



Fannin County Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting
Jury Assembly Room

November 14, 2017 at 5:15pm

OPENING REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Helton called the meeting to order at 5:15pm.

The invocation was led by Robert Graham and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Johnson.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Helton made a motion to approve minutes for the October 24, 2017 minutes. Second made by Commissioner Sosebee. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

First to speak was Ralph Garner. He expressed positives under his leaderships: overhauling the Road Department, constructing the new Fire Station, and hiring an inhouse CPA. Garner also expressed his concerns for Chairman Helton not allowing citizens to question department heads, Animal Control's "careless" work ethic, abuse of overtime by animal control, citizens having to pay for open records requests of checks over \$4500.00.

Diane Bond, from Hell's Hollow stated she was unhappy with Animal Control. She had stated that she sent Chairman Helton multiple emails that were not answered. She stated she that she had fostered a dog and was a forced to give the dog back because the dog's owner had come forward to claim the dog.

Jim McCain of McCaysville asked that Animal Control to make photocopies of driver's licenses of people that are picking up and or claiming animals.

Jan Eaton, of Tri-State Animal Rescue, voiced that she was upset that Animal Control had handed over 2 full breed dogs to someone other than the rightful owners. Eaton says there is no good policies in place. Eaton also voiced her disgust with Fannin Animal Control Facilities that they were in her opinion a disgrace to the community.

Marcella Olsteen from Epworth. Olsteen stated her disappointment in the way Jan Eaton had been treated by elected officials and that Eaton should have been allowed to be on the BOC meeting agenda.

James Bond from Hell's Hollow stated that he thought that people should be able to talk as much as they want to the board During a meeting.

Karen Wilson stated that she is an animal rescuer. She said that she stopped pulling from Fannin County because she could not deal with the people or the facilities.

Public commentary closed at 5:38pm.

NEW BUSINESS

Robert Graham of EMA presented a proposal for a new Medix Ambulance that is identical to the truck that EMS recently received. The only difference is that ambulance will be built on a 2018 chassis rather than the 2017 chassis. Dealer would charge the same amount that he charged for the 2017 chassis ambulance that was received this year. This ambulance would not be delivered until the end of January and would not be billed until delivery. Total amount of ambulance is \$124,280. Motion made by Chairman Helton to approve purchase. Second made by Commissioner Sosebee. Motion Passed unanimously.

Proclamation was presented by Pruitt Healthcare and signed to declare November as Hospice and Home Health month.

Variance request made by Barry D and Ana M. Delphus to put a garage 8ft from Dial Escape Road. Commissioner Johnson stated his limit was 10ft. Stated 8 ft was too close. Commissioner Sosebee stated he thought it was too close as well. Motion made by Commissioner Johnson to reject motion until it could be moved to 10ft to be reconsidered. Second made by Commissioner Sosebee. Motion passed unanimously.

Rainbow Road right of way was next on the agenda. Residents were under the impression that road would be paved but that has not taken place. So now it is being requested that road goes back to private. Commissioner Sosebee stated that he did not blame them if the road was not going to be maintained. Commissioner Johnson said that county could get it back on the tax registry. Motion made by Chairman Helton to return the Right of Way of Rainbow Rd. Second made by Commissioner Sosebee. Motion passed unanimously.

Fire Chief Larry Thomas presented a request to purchase a firetruck (that is safety yellow in color) that would take the place of engine 13. The truck is located in Virginia and is great shape. Thomas asked for the truck to be purchased out of this year's budget. Original asking price for truck is \$49,500.00 but after speaking to seller price was reduced to \$45,000. Thomas stated that the truck brand new would run between \$260,000 and \$270,000. Commissioner Johnson stated he preferred uniformity with the color of the firetrucks. Commissioner Sosebee made a motion to approve purchase. Second made by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda, the Fire Fighters Cancer Insurance policy that is mandated by the state. Chairman Helton made a motion to sign the resolution on the cancer policy. Second made by commissioner Sosebee. Motion passed unanimously.

Eddie O'Neal submitted quotes to resurface the basketball court at the Rec Center. Prater quoted \$8735.00 and Stevens quoted \$10,900.00. O'Neal stated that Prater had finished job in 2015 and had done a great job. O'Neal said the court time would be shut down on a Friday the 13th of December and opened on Monday the 16th. Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the bid from Prater in the amount of \$8735.00. Second made by Chairman Helton. Motion passed unanimously.

Following O'Neal was the permit to approve 10 additional chimpanzees to the Project Chimp Facilities. Commissioner ~~Johnson~~ ^{Sosebee} made a motion to approve. Second made by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

Zack Ratcliff of the Public Works Department came to the front to ask for approval to purchase a Track Hoe from the Water Authority in the amount of \$42,000. Commissioner Sosebee stated that we had more equipment than men to operate equipment. Commissioner Johnson stated he did not think that the equipment was needed and that the Water Authority could sell it to someone else and didn't know why the Water Authority would be selling it.

Next on the agenda, was to approve a lease for the school buses to run for the Rec Department for the Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks. The Rec. Department would pay the drivers and would pay for the fuel while it is being used for the Rec Department. Commissioner Johnson noted it was very generous of the BOE and Requested that O'Neal Express the BOC thanks and appreciation. Chairman Helton made a motion to approve the lease. Second made by Sosebee. Motion passed unanimously.

Last on the agenda, Chairman Helton spending limit. Chairman Helton stated the current spending limit was too low at \$4,500. There have been approximately 400 checks that we must have 2 signatures and noted during the audit that purchase orders were being paid over \$4500.00 without prior approval. Chairman Helton went on to say that the surrounding counties the Commissioners had much higher spending limits. The Chairman asked Commissioner Johnson his thoughts on the matter and he replied, "no absolutely not." Commissioner Johnson went on to say that the other counties had a county attorney that worked for the entire board and that Fannin County had an Attorney that worked for the Chairman and stated any situation that would come up he could not get a straight answer from the attorney. Commissioner Johnson shared his concerns over raising the spending limit and stated money always causes the problems. Commissioner Sosebee stated that he too did not agree with raising the spending limit. Stated that Chairman Helton knew what the limit was when he was running for office.

Chairman Helton stated the main issue was the audit and that things needed to change this year to comply for next year. Chairman Helton stated that he did not want this to show negative on the County or the BOC.

Commissioner Johnson asked about some of the other issues that had been sighted in the audit in the other departments. Robin Gazaway spoke up and mentioned several corrections that had been made. Commissioner Johnson added he was beginning to see a pattern going the wrong way and there were too many tweaks happening. Commissioner Johnson said he would like to change things and have the County Attorney, Lynn Doss work for the BOC and not just Chairman Helton. Commissioner Johnson said it had nothing to do with Doss it had all to do with structure of the Board.

Commissioner Johnson made the motion to move the County Attorney, Lynn Doss to be under the discretion of the full Board. Chairman Helton denied the request. Commissioner made the motion again under Home Rule. Chairman Helton stated that Home Rule had a different process.

Commissioner Johnson made the request again. Chairman Helton stated the only motion he would make would be that the meeting be adjourned. A second was not made. Chairman Helton asked Commissioner Sosebee if he would like to second the motion and Commissioner Sosebee did not reply.

At that time, Chairman Helton said a 5-minute break was in order. Meeting broke for 5 minutes at that time.

Meeting went back in session after breaking. Commissioner Johnson stated that the County Clerk only recorded Chairman Helton's comments in the minutes and that Lynn Doss only answered to Chairman and that the county was in a pickle with the "system" that the county is under.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

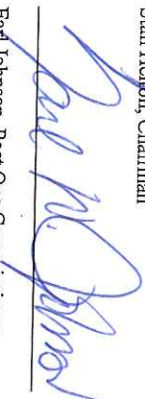
No executive session needed

CLOSING

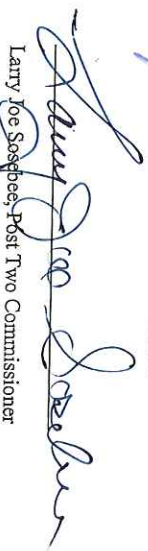
Chairman Helton asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Sosebee said he would second the motion if the discussion concerning the County Attorney be picked up again at a future meeting. Chairman Helton agreed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.



Stan Helton, Chairman

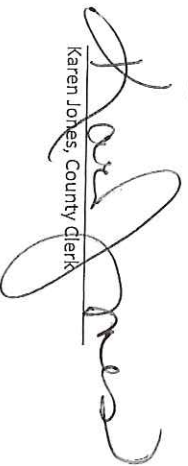


Earl Johnson, Post One Commissioner



Larry Joe Sosebee, Post Two Commissioner

Attest:



Karen Jones, County Clerk