

MINUTES

DECATUR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2017

PRESENT: CHAIRMAN PETE STEPHENS, VICE CHAIRMAN DENNIS BRINSON, COMMISSIONERS RUSTY DAVIS, STEVE BROCK, GREG MURRAY 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 Pete Stephens called the regular scheduled meeting to order at 7:00 p.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.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

There were no special presentations.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chairman Stephens recognized Johnnie Mae Livingston. Ms. Livingston complained about the road conditions on Bettstown Road and stated her property is standing in water after the recent heavy rain. Commissioner Murray stated that he would visit that road with Public Works Superintendent Dennis Medley to see what they could do.

APPROVE MINUTES

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Meeting held January 10, 2017. Commissioner Brock seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Vice Chairman Brinson made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Called Meeting held January 12, 2017. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Turner Broadband Update – Shane Turner. Chairman Stephens recognized Shane Turner. Mr. Turner apologized for not attending the last two scheduled commissioners' meetings and introduced Jason Gauntt with Point Broadband. Mr. Gauntt stated that he expected to have a contract with Turner Broadband by the end of the week to merge with Turner Broadband. Mr. Gauntt said that Point Broadband will offer fast, reliable internet service to citizens in Decatur County. Mr. Gauntt said before upgrading the equipment, Mr. Turner and himself would sit down with the County Administrator and the County Attorney to work on a contract with Decatur County that would spell out the stipulations for Point Broadband to use county cell towers to mount its equipment on. Mr. Gauntt said he expected Point Broadband to be offering internet service to the citizens of Decatur County within the next four months.

NEW BUSINESS

Audit Report – Ben Lee. Chairman Stephens recognized Ben Lee. Mr. Lee of Coastal CPA presented the Board of Commissioners with an audit report for Fiscal Year ending June, 2016. Mr. Lee stated an unqualified opinion, which is a clean opinion, was issued on the County's

financial statements. Mr. Lee stated there were no non-compliance in any of the federal laws or regulations over the expenditures of those funds discovered. Mr. Lee reported that the budget resulted in having a positive variance of \$887,819.00 for the year which is a result of good budgetary management. Mr. Lee said the trend for the County needs to continue to have growth in the unassigned fund balance of the general fund. Mr. Lee stated that the general rule for a government is to have a minimum of six months of budgeted expenditures in the unassigned fund balance. Mr. Lee encouraged the Board and the County staff to continue to have good budgetary management in order to reach that goal. Commissioner Anderson made a motion to accept the audit report. Vice Chairman Brinson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved. Chairman Stephens commended County Administrator Thomas for heading the County in the right direction with his leadership.

Presentation by Heidi Penny to Consider Memorandum of Understanding between Southwest Georgia Regional Commission and Decatur County. Chairman Stephens recognized Heidi Penny with the Southwest Georgia Regional Commission. Ms. Penny explained the primary goal for this project is to achieve a GIS-based tax parcel boundary dataset for the County that functions within a GIS environment for query and analysis. This dataset will be composed of polygon features, overlay existing digital aerial photography held by the County and serve as a foundation for the development of future GIS datasets for the County. Decatur County Tax Assessors office will need to be responsible for coordination with Southwest Georgia Regional Commission to accomplish the input of the parcel maps to a GIS database. This project was initiated through the United States Geological Survey and in association with the USGS National Map 3D Elevation Program. Ms. Penny explained the other MOU was for the project to coordinate the aerial photography of the County. The purpose of this project is to offer all counties within these regions the opportunity to purchase high quality aerial imagery. County Administrator Thomas stated there are two Memorandum of Understandings to consider, the total cost of one of these projects that was outlined by Ms. Penny is \$53,204.00. County Administrator Thomas stated that the other Memorandum of Understanding is for Ms. Penny's services, to get all the information into the GIS is \$31,500.00. County Administrator Thomas stated that both items are in the current budget and recommended the Board approve both Memorandum of Understandings. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve both Memorandum of Understandings between Southwest Georgia Regional Commission and Decatur County. Vice Chairman Brinson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Approval of Request from the Tax Commissioner. Chairman Stephens recognized Tax Commissioner Mark Harrell. Mr. Harrell presented the Board a copy of the Errors and Reliefs Report for their approval. Commissioner Brock made a motion to approve the Errors and Reliefs report presented by Mr. Harrell. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Mr. Harrell requested that the Board of Commissioners grant the Tax Commissioners office the ability to wave fees in reasonable circumstances as this has been the practice historically. Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Mr. Harrell requested authority to accept payments for taxes by credit card. Mr. Harrell said his office will have the ability for online property tax research and payment along with online renewal for tags available by April 1, 2017. The credit card fees will be borne by the payor. Vice Chairman Brinson made a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Request from Rollins Miller – 3rd Annual Spring Sporting Clays Classic. Chairman Stephens recognized Rollins Miller. Mr. Miller came before the Board on behalf of the Friendship House and Friends Ministries to request the use of the Pines Golf Course for the 4th Annual Spring Sporting Clays Classic fund raiser. Mr. Miller stated that the Recreation Authority is entertaining the idea of having a sporting clays course at the Pines Golf Course and we have had the experience of having this event at other locations. Mr. Miller stated this would be a test run for the Recreation Authority to use the Pines Golf Course for this type of sporting event. Mr. Miller stated that he would provide the liability insurance for this event. County Administrator Thomas recommended that the Recreation Authority oversee this event and evaluate to see if this is something they would like to pursue, and to make sure the liability insurance is provided. Commissioner Brock made a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Proposal for Preliminary Wetlands Assessment for Landfill. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that every year the County must provide the life expectancy of the landfill to the State and this includes the C&D site. The current life expectancy for the C&D site is eight years and it typically takes three to five years before the expansion area can be ready to receive waste. Based on a previous rough preliminary design the lined landfill space is approximately 75 acres and the C&D site is approximately 5 acres. County Administrator Thomas stated the first priority of extending the permit is to do a Wetlands Assessment. County Administrator Thomas stated the MSW footprint can be expanded from 75 acres to at least 210 acres and the C&D footprint from 5 acres to 51 acres. County Administrator Thomas stated this proposal is to begin the process of obtaining a permit modification to expand the MSW and the C&D landfill onto the adjacent 762 acres of property owned by the County. County Administrator Thomas stated the preliminary estimate from Harbin Engineering is not to exceed \$25,000.00 and that amount for this project is in the current budget. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board approve this proposal. Vice Chairman Brinson made a motion to approve this proposal. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Service Contract Supplement to Master Agreement with BASF Corp. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated in 2015 the Board entered into an agreement with BASF Corp. to accept 14,400 tons of their waste products into the County's landfill at a price of \$17.00 per ton. County Administrator Thomas stated that this agreement is coming to an end and he has renegotiated with BASF to increase that amount by \$3.00 to \$20.00 per ton for the first year; the second year will increase to \$21.00 per ton. County Administrator Thomas stated at the beginning of the third year the contract will then be renegotiated. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board approve this contract. Vice Chairman Brinson made a motion to approve this agreement. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Task Order Number Seven – Croy Engineering (Airport). Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated this is a continuation of task orders from Croy Engineering, which is the County's airport engineer. County Administrator Thomas stated this task order includes the projects for Remark Airfield Pavement; Construction Plans; DBE Plan; PAPI Regulator Replacement and Land Acquisition. County Administrator Thomas stated the total amount of this task order is \$65,655.00 and this does include Federal and State funding to support that. Vice Chairman Brinson made a motion to approve Task Order Number Seven. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Approval for Disposal of Surplus Equipment and Vehicles. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated this request is to declare 3 vehicle mounted wheel chair lifts; a 1976 Load King; a 1997 Ford F-150 from the Public Works Department and a 1991 GMC 3500 Truck from the Industrial Park, surplus property and allow them to be listed on Govdeals to sell. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve this request. Vice Chairman Brinson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement for Election Services Between Decatur County and Board of Education. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated this agreement is between Decatur County and the Board of Education to hold a special election to re-impose a one percent sales and use tax (SPLOST) for educational purposes. This agreement has already been approved by the Board of Education and the Board of Elections and Registration. Commissioner Murray made a motion to approve this Intergovernmental Agreement. Commissioner Brock seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

COMMISSIONERS / ADMINISTRATOR'S REMARKS

Commissioner Anderson thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and requested prayers for the surrounding counties that were recently hit by the storms.

Commissioner Murray welcomed everyone to the meeting. Commissioner Murray said he was still learning and to please be patient with him.

Vice Chairman Brinson thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. Vice Chairman Brinson reminded everyone to pray for the people that was involved in the recent storms and to offer assistance if any way possible.

Commissioner Brock thanked everyone for attending the meeting and asked everyone to remember the victims of the recent storms, especially Dougherty County.

Commissioner Davis said he dittoed what the previous commissioners have said and commended County Administrator Thomas for a job well done in keeping the County departments within their budget.

Chairman Stephens thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and showing their support and said the Board depends on the community's input to help them do a better job for the citizens of Decatur County. Chairman Stephens requested all the Board members to wear their suits to the next meeting to have a group picture taken.

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

Approved: 
Chairman

Attest: 
County Clerk