

**THE EFFINGHAM COUNTY  
COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**

The Board of Commissioners of Effingham County, Georgia, Mr. Wendall Kessler, Chairman, Mr. Phil Kieffer, Vice Chairman, Mr. Forrest Floyd, Mrs. Vera Jones Mr. Steve Mason and Mr. Reggie Loper met in a Special Called Meeting at 5:00 pm on Tuesday, August 19, 2014 in the Commissioners' Meeting Room at the Effingham County Administrative Complex

**PERSONS ATTENDING THE MEETING**

Mrs. Elizabeth Pavlis, County Attorney, Mr. Toss Allen, Interim County Administrator, Mrs. Stephanie Johnson, County Clerk, Mrs. Joanna Wright, Finance Director, Mr. Adam Kobek, Community Relations Director, Ms. Rushe Hudzinski, Human Resources Director, Mr. Ed Myrick, EMA Director, Mr. George Shaw, Zoning Administrator, Mr. Clint Hodges, Fire Chief, Mr. Doug Morgan, Mr. Darin Foy, Mr. Randall Brewster, Ms. Abby Smith, Mr. Mickey Kicklighter, Ms. Tahrif Ficchi, Mr. Glen Fanny, Mr. Jack Garvin, Mr. Jack C. Garvin and Ms. Gigi Rigsby, Mr. Pat Donahue

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Kessler called the meeting to order.

**INVOCATION**

Commissioner Jones gave the invocation.

**PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG**

Chairman Kessler led the Pledge to the American Flag.

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

Chairman Kessler stated a request has been made by Commissioner Loper to add an automatic aid agreement as New Business# 11.

Commissioner Loper stated there is a typo under New Business# 5, which states 2014-2014 Plan year, should read 2014-2015 Plan year.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of New Business# 11, automatic aid agreement and correct the typo under New Business# 5 from 2014-2014 Plan year to 2014-2015 Plan year. Vice Chairman Kieffer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES

Commissioner Loper made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2014 Commissioner's meeting and the minutes of the August 13, 2014 Healthcare Workshop and Special Called Meeting. Vice Chairman Kieffer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

CORRESPONDENCE

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

PRESENTATION

**ACCG Check Presentation (01):** Ms. Natalie Fitzgerald presented a check to the Board of Commissioners on behalf of ACCG for the Civic Awareness program to be managed by Abby Smith with 4H office. A photo was taken of the Commissioners, Abby Smith and Natalie Fitzgerald.

**Effingham Champion's Day (02):** The Board of Commissioners and Mr. Clarence Morgan presented a proclamation and keepsake to the Flea Boy Baseball with machine league for excellence in championship games for recreation softball. August 19, 2014 was proclaimed as Effingham Champion's Day.

OLD BUSINESS

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A WELL, TANK AND WATER SYSTEM FOR OLD AUGUSTA ROAD DEVELOPMENT (01):**

Mr. Doug Morgan of EMC Engineering Services explained the owner would like to develop a 200 lot residential subdivision. The owner would like the County to maintain a well, tank water system for the development. Cost estimates for different size lines and the cost of the well and tank were provided.

Mr. Darin Foy, property owner identified the options proposed and the water providers available.

There was a discussion about the cost and benefit of running the lines to the property.

Mickey Kicklighter approached against the ground permit but in favor of the development and the water lines being run by the County. Mr. Kicklighter provided visual aids as well as documentation to explain the history surrounding the property, property owned by his family and the construction of Old Augusta Road. Mr. Kicklighter further provided his belief that County funds are available to run the lines for the development.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to deny the request for groundwater withdrawal. Commissioner Loper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE AN ASSEMBLAGE PERMIT TO HOLD A "TAKE A SOLDIER FISHING" TOURNAMENT AT GRIFFIN LAKE (01):**

Zoning Administrator Shaw explained a group would like to hold a fishing tournament at Griffin Lake on October 4, 2014. There will be a twelve (12) boat tournament and food, music and other activities will be available during this event.

Mr. Bryon Stephens Jr. provided details of the event and history and success of the tournament in other locations.

Commissioner Floyd made a motion to approve the assemblage permit. Vice Chairman Kieffer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION TO TRANSMIT THE FY 2014 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT ELEMENT UPDATE TO THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (02):**

Zoning Administrator Shaw explained the Capital Improvement Element is required to be updated each year as long as impact fee ordinance is in place.

Commissioner Jones had questions about changes to projects.

Zoning Administrator Shaw stated that for any projects that have been completed or postponed changes would be reflected accordingly.

Vice Chairman Kieffer made a motion to approve to transmit the FY 2014 Capital Improvement Element update. Commissioner Floyd seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE PROPOSALS FOR RECRUITMENT OF VOLUNTEER FIRE**

**FIGHTERS (03):**

Fire Chief Hodges explained Effingham County Fire Rescue is a combination career/volunteer department. As such, recruiting and retaining new volunteer members is vital to the long term success of the organization. Proposals for recruitment presented were: Fair Booth at the Effingham County Fair, Newspaper/Media Advertisement, Pamphlets, high school football games and Association and Civic groups.

Commissioner Floyd made a motion to approve the recruitment proposals. Commissioner Loper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE EFFINGHAM POINTS OF DISTRIBUTION PLAN (04):**

EMA Director Myrick explained the Point of Distribution (POD) is where Effingham citizens would obtain emergency supplies following a disaster, such as food, water and/or other supplies.

The only way the plan would be put into effect is in the event of a state declared disaster where normal disruption of food, water or other life-saving commodities has been interrupted; Effingham County should be prepared to assist its citizens.

The State of Georgia Emergency Management has identified several critical plans that should be in place for the citizens and in doing so has provided an additional 2.5% reimbursement for approved expenditures during a State declared disaster. The Points of Distribution (POD) Plan has been identified as a requirement.

Commissioner Loper made a motion to approve the Points of Distribution Plan. Vice Chairman Kieffer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE MAJOR MEDICAL/RX AND SUPPLEMENTAL INSURANCE RENEWAL FOR THE 2014-2015 PLAN YEAR (05):**

Human Resources Director explained Effingham County has received the renewal for major medical and supplemental insurance representing all components of the current county insurance plan. The United Health Care (UHC), Guardian and AFLAC renewals were received and renegotiated beginning July 28, 2014 for the following sections: Major Medical/Rx, Dental, Vision, AD&D, STD/LTD, Life, and Supplemental Insurances. A summary of the results were reviewed.

The approximate combined savings for Dental, STD/LTD, and AD&D/Life Insurance is \$12,984.00. Employee purchased supplemental insurances have remained unchanged unless age/issuing categories change for the individual staff member. It was recommended that United Health Care -Option 10 be the choice for renewal.

There was a discussion among the Board and Staff regarding the options presented.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the renewal for Major Medical (UHC-Option 10) and Supplemental Insurances/Flex Spending (Guardian/AFLAC (Wageworks)) and the benefits of STD/LTD, AD & D/Life, and the EAP program. Commissioner Loper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION TO EXECUTE A SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR SANDHILL FACILITY SEPTIC SYSTEM (06):**

Community Relations Director Kobek explained the septic system at Sand Hill has been experiencing difficulty keeping up with the ebb and flow of use at Sand Hill Recreation Complex. A new drain field is required and a suitable location was

identified over 300 feet from the existing septic system by soil scientist report. The contemplated fix is an overflow or wet tank which will pump effluent to a dosing chamber at the tiered drain field. Engineering is contemplated to correctly size the tank, dosing chamber and pump size required to effectively handle the distribution of the effluent.

Staff received three quotes with the lower being from EMC Engineering at \$1,500 for septic system design.

Commissioner Floyd made a motion to approve a Service agreement from Engineering Services with EMC Engineering for septic design services. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO EXECUTE A NOTICE OF INTENT FOR MS4 REQUIREMENTS (07):**

Community Relations Director Kobek explained Effingham County is now a small Phase II MS4 and is required to submit a Storm Water Management Program by September 3, 2014. The Notice of Intent is a requirement of the MS4 and Storm Water Management Program under the State of Georgia's General NPDES Stormwater Permit No. GAG610000.

Interim Administrator Allen engaged the Board on the sections the Stormwater Management document would include.

There was an at length discussion among the Board and Staff about the requirements and the information being submitted to the State.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to authorize the Chairman to execute the NOI, transmit the Stormwater Management Plan and advised Staff to bring the final document to the Board's agenda on September 16, 2014. Commissioner Loper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPOINT A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE DISTRICT 2 AND DISTRICT 3 SEATS ON THE DFCS BOARD (08):**

County Clerk Johnson explained the Department of Family & Children Services is comprised of a five (5) member Board which consists of a representative from each of the Commissioner districts. The seat of the 3rd District appointee is being vacated. After 33 years of services, Ms. Effie Hunter is retiring her position effective June 30, 2014. Ms. Linda McDaniel who currently holds the 2nd District seat on the Board has been recommended to be appointed to the 3rd District seat (where she now resides), leaving the 2nd District vacant.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to appoint Linda McDaniel to the District 3 seat and Lindsey Dodd to the District 2 seat on the DFCS Board. Commissioner Mason seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION TO REAPPOINT HERB JONES TO THE CRC COUNCIL (09):**

County Clerk Johnson explained the Coastal Regional Commission serves 10 counties and 35 cities. The Coastal Regional Commissioner is directed by a Commission Council, a body of elected and appointed officials representing the public and private sector. Mr. Herb Jones has served as non-public representative of Effingham County and the cities of Guyton, Rincon and Springfield for the CRC Council. All municipalities request to reappoint Mr. Herb Jones. This appointment is for one year. Mr. Jones' term expired on July 31, 2014.

Commissioner Loper made a motion to approve to reappoint Herb Jones to the CRC Council. Commissioner Mason seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE TO NOT REQUIRE CONNECTION TO WATER SERVICES ON A PROPERTY LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF MIDLAND AND BLUE JAY ROADS (10):**

Interim County Administrator Allen explained Mr. Brewster does not want County water due to the cost for the line needed to connect the home to the existing water main. Mr. Brewster indicated that the proposed house location is approximately 1,800 feet from the existing water main, which is on the opposite side of the road.

Ms. Martha Brewster approached the board on behalf of the applicant. Ms. Brewster explained they received an estimate on the cost to tie in of \$11,000.

There was a discussion among the Board about revising the ordinance to accommodate certain issues that the ordinance does not currently address. There was also conversation about state law on wells.

Commissioner Mason made a motion to enforce County ordinance; require connection to water and sewer. Commissioner Loper seconded the motion. Commissioner Floyd and Vice Chairman Kieffer opposed the motion. The motion carried three to two.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE AN AUTOMATIC AID AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD FOR FIRST RESPONSE SERVICES (11):**

Interim County Administrator Allen explained this agreement would incorporate two residences on Cletus Gnann Road. The Springfield City Council will add the agreement to their next agenda for approval upon a decision being made by the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Loper made a motion to approve the automatic aid agreement with the City of Springfield. Vice Chairman Kieffer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE COMMISSIONERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

Community Relations Director discussed the following:

- 1. Reuse Agreement for the BOE**
  - The Board of Education would like to enter into a reuse agreement with the County for irrigation at South Effingham Elementary School.
- 2. Rivers Alive Event**
  - To be held on September 27, 2014.

Interim County Administrator Allen discussed the following:

- 1. 2014 State of the Port Address**
  - The 2014 State of the Port Address will be Thursday, September 25, 2014 at the Savannah International Trade and Convention Center.
  - There will be a reception from 10:30 am to 11:45 am and a luncheon from 11:45 am to 1:30 pm.
- 2. Corrective Action Plan**
  - A copy of the proposed corrective action plan has been provided.
  - Does the Board wish to place the corrective action plan on the September 16<sup>th</sup> agenda for a vote or would you like for staff to transmit the plan to the State?
- 3. Hospital Authority Intergovernmental Agreement**



- A letter responding to the Hospitals letter has been drafted and is provided for your review.
  - Are there any objections to sending the letter to the Hospital Authority while we continue to compile information to more fully address their concerns?
- 4. Blue Jay Water Line Extension**
- The developer has expressed concerns over the requirements of extending the surface water line to service the proposed development.
  - The current plan is for the developer to extend a private water line of sufficient size to handle the proposed development.
  - Would the Board like to consider a cost sharing arrangement with the developer to extend larger infrastructure.

Zoning Administrator Shaw discussed the following:

**1. Comprehensive Plan Update**

- Our Comprehensive Plan must be updated by October 31, 2014.
- The update will be on the September 16<sup>th</sup> agenda for Board consideration.
- A copy of the proposed update has been provided to allow for more review time and to allow for any suggestion to me made before the item is presented for consideration in September.

Finance Director Wright discussed the following:

**1. Water and Sewer bills**

- Still working out the inconsistencies with the water bills.

Vice Chairman Kieffer discussed the following:

**2. Animal Shelter**

- A request was made by a citizen that the Rescue fee be removed to allow more animals to be moved. Staff amicable to a reduction of the fee.

Commissioner Mason discussed the following:

**1. Reedsville Road signs**

- Speed limit signs are down, contact Public Works about reposting.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no business to be conducted in executive session.

**PLANNING BOARD**

**GLEN FANNY (01):** A public hearing was held on application by Glen Fanny to rezone 5 acres from AR-1 to I-1 located on Blue Jay Road Map# 374 Parcel# 4 in the First District.

Zoning Administrator Shaw explained the Planning Board only denied the request because the applicant was not present at the meeting for discussion.

Mr. Glen Fanny spoke in favor of his request.

Commissioner Floyd approved the request with the following Staff recommendations:

1. Each lot shall meet the requirements of the I-1 Zoning District.

2. Site development plans shall comply with the Effingham County Water Resources Protection Ordinance and the Storm Water Management Local Design Manual.
3. All wetland impacts shall be permitted by the USACE.
4. Subdivision plat shall be approved by the Health Department and the Zoning Office.
5. This rezoning is solely for the purpose of operating a surface mine and not to be used for any other I-1 use.
6. A copy of the State mining permit must be submitted to the zoning administrator.
7. The mine must be approved for closing by the State prior to the parcel being rezoned back to AR-1.
8. Must meet all requirements of Sec. 3.17 Excavation, mining, and fills of land and/or state/federal jurisdictional waters or wetlands of the Effingham County zoning ordinance.

Commissioner Loper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**JORDAN SISLO & TAHRIN FICCHI (02):** A public hearing was held on application by

Jordan and Tahrin Ficchi for a variance to allow for a dog daycare and board facility located at Hester Road Map# 375 Parcel# 44 in the First District

Zoning Administrator Shaw explained the applicants previously received a rural business approval. The applicants would like to expand the facility for the business beyond what is allowed under the rural business guidelines. Staff recommends denial, the Planning Board recommends approval.

Ms. Tahrin Ficchi provided a floor plan and soil report to the Board for review.

Ms. Ficchi stated there would be a 75 foot buffer adjacent to the nearest property owner and the facility would be located approximately 500 feet away from the closest neighboring property.

Commissioner Floyd made a motion to approve the request as recommended by the Planning Board. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:04 pm, Commissioner Mason made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Loper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

  
WENDALL KESSLER, CHAIRMAN

  
STEPHANIE JOHNSON, COUNTY CLERK