

MINUTES

DECATUR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSIONERS' BOARDROOM

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2023

PRESENT: CHAIRMAN PETE STEPHENS, VICE CHAIRMAN DENNIS BRINSON, COMMISSIONERS, RUSTY DAVIS, BOBBY BARBER, JR, STEVE BROCK AND GEORGE ANDERSON, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR ALAN THOMAS, COUNTY ATTORNEY BRUCE KIRBO, AND COUNTY CLERK MICHELLE WEST.

INVOCATION AND THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

There were no Special Presentations.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no Public Participation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Brock made a motion to approve the minutes of the Commissioners' meeting held October 24, 2023, as presented. Commissioner Anderson seconded the motion, a vote was taken and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Tractor and Mower Bids – Public Works. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas who stated bids were requested from several vendors on two tractors and mowers for Public Works. Three bids were received for the tractors and mowers with Clark Tractor being the best bid for both the tractors and mowers. For each tractor the bid was for \$49,300 for a 2023 Massey Ferguson tractor, which will be available March 2024. The total cost for each Bush Hog mower will be \$6,285 and they are in stock and available now. County Administrator Thomas recommends approving the bids from Clark Tractor for the tractors and mowers. Commissioner Barber made a motion to approve the purchase of tractors and mowers. Commissioner Brock seconded the motion, a vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Dump Truck Bid – Public Works. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas who stated bids were requested from several vendors on a dump truck for Public Works. Four bids were received for the dump truck with Nextran Truck being the lowest bidder for the dump truck. County Administrator Thomas recommends approving the bid from Nextran Truck for a 2024 Mack Granite dump truck for a cost of \$188,350.50 with a thirteen month buy-back for \$178,350.50 and the truck will be available January 20, 2024. Commissioner Barber

made a motion to approve the purchase of the dump truck. Commissioner Brock seconded the motion, a vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Appointments. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas who stated Jamie Earp has agreed to continue to serve on the Georgia Pines Board. The re-appointment starts January 1, 2024 and ends on December 31, 2025 and recommends approval by the Board. Commissioner Barber made a motion to approve the appointment. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, a vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Consider Employee Incentive. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas who stated that in the past the Board has provided the staff with an incentive pay during this time of the year and he is requesting approval to do so again this year. This pay incentive does not include elected officials and requires an employee to have satisfactorily completed their 90-day probationary period to be eligible. Vice Chairman Brinson made the motion to pay each full-time employee \$200 and each actively working part-time employee \$75. Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, a vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Last Minute Agenda Item Request by County Attorney for Project Liberty. Chairman Stephens recognized County Administrator Thomas who stated at the request of County Attorney Kirbo he would like to add Project Liberty to the agenda to discuss freeport exemption. Commissioner Barber made a motion to add the agenda item, Commissioner Davis seconded the motion, a vote was taken and unanimously approved.

County Administrator Thomas yielded to County Attorney Kirbo to make the presentation to the Board since he had just left the Board of Tax Assessor's meeting. County Attorney Kirbo stated a potential industry would like to come to Decatur County which he will reference as Project Liberty and would be located at the new Industrial Park. Project Liberty is seeking a comfort letter that the product they will be producing would qualify for ag exemption or freeport exemption from the Decatur County Board of Tax Assessors. The Decatur County Board of Tax Assessors met this morning and are in support of issuing the comfort letter as long as the Board of Commissioners are in support of the comfort letter. Commissioner Davis made the motion to support the Tax Assessor Board in a comfort letter for Project Liberty. Commissioner Barber seconded the motion, a vote was taken and unanimously approved.

COMMISSIONERS/ADMINISTRATOR'S REMARKS

The Commissioners thanked everyone for coming.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting, on motion by Commissioner Barber was duly adjourned. Commissioner Brock seconded the motion, a vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Approved: *Pete Stephens*
Chairman, Pete Stephens

Attest: *Michelle B. West*
County Clerk, Michelle B. West

