

**THE EFFINGHAM COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**

The Board of Commissioners of Effingham County, Georgia, Mr. Wendall Kessler, Chairman, Mr. Steve Mason, Vice-Chairman, Mr. Forrest Floyd, Mrs. Vera Jones, Mr. Reggie Loper and Mr. Phil Kieffer met in a special called meeting at 5:00 pm on Tuesday, July 30, 2013 in the Commissioners' Meeting Room at the Effingham County Administrative Complex

PERSONS ATTENDING THE MEETING

Mr. Eric Gotwalt, County Attorney, Mr. Toss Allen, Interim County Administrator, Mr. Adam Kobek, Director of Community Relations, Stephanie Johnson, Interim County Clerk, Ms. Rushe Hudzinski-Sero, Human Resources Director, Mrs. Joanna Wright, Finance Director, Mrs. Mary Kaiser and Mr. Pat Donahue

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kessler called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

Chairman Kessler gave the invocation and led the Pledge to the American Flag.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Vice Chairman Mason made a motion to approve the agenda as read. Commissioner Kieffer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Kessler stated if anyone would like to discuss an Agenda Item, they may do so when said item is presented.

OLD BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE AN ANNUAL AGREEMENT WITH MOTOROLA FOR COMMUNICATION TOWERS AND 911 EQUIPMENT & PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE

EMA Director Myrick explained the item on the table is the service agreement for our current 4.1 radio system and the E-911 Equipment. In previous years we have maintained service agreements on both systems however this is the first year that we have combined the two under one agreement for simplistic reasons. The 4.1 system for the FY 2013 budget was \$40,181.00 and will not see an increase for this upcoming year. The E-911 equipment for the FY2013 budget was \$58,980.00 and will be increased to \$88,458.59 due to the VESTA and CAD Software Support coming out of warranty. The annual service agreement for both systems is \$128,639.59 which has been included in the approved FY14 budget in Department 20 and Department 35.

It should be noted that the approval of this service agreement will have no effect on the upcoming consideration to upgrade the communications system. If the decision is made to either make no change or to upgrade the Southern region of our communications infrastructure then we will need this service agreement to protect our current investment.

If the decision is made to upgrade the entire communications infrastructure, this agreement would still be needed until that system went online....at that time we would receive a pro-rated service credit.

No one was present in favor or against the request.

Commissioner Loper made a motion to approve the agreement.

Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE TO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH STANLEY AND BETTY BROWN FOR A BUILDING LOCATED AT 508 PINE STREET (01):

Interim County Administrator Allen explained Juvenile Justice currently occupies the building. The proposed agreement is for a monthly fee of \$1236.83. The lease is a one year term with a four additional one year options.

There was a discussion of other available buildings in the County and if there is a 90 day clause option to the agreement.

Commissioner Floyd made a motion to approve the lease agreement.

Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Vice Chairman Mason opposed. The motion carried four to one.

CONSIDERATION TO SIGN A QUITCLAIM DEED FOR LOT 20 SOUTH EFFINGHAM PLANTATION (02):

Commissioner Jones recused herself.

Interim County Administrator Allen explained the intent to combine lots 17 and 20 where the home site and the pond adjoined through a series of incorrect deeds and transfers. Errors were made in the legal description when conveying the roads and drainage in South Effingham Plantation. Apparently it was never the County's intention to own the detention ponds; but only to acquire easements for maintenance of the drainage structures. And, it was never the developer's intention to deed the ponds to the County.

Attorney Ted Carellas has prepared a quitclaim deed relinquishing interests of the County to the property.

Interim County Administrator Allen suggested the Board request access to the ponds in the event the County should need to maintain it.

County Attorney Gotwalt explained the only reason to request access is in the event of an emergency where the pond maybe causing a washout to County ditches.

Mrs. Vera Jones explained a corrective deed was revised in August allowing each of the lots adjoining a portion of the pond. When sales took place and title work was done by the attorney's office errors were made.

Mrs. Mary Kaiser gave the Board a summation of her research of the errors reference of the wrong plat in the deeds.

Vice Chairman Mason made a motion to approve the quitclaim deed contingent upon Carella's office releasing of fees and a utility and drainage easement is provided by the Kaiser's. Commissioner Jones abstained from voting.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A PLANNING BOUNDARY FOR THE COASTAL REGION (CORE) METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO): (03):

Interim County Administrator Allen explained the 2010 census showed the Savannah Urbanized Area entering into the Southern end of Effingham County and the Northern area of Bryan County. In order to receive Federal funding for transportation projects Effingham County will need to be part of the CORE MPO. The first step in the reapportionment process is to determine the planning area for Effingham County.

The planning boundary of an MPO must be revisited following each decennial census to ensure that the MPO planning area includes the current Census Urbanized Area and areas expected to become urbanized in the next twenty (20) years. Subsequently, all the MPO's plans and programs will incorporate projects within the revised boundary. The MPO board membership should be updated as well to reflect the board representation resulting from the boundary change. Next steps will be to determine our share of the funding required to operate the MPO, negotiate the revision of the bylaws of the MPO and enter into a MOU.

There was an extensive discussion of the areas the Board wishes to include, funding and contributions.

Commissioner Loper made a motion to approve the purple area recommended by the Department of Transportation. Commissioner Kieffer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Interim County Administrator Allen discussed the following:

- Westwood Heights Drainage Improvements
- Herbert Kessler Road Meeting, August 2nd at 4:00 pm
- Stip Meeting held on July 29th |
- WWTP Plant Waste Acceptance
- Jail Construction Progress
- GDOT Transportation Meeting Aug. 20th (Meet with BOC, 10:00 am)
- State GDOT Meeting, October 16th

Commissioner Loper discussed the following:

- Advertising of County Clerk/County Administrator Positions
- Status of Keep Effingham Beautiful Audit

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Kessler called for a motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel, property, and pending litigation.

At 6:25 pm, Commissioner Loper made a motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel, property and pending litigation. Commissioner Kieffer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

RECONVENED

The Board reconvened into regular session.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:44 pm, Commissioner Jones made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Loper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.



WENDALL KESSLER, CHAIRMAN



STEPHANIE JOHNSON, INTERIM COUNTY CLERK