will be moved from part-time to full-time with benefits. County Administrator Thomas stated the base compensation for providing these services, the County will pay the City monthly invoices for a full time (40 hours a week) Animal Control Officer at \$15.59 per hour plus the cost of benefits which comes to a yearly cost of \$54,523.01. County Administrator Thomas stated this is a budgeted line item in this year's budget and recommended the Board approve this agreement. Vice Chairman Stephens made a motion to approve this agreement with the City of Bainbridge. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Discuss Forming a Committee to Study Decatur County's Personnel Policies. Chairman Brinson recognized Vice Chairman Pete Stephens. Vice Chairman Stephens suggested that the Board of Commissioners form a committee to study the County's personnel policies and recommend changes to improve the policies. After a brief discussion, the Board of Commissioners recommended that the County Administrator and a couple of the commissioners, perhaps some of the newly elected commissioners, review the policies and bring back before the board any recommendations.

COMMISSIONERS / ADMINISTRATOR'S REMARKS

Commissioner Anderson thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and reminded everyone that today was election day and everyone needs to get out and vote.

Vice Chairman Stephens encouraged everyone to vote. Vice Chairman Stephens recommended everyone study the amendments that are on the ballot and make wise decisions when voting.

Commissioner Smith agreed with the comments from Commissioner Anderson and Vice Chairman Stephens. Commissioner Smith encouraged everyone to exercise their right and vote.

Commissioner Davis thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Chairman Brinson thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and dittoed what the other Commissioners have said.

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

Approved: 
Chairman

Attest: 
County Clerk