



**Fannin County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Jury Assembly Room  
January 24, 2017 6:00 PM**

**OPENING REGULAR MEETING**

Chairman Stan Helton called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

The Invocation was given by Lydia Long.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Helton.

Chairman Helton moved to a motion to appoint Kristen Stone at the Interim County Clerk for the January 24, 2017 meeting. Motion made first by Chairman Helton. Second made by Commissioner Larry Joe Sosebee; motion passed by unanimous vote.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Chairman Helton asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2017 regular meeting and the January 18, 2017 workshop. Motion made first by Commissioner Earl Johnson. Motion made second by Commissioner Sosebee; motion passed by unanimous decision.

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

Lydia Long discussed National Day of Prayer and extended an invitation to the board to join her at World Harvest Church North for a prayer breakfast.

Joe Webb stated he felt the board had a good beginning using workshops and is looking for a new spirit of cooperation of the commissioners as well as the commissioners in the public. Webb presented a "Christmas Wish List" to the board. Webb's document included a single document county charter, five-year financial comparison, copy of all ordinances, copy of all legal contracts, copy of all resolutions by prior boards that are binding to the current board, a road paving priority list, capital projects list, and written department reports.

With no further comments, Public Commentary was closed at 6:07 PM.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Chairman Helton shifted to approving all invoices over \$4,500. Commissioner Sosebee stated he had reviewed the invoices and did not see anything wrong with them. Commissioner Johnson commented that he had been questioned regarding the legal services and whether or not they are paid a month ahead. Commissioner Johnson remarked that the check that was up for approval was for February. Commissioner Johnson asked County Attorney Lynn Doss if it was in the contract to be paid a month in advance and she replied she does not have a contract. Commissioner Johnson commented he believes payment should be made as services rendered and not before. Commissioner Johnson stated he was in favor of paying all invoices except the Doss & Associates check. Chairman Helton asked Commissioner Johnson what his recommendation was for the payment and Commissioner Johnson replied the decision would be up to Chairman Helton but he would recommend a contract. Chairman Helton inquired about any prior agreements or contracts Doss may have had. Doss stated she had never had a contract with Fannin County since becoming the county attorney in 1990. Doss stated she was asked to go to a flat fee around 2000-2001 and had been paid a retainer from the 15<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> of each month for the upcoming month. Commissioner Johnson stated he did not know what the issue would be with having a contract. Doss stated she had no issue having a contract but she had never been asked to have a contract. Commissioner Johnson clarified he did not think the fee was too high or too low but did not understand why there was no contract. Commissioner Johnson added he had never hired an attorney that did not submit a bill. Doss commented she had previously used the word "retainer" and should have said "flat fee"; she added she had been asked to go to a flat fee because of the number of hours that were involved. Chairman Helton he would be willing to pay Doss at the end of the month for services. Chairman Helton commented the board could look into a contract but he was not prepared to do so at the time. Chairman Helton called for a motion to approve invoices over \$4,500 made first by Commissioner Sosebee. Second made by Commissioner Johnson; motion passed by unanimous decision. The invoices are included and should be considered part of the minutes.

Chairman Helton moved to the monthly update from department heads. Chairman Helton explained that not every department head is needed at every meeting but some departments are needed each month. Chairman Helton stated the board would be asking specific department heads to present their monthly report and every department needs to give a report quarterly.

Eddie O'Neal, Fannin County Recreation Department Director, said spring sports are open for registration and commented on the clean up around creek areas and walking trails. O'Neal asked to purchase an aerator to use on the playing fields. O'Neal submitted two quotes:

Mason Tractor: \$4,749

Nelson Tractor: \$5,626

O'Neal stated that the local price was the lowest price.

Motion to purchase the aerator made first by Commissioner Helton. Motion made second by Commissioner Sosebee; motion passed by unanimous decision.

Ken Petty, Fannin County Maintenance Department Head, presented the board with recommendations for the Recreation park house. After a discussion, the board asked Petty to collaborate with Recreation Director Eddie O'Neal and comprise a plan. The board stated they approved of Petty getting request for proposals for the project at any time. Petty presented the board with an estimate to tint the windows of the courthouse. Chairman Helton stated he asked Petty to look into this as it will take the glare and heat of off the security guards and will be an improvement in security. Petty stated the blinds could be removed and there will be 39% energy savings. Petty stated the company is local and the price they had submitted was for the entire front of the courthouse. Chairman Helton announced the price was just under \$10,000. Motion to approve the tint made first by Chairman Helton. Second made by Commissioner Johnson; motion passed by unanimous vote.

Zack Ratcliff, Fannin County Public Works Department Head, commented on work that had been completed at Fire Station 3 and cutting fallen and dead trees. Ratcliff stated there had been 220 hours of overtime during the snow. Ratcliff remarked they had worked on snow plans and priorities and had added a snow plow that had been found at the shop. Ratcliff stated he is continuing to receive calls regarding county and private roads. Commissioner Sosebee inquired about the new spreaders for the pickup trucks and new tire machine. Ratcliff said the spreaders were mounted that day and the new tire machine is good. Commissioner Sosebee commented on the machine bringing money back to the shop.

Keith Nicholson, Fannin County Building Inspector, stated he called other counties to compare new home statistics from the prior year. Nicholson stated the following:

Cherokee, North Carolina: 184 new homes	Towns: 53
Gilmer: 152	Lumpkin: 149
Union: 154	Fannin: 263

Nicholson stated that the other building inspector, Jody Barfield, had been certified for electrical inspections. Chairman Helton remarked how having in house electrical inspectors is saving money. Nicholson commented on an ongoing situation at Black Gum Subdivision that is being turned over to Magistrate Court. Nicholson commented on the possibility of requiring permits for swimming pools and discussion followed. Chairman Helton asked Nicholson to submit more information regarding the swimming pool permits to the board.

Chairman Helton moved to the appointment of Sherry Morris to the Board of Health. Chairman Helton noted he had learned the appointment is the chairman's appointment but had no issue opening it up as a board decision. Motion made first by Chairman Helton. Motion made second by Commissioner Sosebee; motion passed by unanimous decision.

Chairman Helton proceeded to the appointment of Richard Wagner to the Fannin County Development Authority. Motion made first by Commissioner Johnson. Second made by Chairman Helton; motion opposed by Commissioner Sosebee. Motion sustained two to one.

Chairman Helton shifted to the appointment of Jim McKnight to the Fannin County Development Authority. Motion made first by Commissioner Sosebee. Second made by Commissioner Johnson; motion passed by unanimous decision.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board entered into Executive session at 6:59 PM for matters pertaining to county litigation. Motion to enter into Executive session made first by Commissioner Johnson. Motion made second by Commissioner Sosebee; motion passed by unanimous vote.

At 7:44 PM, Chairman Helton called for a motion to come out of Executive session. Motion to come out of Executive session made first by Commissioner Sosebee. Second made by Commissioner Johnson; motion passed by unanimous decision.

Chairman Helton stated that no decisions had been made.

#### CLOSING

With no further business, Chairman Helton called for a motion to adjourn. Motion made first by Commissioner Johnson. Second made by Commissioner Sosebee; motion passed by unanimous decision.

Stan Helton, Chairman

Earl Johnson, Post One Commissioner

Larry Joe Sosebee, Post Two Commissioner

Attest:

Kristen Store, Interim County Clerk