

MINUTES

DECATUR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM

TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2019

PRESENT: CHAIRMAN PETE STEPHENS, VICE CHAIRMAN DENNIS BRINSON, COMMISSIONERS RUSTY DAVIS, GEORGE ANDERSON, GREG MURRAY AND STEVE BROCK, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR ALAN THOMAS, COUNTY ATTORNEY BRUCE KIRBO, COUNTY CLERK BEVERLY KING AND NEWS REPORTER POWELL COBB.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Pete Stephens called the regular scheduled meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. After the call to order, County Attorney Bruce Kirbo gave the invocation and all those assembled pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Brock made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

There were no Special Presentations.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chairman Stephens recognized Mr. Larry Shaffer. Mr. Shaffer stated that he lived at 397 Open Pond Road. Mr. Shaffer expressed concerns with speeding and reckless driving on Open Pond Road. Mr. Shaffer stated that Friday night his service dog was killed by a reckless driver. Mr. Shaffer also complained about the number of deputies that are on duty, stating that Decatur County needs more deputies patrolling in the County. Mr. Shaffer stated that it took around 15 to 20 minutes for a deputy to respond to the call he made to 911 when his service dog was killed. Commissioner Brock stated that he had received complaints in the past about speeding on that road and that he has asked State Patrol to police that area more. Chairman Stephens stated that this issue will be looked into and addressed.

APPROVE MINUTES

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes of the Commissioners' meeting held April 23, 2019 as presented. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED CELL TOWERS

Commissioner Davis made a motion to go out of regular session and enter into a Public Hearing for the Proposed Cell Towers. Vice Chairman Brinson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Chairman Stephens recognized Bainbridge-Decatur County Planning Coordinator Steve O'Neil. Mr. O'Neil stated this public hearing is for the variance request for the proposed cell towers in North Climax and Fowlstown areas. Mr. O'Neil stated that SouthernLinc currently has a fairly large dead zone of cellular coverage identified in these areas and is proposing 300-foot guyed towers at the two identified locations. The County Ordinance requires that towers be monopole type. The Ordinance further requires new towers to be no taller than 120 feet, they are requesting 300 feet (plus a 5-foot lightning rod). SouthernLinc is requesting two variances for each site. The first variance is for tower type and the second variance is for tower height. Mr. O'Neil recommended approval of the variances for both proposed sites as the applicant has provided proof that the letter of the ordinance is not technologically practicable with regards to tower type and the applicant has proven the need for greater tower height to meet the coverage demands.

Chairman Stephens opened the floor for comments. There being no comments, Vice Chairman Brinson made a motion to close this Public Hearing and enter into the regular scheduled meeting. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Brock made a motion to approve this request for variances for each site as requested. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

PUBLIC HEARING – FY 2019/2020 BUDGET

Vice Chairman Brinson made a motion to go out of regular session and enter into a Public Hearing for the FY 2019-2020 Budget. Commissioner Brock seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Alan Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that the proposed budget has been finalized and a draft of the budget was distributed to the Board; a copy has been made available for the public to view and advertised as required by law. County Administrator Thomas commented on some of the areas of the budget stating in the overall general fund budget there is a \$1.9 million increase, primarily that comes from funds from sales tax. County Administrator Thomas stated there is funds in the amount of \$ 1.2 million in this budget for a roof for the jail; in Public Works Department, using funds from TSPLOST, we have identified monies to buy equipment, vehicles and supplies for road maintenance as required in the TSPLOST referendum. County Administrator Thomas stated that in the budget, the bond service for Economic Development has also been identified which was an \$800,000-dollar increase. County Administrator Thomas stated that he is available to discuss the budget with anyone that has any questions. County Administrator Thomas stated there is no action to be taken today and announced that the adoption of the proposed budget is scheduled for the next Commissioners' meeting to be held May 28, 2019.

There being no comments, Vice Chairman Brinson made a motion to close this public hearing and enter into the regular scheduled meeting. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business to be Discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider recommendation from Classification/Compensation Study – Mr. Alex Daman.

Chairman Stephens recognized Mr. Alex Daman; Public Service Assistant with Carl Vinson Institute of Government. Mr. Daman gave a brief review of the information that was given during the work session held April 16, 2019. Mr. Daman stated that the estimated cost of implementation for the pay band compensation plan is around \$185,000 for the employee classification changes; and approximately \$117, 000 for the compression adjustment costs; with a total of around \$300,000.00 for the implementation cost of this plan. Mr. Daman stated that this plan would put Decatur County into a more competitive market for recruitment. County Administrator Thomas stated that he recommended to implement this plan and that the cost of this plan is in the proposed budget. Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the implementation of this plan. Commissioner Brock seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Approval of Service Agreement for E911- Motorola Solutions. Chairman Stephens recognized E911 Director Tonya Griffin. Ms. Griffin presented to the Board a contract from Motorola for the Southwest Georgia Regional Radio System that Decatur County is a part of. Ms. Griffin stated this region consists of Decatur, Grady, Thomas, Dougherty and Lee counties with Mitchell County expected to join soon. Ms. Griffin stated that Decatur County has a radio manager that maintains the radio system for Decatur and Grady Counties. Ms. Griffin stated that the master site, which is the core of the system, is in Dougherty County and they have no one that maintains that system. Ms. Griffin stated that Motorola did not charge for their services the first year and we are now going into the second year for the services provided by Motorola for the Regional System. Ms. Griffin stated that this contract will provide a system manager for preventive maintenance and support on this Regional Radio System. Ms. Griffin stated that the cost of this contract will be shared by all the partners on the system. Decatur County's cost is \$19,850.00 but it will be shared by subscriber fees, so everyone on our system will help pay for

this cost. Ms. Griffin stated that this cost is included in this year's budget. Ms. Griffin stated that Grady County approved this contract in their last meeting. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve this service agreement with Motorola. Vice Chairman Brinson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement – Georgia Dept. of Corrections.

Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that this is an annual renewal of an agreement between the Georgia Department of Corrections and Decatur County to house state inmates. County Administrator Thomas stated the term of this agreement is from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 and is worded the same as last year's contract with the only change in the number of state inmates reduced from 195 to up to 180 for the term of this agreement. Vice Chairman Brinson made a motion to approve this agreement. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Approval for Alcohol License for Sarita McLin – SABS, Inc. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated that Ms. Sarita McLin has applied for an alcohol license for SABS, Inc. located at 1921 Spring Creek Road and has met all the requirements necessary. County Administrator Thomas recommended the Board approve this request. Vice Chairman Brinson made a motion to approve an alcohol license for Ms. Sarita McLin. Commissioner Brock seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Approval for Disposal of Surplus Equipment – Industrial Park. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas. County Administrator Thomas stated this is a request from the Industrial Park to declare a 1975 Caterpillar Root Rake Loader surplus property and advertise for sale on GovDeals. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve this request. Commissioner Brock seconded the motion. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

COMMISSIONERS / ADMINISTRATOR'S REMARKS

All of the commissioners thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. County Administrator Thomas reminded the Board of the memorial service to honor law enforcement officers that lost their lives in the line of duty to be held at the Sheriff's office tomorrow at 11:00 a.m.

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

Approved: 
Chairman

Attest: 
County Clerk