

MINUTES

DECATUR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 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 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.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

County Administrator Alan Thomas asked the Board to approve the following amendments: Remove # 3 on the Agenda; Turner Broadband Update, Mr. Turner was not able to attend the meeting; Add # 10 to the Agenda; Authorize the Newly Elected Tax Commissioner to accept checks effective January 1, 2017. Vice Chairman Stephens made a motion to approve the agenda with these amendments. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

There was none to be presented.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no Public Participation.

APPROVE MINUTES

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Meeting held November 22, 2016. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Laslie Road Property Bid Consideration. Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Alan Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated at the meeting held on November 8, 2016 the Board of Commissioners declared a portion of Laslie Road as surplus property and authorized for it to be put out for bids. County Administrator Thomas stated that one bid was received in the amount of \$1,000.00. County Administrator Thomas stated following the bid opening on November 28, 2016, the law firm representing the sole bidder informed him that he was authorized by the sole bidder to amend their bid to \$2,500.00. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board approve this bid in the amount of \$2,500.00. Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve this bid in the amount of \$2,500.00. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Insurance Enrollment Requirement. Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Alan Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated at the meeting held November 8, 2016, the Board of Commissioners charged himself and the County Attorney to discuss this matter and bring a recommendation back before the Board concerning insurance enrollment for elected officials. County Administrator Thomas stated at the last meeting held November 22, 2016, they presented their recommendation and they stand by that recommendation. County Administrator Thomas read aloud the recommendation. Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve this recommendation. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Stephens stated

that he had struggled with this matter, especially with the Magistrate Court Judge position. Vice Chairman Stephens stated that the County was paying the Magistrate Court Judge a salary that is set by the State as a full-time position. After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Anderson withdrew his motion and Commissioner Smith withdrew his second. County Attorney Kirbo stated as an alternative, in order for the elected officials to participate in the health insurance plan offered by Decatur County, these elected officials could self-certify that they devote 40 hours, or more, each week for the 52 weeks in a year in which they hold the elected office. Commissioner Mosely suggested that the commissioners table this issue and allow the County Attorney to craft the appropriate language, have him email this information to the commissioners and allow the commissioners do a phone vote prior to the holidays. County Administrator Thomas suggested that the five elected officials be identified in this language; Clerk of Court, Magistrate Judge, Probate Judge, Tax Commissioner and Sheriff. All commissioners agreed.

NEW BUSINESS

Recommendation from Board of Assessors – Amy Rathel. Chairman Brinson recognized Tax Assessor Amy Rathel. Ms. Rathel presented two maintenance contracts for yearly renewals to become effective January 1, 2017; Horne Enterprises which does the maintenance on the county's tax maps and Tinker & Associates which does the maintenance on personal property. Ms. Rathel stated both contracts have been budgeted with no changes in the contracts and both have been approved by the Board of Tax Assessors. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve both contracts. Vice Chairman Stephens seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Chairman Brinson recognized Joe Norman with Norman Appraisal Service. Mr. Norman stated that Norman Appraisal Service is currently under contract with Decatur County to assist the Board of Assessors in appraising taxable real property. The problem with the current maintenance contract is that only about 10-15% of all properties have been visited since 2011. The Department of Revenue requires counties to attempt to visit all properties every 3 years. Mr. Norman presented a timeline of recent contracts with Norman Appraisal Services and schedules of properties visited. Beginning in 2017 it will be 8 years since all parcels have been physically visited due to budget restraints with Decatur County. Decatur County has changed its appraisal computer software for the first time in approximately 40 years. Mr. Norman stated that this software system is supported by the Department of Revenue, but not all information transfers correctly, therefore they will be starting from scratch. If all parcels are not physically visited after the software update, it will be difficult to defend updated values. Most properties were only visited when permits were applied for, therefore there is a good chance new construction is being left off digest. Mr. Norman submitted a plan that will take the contract price from \$9,000 to \$14,000 per month, which will include visiting every property which will take 3 years to complete. Mr. Norman presented an updated billing cycle which will begin in January, 2017 and end December, 2019. The next 3-year cycle would begin in January, 2020. Chairman Brinson asked if these costs were allocated in the budget. County Administrator Thomas said unfortunately they were not but that the software upgrades were addressed in the budget and some funding was left over from that which will be applied to this cost. County Administrator Thomas stated that overall, there should be a budget amendment no more than \$20,000 that will be recommended at a later date. County Administrator Thomas stated the Board of Tax Assessors has recommended this request as well. Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve this contract. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

County Administrator Thomas commended Amy Rathel for completing her certification last week as Appraiser III.

Consider Approval – Victims of Crime Act Assistance Grant Program. Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated this is a memorandum of agreement between Prosecuting Attorney's Council of the State of Georgia, Decatur County and the District Attorney. County Administrator Thomas stated it is a federal grant for funding of prosecution based VOCA program with federal funds in the amount of \$190,773.00 and matching funds provided through the District Attorney's office in the amount of \$47,693.00. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board approve this agreement. Vice Chairman Stephens made a motion to approve this agreement. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Resolution Request – Superior Court. Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated on August 28, 2012, the Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution regarding the Superior Court Judges' Retirement of the South Georgia Judicial Circuit establishing supplemental retirement for the Superior Court Judges. County Administrator Thomas stated this resolution has been revised with no significant changes. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board approve this resolution. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve this resolution. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Approval of Employee Performance Incentive. Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated historically the Board has approved \$100.00 for full time employees and \$50.00 for part-time employees that has completed their 90-day probation period, excluding all elected officials. Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve this request. Vice Chairman Stephens seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Appointments. Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas presented the Board with a list of Board appointments to consider. County Administrator Thomas stated all the existing members of these Boards have been contacted and have agreed to serve an additional term. Commissioner Davis made a motion to reappoint all the members of the Boards that were listed. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved. Attached to the minutes is a list of those Board appointments.

Authorize the Newly Elected Tax Commissioner to Accept Checks. Chairman Brinson recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated according to the Department of Revenue, section code; O.C.G.A. 45-5-146, the governing Board must authorize the newly elected Tax Commissioner the authority to receive checks effective January 1, 2017. Commissioner Smith made a motion to authorize the newly elected Tax Commissioner authority to receive checks effective January 1, 2017. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

COMMISSIONERS / ADMINISTRATOR'S REMARKS

Commissioner Anderson thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Commissioner Anderson thanked Commissioners Mosely and Smith for their years of service, stating they did a good job and will be missed.

Vice Chairman Stephens thanked commissioners Mosely and Smith for their many years of service. Vice Chairman Stephens said it was a pleasure serving on the Board with both commissioners and wished them well in their future endeavors. Vice Chairman Stephens thanked all the County employees for their hard work in 2016 and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Smith thanked everyone for their support in his eight years of service. Commissioner Smith said he enjoyed working with his fellow commissioners, stating the last two years have been fun. Commissioner Smith thanked his wife for her standing beside him over the years. Commissioner Smith thanked County Administrator Thomas and all the county employees for their good relationship and for all their support.

Commissioner Mosely stated that he was elected to the Board of Commissioners in 2004, prior to that he was the County's elected School Superintendent and at 25 years old, he won a seat on the Climax City Council by a vote of 99 to 1. He said that he always wanted to know who that one vote against him was. Commissioner Mosely praised his wife and family for all their support they have given him in his years of serving the public. Commissioner Mosely stated his many years in public service have been a labor of love. Commissioner Mosely thanked County Administrator Thomas and all the County staff for their support and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Davis thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and wished everyone a Merry Christmas. Commissioner Davis praised Commissioners Mosely and Smith for helping to move the County through some difficult times. Commissioner Davis thanked them for their leadership and said they will be missed.

County Administrator Thomas stated that he appreciated the opportunity to serve with both Commissioners Mosely and Smith and wished them well in their future endeavors.

Chairman Brinson presented both Commissioner Smith and Commissioner Mosely with an engraved gravel stating the years they served on the Board of Commissioners. Chairman Brinson said it was a

pleasure serving with both commissioners Smith and Mosely and they would be missed.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to go into executive session to discuss 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. 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 that the Board discussed a litigation matter during executive session but no action was taken at this time.

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

Approved:  _____
Chairman

Attest:  _____
County Clerk