



Fannin County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Jury Assembly Room
February 7, 2017 9:00 AM

OPENING REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Stan Helton called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Helton proceeded to the signing and approval of the Appalachian Pretrial and Probation Program. Chairman Helton commented that he understood it is the same contract that has been signed for years. Commissioner Helton stated the board could vote to authorize him to sign in approval of the contract or all three members of the board could sign. Commissioner Larry Joe Sosebee commented about bidding the services out. Chairman Helton inquired about bidding the services because the contract involved Gilmer and Pickens counties as well. County Attorney Lynn Doss stated it would require an intergovernmental agreement between the three counties and one county would act as the bid agent. Commissioner Earl Johnson asked if Appalachian Pretrial and Probation Program is a government entity or a private organization. Doss answered she understood it to be private but had not yet received confirmation. Discussion followed about tabling the motion and confirming it would not delay the Magistrate Judge or Probate Judge. Commissioner Sosebee made a motion to table the contract approval until the next meeting. Commissioner Johnson remarked he would not want to go against the Probate Judge and Magistrate Judge's wishes. Probate Judge Scott Kiker commented on the contract and stated the same company had been used since he took office. Judge Kiker stated he had read the agreement but never questioned it. Commissioner Sosebee asked if the contract signed by Judge Kiker was recently reviewed and Judge Kiker stated it had been. Commissioner Sosebee added that if Judge Kiker had no issue with it then he did not either. Commissioner Johnson remarked that if the judges were happy with it he approved of the contract but did not understand why they had never signed the contract in prior meetings. Commissioner Johnson commented that only the Board of Commissioners could sign contracts. Chairman Helton asked if it would be proper for the courts to ask for bids or the Board of Commissioners and noted if the board took bids it would likely need to be in unison with Pickens County and Gilmer County. Judge Kiker deferred to the County Attorney and asked that the record show he was not retaining the County Attorney. Doss said that as to Magistrate Court and Probate Court it would be solely up to Fannin County because Magistrate and Probate operate within the confines of their county. Doss said that Superior Court would be done in conjunction with the other two counties because it is one judicial circuit. Commissioner Johnson inquired if Doss was aware of the contract and she said she was not. Chairman Helton inquired about signing the contract and later getting bids. Doss said the contract would be good for a period of time. Commissioner Johnson said the contract stated it would be binding until July of next year; Commissioner Sosebee commented that the contract is reoccurring. Judge Kiker thanked the board for looking into the contract. Mark Thomason stated that Doss had earlier referred to APPP as a private corporation and Thomason stated he had searched on the Georgia Secretary of State website and had not found a for-profit or nonprofit corporation; Thomason asked if the county had documentation showing APPP was an actual company. Doss stated she used the word, "corporation" as a euphemism for private entity because she did not believe it is a branch of county government. Commissioner Sosebee withdrew his prior motion to table the approval. Motion to give Chairman Helton authorization to sign the contract made first by Commissioner Johnson. Motion made second by Commissioner Sosebee; motion passed by unanimous decision. Commissioner Johnson inquired about past contracts.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to enter into executive session made first by Commissioner Sosebee. Motion made second by Commissioner Johnson; motion passed by unanimous decision. The board entered into Executive session at 9:19 AM regarding personnel issues.

Chairman Helton called for a motion to come out of executive session at 10:02AM. Motion to come out of executive session made first by Commissioner Johnson. Second made by Commissioner Sosebee; motion passed by unanimous vote.

Chairman Helton remarked that the board had been on a search for a Financial Director for thirty days and commented on financial scrutiny and responsibility in Fannin County. Chairman Helton made a motion to hire Robin Gazaway as the Financial Director. Motion made second by Commissioner Sosebee; motion passed by unanimous decision. Gazaway accepted the position.

CLOSING

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

Stan Helton
 Stan Helton, Chairman

Earl Johnson
 Earl Johnson, Post One Commissioner

Larry Joe Sosebee
 Larry Joe Sosebee, Post Two Commissioner

Attest:

Kristen Stone
 Kristen Stone, Interim County Clerk