

EFFINGHAM COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
February 7, 2017

The Board of Commissioners of Effingham County, Georgia, Mr. Wesley Corbitt, Chairman, Mr. Forrest Floyd, Mrs. Vera Jones, Mr. Jamie Deloach Vice-Chair, Mr. Reginald Loper and Mr. Phil Kieffer met in regular meeting 5:00 pm on Tuesday, February 7, 2017 in the Commissioners Meeting Room at the Effingham County Administrative Complex.

PERSONS ATTENDING THE MEETING

Mr. Toss Allen, County Administrator, Mr. Edward Newberry, County Attorney, Mrs. Stephanie Johnson – County Clerk (*arrived at 5:45 pm*), Mrs. Joanna Wright – Finance Director, Mrs. Fiona Charleton-Purchasing Agent, Mr. Clint Hodges – Fire Chief/EMA Director, Mrs. Vicki Dunn, HR Director, Mr. Jack Garvin, Dr. Franklin Goldwire, Mr. Tony Chiariello, Mr. Murray Marshall, Ms. Lucille Tate, Mr. Willie Wright, Ms. Doris Boston, Mr. Bill Sillers, Ms. Ellen Wright, Mrs. Beverly Scott, Dr. Cheryl Goldwire, Mr. Tom Exley, Mr. Tommy Exley, Mr. Leroy Lloyd, Ms. Lula Seabrooks, Mr. Michael Plouff and Mr. Michael Maddox

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Corbitt called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Kieffer gave the invocation.

PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

Chairman Corbitt led the Pledge.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Chairman Corbitt stated under Consent Agenda# 2 the name of the EMA Director needs to be changed to reflect the name of the current director. In addition, to add as New Business# 9 – Consideration to approve to authorize Staff to apply for the FEMA Staffing for adequate Fire and Emergency Grant (SAFER).

Commissioner Floyd made a motion to approve the agenda with the noted changes. Vice Chairperson Deloach seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES

There was a separate vote on the minutes due to some board members not being present.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the January 17, 2017 regular Commission meeting as read. Vice Chairperson Deloach seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Kieffer made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2017 and January 22, 2017 retreat minutes as read. Vice Chairperson Deloach seconded the motion. Commissioner Jones abstained from voting due to absence. The motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Corbitt stated public comment should be limited to agenda items only.

CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Corbitt explained all correspondence and documents from the meeting are located in the Clerk's office and on the Board of Commissioner's website.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the following Consent Agenda items: **(1)** Consideration to approve the Second Reading to amend Chapter 30- Article III – Soil Erosion & Sedimentation and Pollution Control of the Effingham County Code of Ordinances **(2)** Consideration to renew the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Effingham County United Methodist Campground for use as a critical Workforce Shelter and/or post event shelter **with the MOU to reflect the name of the new EMA Director** **(3)** Consideration to approve to authorize the Chairman to sign an underground easement to serve the Recreation Complex project **(4)** Consideration to approve a Radio Communications Tower Lease Agreement with State Properties Commission for antenna/receiver space on the County tower located at the transfer site on Courthouse Road.

Commissioner Loper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF POOLER FOR THE USE OF INMATES (01):

County Administrator Allen explained the agreement was tabled to allow for adequate time to recoup additional funds. The County Attorney has researched and found no case law opposing recouping additional funds.

County Attorney Newberry stated the law is silent to this issue. In addition the request is to cover the County's hard cost.

Chairman Corbitt stated the contract calls for 8 to 12 inmates on any given day. There is a cost above State reimbursement. Currently we allocate \$32.78 per inmate housing. We are reimbursed \$20.00 per day, which leaves an out of pocket cost to the County of \$12.78. Based on 261 working days equates to \$56,000 annually or \$28,000 to be split by another entity outside of the County, with a contract totaling \$75,000, which equates to approximately \$6.50 per day.

Commissioner Jones asked the attorney to clarify charging or profiting. We want to make sure that we are recovering cost and not charging.

County Attorney Newberry confirmed cost can be recovered but not charged.

Commissioner Loper made a motion to approve the contract with the change to \$75,000 per year. Commissioner Kieffer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE TO ALLOW STATE CHAMPIONSHIP AND RUNNER UP BANNERS TO BE DISPLAYED AT THE GYM AT THE CENTRAL SCHOOL SITE (01):

Dr. Franklin Goldwire Sr., on behalf of the Springfield Central High Association, Inc. expressed appreciation to the Board for their service to Effingham County. The request is to grant permission to hang 5 - 4x6 athletic banners at the Central Gym denoting outstanding accomplishments for the following teams: 1959 Boys Basketball for state runner up, 1963 and 1964 Girls Basketball for state championships, 1967 Boys team state championship, and 1969 Boys team state runner up. Dr. Goldwire also requested permission to host an unveiling and honorary ceremony to honor the players and coaches. A specific date has not yet been determined but hopeful for some time in April. A request was also made for a Resolution from the Board recognizing the honorees.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the championship banners and plaques as presented. Additionally it is the intent to approve a presentation day and establish an honorary day. Commissioner Loper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Franklin Goldwire Sr. introduced members in the audience who were on the teams to be honored: Valerie G. Wright, Polly Tate Samuel, Doris Davis Boston and Levan Scott

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE TO ISSUE A CONTRACT TO LANE BROTHERS AUCTIONS, LLC FOR 2017 SURPLUS AUCTION SERVICES (02):

Purchasing Agent Charleton explained Lane Brothers Auctions LLC hold an annual auction at the fairgrounds in Springfield. This year's auction will be held on March 11, 2017. Last year Lane Brothers Auctions LLC sold the County's surplus property for over \$89,000. In order to

dispose of the current surplus property staff would like to issue a contract to Lane Brothers Auctions LLC. The contract with Lane Brothers Auctions, LLC will run from February 7 2017 until June 30 2017. The contract has been reviewed and approved by the County attorney.

Commissioner Loper made a motion to approve to issue a contract to Lane Brothers Auctions LLC for 2017 Surplus Auction Services. Vice Chairperson Deloach. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE AN UPDATED RENTAL AGREEMENT WITH CONCERTED SERVICES, INC FOR SPACE IN THE EFFINGHAM COUNTY ANNEX (03):

Purchasing Agent Charleton explained the County has an agreement with Concerted Services who provides Emergency and Energy assistance programs, case management, and weatherization services to County residents. In consideration the County does not charge them rent for the space they occupy. The agreement expired in June 30, 2016 but allowed for two automatic renewals.

However, due to an oversight, this agreement was not presented for consideration of renewal. As a result, Staff is requesting that this agreement be reinstated as of February 7, 2017 until June 30 2017 with an additional one year term. The agreement will be brought back to the Board in June 2017 for their consideration to renew the additional one year term. The County can terminate the agreement at any time with 30 days' written notice. The County attorney has previously reviewed and approved the agreement.

Commissioner Kieffer made a motion to approve the rental agreement with Concerted Services as presented. Commissioner Loper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A REVISED PLAT FOR LOT 1 IN GREEN BRIDGE FARMS LOCATED OFF OF ZITTRouer ROAD (04):

Zoning Administrator Barenchik explained Michael Maddox, developer of Green Bridge Farm located off of Zittrouer Rd., is requesting to resubdivide Lot 2 into a 1.20 acre lot and a 1.26 acre lot. Article VI, Section 6.6 Resubdivision requires approval from the board to resubdivide any lot less than 10 acres that was previously approved as a major subdivision.

The smallest existing lot of record in the subdivision is currently 1.23 acres. The largest is 6.22 acres. A soil test has been submitted to the health department and they have recommended the subdivision of the lot would support 2 private septic systems.

The subdivision is currently zoned AR-2 and the proposed lots would meet the requirement of the AR-2 district. These lots would be served by the existing privately owned and maintained street and would have private wells and septic systems.

Commissioner Floyd made a motion to approve the request to resubdivide Lot 2 in Green Bridge Farm. Vice Chairperson Deloach seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE TO AUTHORIZE WATER AND SEWER PAYMENTS FOR THE NEW SAVANNAH (EXLEY TRACT) WATER AND SEWER CONTRACT (05):

County Administrator Allen explained there were an original agreement a superseding agreement and a first amendment to the superseding agreement. We have been collecting fees from what was determined as benefiting tract since 2005. Payment has not been remitted due to lack of clarity of who should receive payment. The agreement outlines the payments should be remitted at the beginning of each quarterly, since this has not occurred Staff requests of the Board to allow Staff to issue those payments which total \$297,767.78 to New Savannah LLC.

Commissioner Kieffer made a motion to approve a payment \$ 297,767.78 from the water and sewer operating account to New Savannah LLC. Vice Chairperson Deloach second the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO DENY ELBA EXPRESS COMPANY, LLC WATER AND SEWER SERVICE (06):

County Administrator Allen explained Elba Express Company, L.L.C. is constructing a new compressor station at the corner of Low Ground Road and the entrance to the Effingham County Water Reclamation Facility. Our ordinance gives distance requirements for connecting, if a residential minor subdivision its 200 feet, if major subdivision 1000 feet. However, for commercial and industrial it only outlines water will be extended at the cost of the developer; if upsizing is considered the County will partner in the cost. The largest water and sewer lines are located within the vicinity of the property. To extend the 1100 feet to get from the current terminus to their facility would require a 24 inch water line and a very large gravity or force main that would not connect to anything to get to their facility. The cost for the extension would be approximately \$661,000. Staff believes the cost estimate is unreasonable and requests the board deny the service at this time. The facility will be a future customer.

Commissioner Jones asked if the Board is complying with policy based on Staff's recommendation and if not does the policy needs adjustment. The Board discussed the policy for a period.

Commissioner Loper made a motion to approve to deny water and sewer service to Elba Express Company, L.L.C., allow the installation of a well and septic tank and accept the easement for future extension of water and sewer infrastructure and the commitment to connect to it once extended. In addition, amend Chapter 75 ordinance at the next meeting. Vice Chairperson Deloach seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE BUDGET AMENDMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 (07):

Finance Director Wright explained on a regular basis Staff brings before the Board requests for budget amendments which vary from travel to various items approved by the Board. These amendments contain travel, sale of surplus for Old Augusta Water Extension and revenue for the craft program for Senior Citizens.

Vice Chairperson Deloach made a motion to approve the budget amendments as presented. Commissioner Kieffer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION AND ADOPTION AGREEMENT AMENDMENT# 2 TO THE 401A DEFINED CONTRIBUTION RETIREMENT PLAN DOCUMENTS (08):

Finance Director Wright explained this document is to clarify the board's intent. In connection with the recent termination of the Define Benefit Plan the Board elected to provide the 3% to employees as part of the 401A benefits provided. The amendment being submitted for the Board's consideration is to provide full clarification to the overall 401a plan document of this change effective at January 1, 2017. This amendment is just to clarify and place within the plan documentation providing for the 3% contribution to the 401A.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve mend the 401A plan document to reflect, the defined 3 % contribution in the 401A effective January 1, 2017. Vice Chairperson Deloach seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Additon to Agenda

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO APPLY FOR THE FEMA STAFFING FOR ADEQUATE FIRE AND EMERGENCY GRANT (SAFER) (09):

Fire Chief Hodges explained on November 15, 2016 the Board approved to into a contract with Silver Business Development, Inc. to pursue grant funding opportunities on behalf of Effingham County Fire Rescue. It was brought to Staff's attention that the SAFER grant allows for counties to apply for Fire Fighter funding which closed February 10th. This grant would be for up to nine (9) new fire fighter positions. The first two years are funded at 75%, the third

year at 35% after which the funding drops to zero with no requirement to maintain the positions after the third year. Staff plans to put into next fiscal year's budget.

There was a discussion among the Board and Staff regarding the outline of the grant and hiring of additional Staff.

Vice Chairperson Deloach made a motion to approve to authorize Staff to apply for the FEMA SAFER Grant. Commissioner Loper The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

County Administrator Allen discussed the following:

1. Monthly Animal Shelter Report

- The monthly Animal Shelter Report for the month of December 2016 has been provided.

2. Monthly Community Service Worker Report

- The monthly community service worker report for the month of December 2016 has been provided.

3. Monthly Wastewater Treatment, Water Distribution, Vehicle Maintenance and Public Works Report

- The monthly Wastewater Treatment, Water Distribution, Vehicle Maintenance and Public Works Report for the month of December 2016 has been provided.

4. ACCG District Days at The Capitol

- District Days at the Capitol are designed to give you an opportunity to spend time with your legislators, attend important committee meetings, get briefed on key issues by the ACCG policy staff and become involved in the legislative process.
- The dates are February 22, 2017, March 1, 2017 and March 8, 2017 from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm in the Blue Room, Depot.
- The topics being discussed are Broadband access, the Transportation Infrastructure Bank and the future of E-911 funding.

5. ACCG 2017 Annual Conference

- The 2017 Annual Conference will be held April 28 through May 1, 2017 at the Savannah International Trade and Convention Center.
- A tentative conference agenda has been provided.

6. Boy Scout Litter Pickup

- The Boy Scouts have an annual Great American Cleanup. This year the event will take place on April 08, 2017.
- In the past we have allowed them to dispose of the litter that they pick up at our transfer station free of charge.
- Since Republic has taken over the operation of the transfer station, we have to pay them for everything that is taken to the facility, including anything that county staff brings.
- Would the Board entertain allowing them to dispose of the litter that they retrieve at the transfer station free of charge? The Board agreed to the request.

7. Georgia Civic Awareness Program for Students

- In 2014 Effingham County received a grant through ACCG to fund the Georgia Civic Awareness Program for Students Program.
- The Georgia Civic Awareness Program for Students (GCAPS) is a collaborative effort between the Effingham County Board of Commissioners and the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) designed to address the

need for increased civic involvement and awareness among the state's youth and engage them to become the next generation of civic leaders.

- A schedule for the 2017 Program has been provided.

8. Effingham Health System

- The Effingham Health System Board of Directors regular meeting date has changed to the 3rd Thursday each month Effective March 2017.
- A calendar of meeting dates has been provided.

9. Letter from Ogeechee Railroad Company

- The Ogeechee Railroad Company is requesting the county to maintain a section of Old Dixie Highway that is used by Norfolk Southern Corporation employees and Ogeechee Railroad employees to access a railroad interchange point.
- The research done to date indicates that the roadway in question is a private roadway and is not a part of Old Dixie Highway.

10. Holly Lane

- A title search has been completed for Holly Lane. The search indicates that Holly Lane is located within a 60' wide easement.
- To verify that the road is located within the easement and to determine the extent and costs of repairs that will be required to alleviate the issues that were raised, a survey will be required.
- Prices were requested from our on-call surveying companies and the low bid was \$3,980.
- Would the Board like to authorize the survey services? The Board agreed to move forward with the survey.

11. Old Augusta Road

- A complaint was received stating that the striping on Old Augusta Road was faded and need to be reworked.
- The cost to replace the striping on Old Augusta Road from SR 21 to SR 275 is approximately \$68,000.
- Would the Board like to solicit bids for the restriping work? The Board agreed to move ahead with area between Rincon Stillwell Road and Highway 275.

12. Thank You Note

- A Thank You Note was received from Bruce White for the restriping work done on Clyo-Kildare Road.

13. Gateway Behavioral Health

- Gateway will be hosting an Open House at their new office located at 108 E. 8th Street in Rincon on March 4, 2017 from 10:00 until 12:00.

14. Coordinated Highway Assistance & Maintenance Program

- The Coordinated Highway Assistance & Maintenance Program (CHAMP) is a complimentary service made possible by state dollars resulting from the Transportation Funding Act of 2015.
- Once fully operational, CHAMP will be staffed by 48 full-time operators and 18 full-time dispatchers. A total of 51 branded, custom-fitted CHAMP trucks will patrol 16 hours a day – and be on call the other 8 hours - 7 days a week.
- CHAMP service will begin in our area on Tuesday, April 4, 2017.

15. Parent University

- Parent University – Effingham will hold their winter session on Saturday, February 25, 2017 from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm at the Effingham County Middle School.

16. UGA Extension

- Abby Smith, Effingham County Extension Coordinator, sent a letter expressing gratitude for the support provided by Effingham County and outlining recent achievements of 4-H participants.

17. Building Inspections

- The City of Springfield recently lost their building inspector suddenly due to unforeseen issues.

- Until they are able to provide a permanent solution, Effingham County's Building Department is performing inspection for projects located within the City Limits of Springfield.

18. Financial Reports

- Reports have been presented to the Board.

EMA Director Hodges discussed the following:

1. Debris Removal Update

- As of February 6, 2017 all debris has been substantially picked up. Southern Disaster Recovery (SDR) has completed their right of way work. The sites at Old Augusta and Atlas have been burned. Material at the Landfill site will be burned on Thursday, weather permitting. The entire project should be complete within the next couple of weeks.

The Board established February 28, 2017 as the end of operations date; directed Staff to issue a statement to the local paper notifying citizens of the end date.

Commissioner Jones discussed the following:

1. Westwood Heights

- There's a business in the subdivision that has a lot of cars on site; the license issued is not consistent with the business being conducted. Code Enforcement has visited the site.

2. Water & Sewer System

- Issues surrounding water runoff within the development

Commissioner Kieffer discussed the following:

1. Chimney Road Complaint

- Drainage issues on property that may or may not belong to the County, located off of Chimney Road near Highway 21

2. Trash

- Trash needs to be picked up on Courthouse and Old Tusculum Roads. McCall Road was also mentioned. Discussed putting together a schedule for trash pickup.

Commissioner Deloach discussed the following:

1. RR Crossing at Shawnee Road

- What is the status of bidding out work? In process of receiving price for the survey was the response.

Chairman Corbitt discussed the following:

1. Event Zoning

- What is the status? Zoning Administrator Barenchik stated a draft has been completed; the item will go before the Planning Board at their February meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:36 pm, Commissioner Kieffer made a motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel, property and pending litigation. Vice Chairperson Deloach seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

RECOVENE


The Board reconvened the meeting at 7:38 pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES


Commissioner Kieffer made a motion to approve the January 17, 2017 executive session minutes. Commissioner Floyd seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:39 pm, Commissioner Loper made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Kieffer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.



JAMIE DELOACH, VICE CHAIRMAN



STEPHANIE JOHNSON, COUNTY CLERK