



Fannin County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Jury Assembly Room
November 28, 2017 at 5:15pm

Public Hearing for Budget

Chairman Helton opened the public hearing on the budget at 5:00pm and asked if there were any public comments.

Joe Webb addressed his concerns about budget changes and concern about not having any narrative for the budget.

Magistrate Judge Brian Jones addressed his concern of cuts in his budget. Jones requested funds to do merit raises.

Judge Jones stated that his department had taken on more work and his budget did not allow for overtime or additional work that would be needed.

Reporter from the News Observer asked about a cut to the Chamber of Commerce budget that went from a 70/30 percent split to a 60/40 split. Reporter asked what project that money was going to. Chairman Helton stated that there has not been any vote on the matter as of yet.

Chairman Helton adjourned Public Hearing at 5:12pm.

OPENING REGULAR MEETING

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

The invocation was led by Lane Bishop and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Johnson.

Chairman Helton made a motion to have Lynn Doss take the minutes for the meeting, due to the absence of County Clerk. Second made by Chairman Sosebee. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Helton made a motion to approve minutes for the November 14, 2017 minutes. Commissioner Johnson pointed out an error that needed to be corrected. Commissioner Johnson made the motion to approve the minutes with the correction. Second made by Commissioner Sosebee. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Marcella O'Steen asked for everyone to please use the microphones.

Joe Webb from the Dial area. Pleaded that Shallowford Bridge Rd crosswalk had been painted. Webb also mentioned amendments to the budget and asked if there was such a document that existed and then submitted an open records request.

Jan Eaton approached the front concerning Animal Control. Eaton brought a tray from a dog kennel that was damaged and stated that the Department Head was not at all concerned with providing proper and safe equipment. Stated she thought that the facility was in her words, "deplorable". Eaton stated that when she visited Animal Control there was a dog with parvo and was now at Dr. Mitchell's vet clinic with another dog that had been exposed.

Ralph Garner asked that the Post Commissioners to take the initiative to do something concerning Animal Control.

Linda Kyker requested that the inside of Animal Control be painted.

James Bond asked that the situation with Animal Control; be kept in the forefront of discussion. Request that Jan Eaton be put on the agenda and not confined to the 3-minute minimum of public commentary.

Public commentary closed at 5:33pm

NEW BUSINESS

Variance request made by David and Tracy Schulz to build a garage 10-feet from property line. Neighbor also submitted a letter stating they were fine with the 10 feet. Chairman Helton made a motion to approve variance. Second made by Commissioner Sosebee. Motion passed unanimously. After variance passed Mrs. Schulz came forward asking for 8-feet from property line. Chairman Helton informed Mrs. Schultz that she would have to resubmit a variance to see if it would pass.

Variance request made by Larry Tankersley to build a garage 8-feet from property line and to build proposed garage 19 feet from Forge Mill Rd. it was stated that this was an addition to an existing structure that predated the 10-foot rule. Motion made by Commissioner Sosebee to approve variance. Second made by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

Following the variances was Eddie O'Neal from the Rec Department. O'Neal presented the Board with a renewal of a Beverage Agreement with Coca-Cola Bottling Company, to supply all beverages for the Parks and Recreation Department. This is a 5-year contract. Each year of the contract prices could increase no more than 3% annually. Coca-Cola would also supply 3 new score boards that the County would install but Coca-Cola would maintain. Also, provided would be coolers. Chairman Helton made a motion to approve contract. Commissioner Johnson made the second. Motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda, Lake Blue Ridge Trail Resolution. This would allow Fannin County to be able to apply for a grant. This grant would help revitalize the Green Creek/Lake Blue Ridge Day Use area. If awarded the \$200,000 could be utilized for trailhead improvement and ADA accessibility. Commissioner Sosebee made a motion to approve resolution. Second made by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

The speed limit on Old 76 was discussed next. Current speed on the majority of highway is 45mph. However, county portion of road is 35mph. Raffle of the Public Works Dept. advised that speed remain over Blue Ridge Dam at 35mph. Chairman Helton made a motion to increase county portion of highway to 45mph. Second made by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

Christmas bonuses for county employees were discussed and was agreed to give all county employees \$100.00 Christmas bonus. Chairman Helton made a motion to approve. Second made by Chairman Sosebee. Motion passed unanimously.

Robin Gazaway addressed the Board concerning the opening of 2 new bank accounts to keep SPLOST funds separate. This would require a resolution to be signed for each of the accounts. Gazaway stated that separate accounts would make it easier to keep track of and make SPLOST spending more transparent. One account would be for Recreation Department and other would be for Administrative Parking Deck. Commissioner Johnson asked Gazaway concerning opening up an account for the Hotel Motel taxes instead of putting that money into the general fund. Gazaway explained that those monies have always been a part of the general fund budget and are being used already. Chairman Helton stated that a workshop was needed to further discuss the possibilities of earmarking the Hotel Motel Tax to funding special projects.

Chairman Helton made a motion to sign resolutions to open the two accounts. Second made by Commissioner Sosebee. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Helton asked if there was need for executive session and there was not. Commissioner Sosebee spoke up and stated he would like to say something. Commissioner Sosebee went on to say he had reached out to John Drullinger to call or text him and he had not heard from him yet. Commissioner Sosebee stated that he thought that more crates needed to be purchased for Animal Control.

Chairman Helton asked if there was anything else. Commissioner Johnson spoke up and asked when the conversation concerning the County Attorney would be and Commissioner Sosebee stated that his thoughts on the matter were that it would be talked about after the budget was finalized and after the holidays.

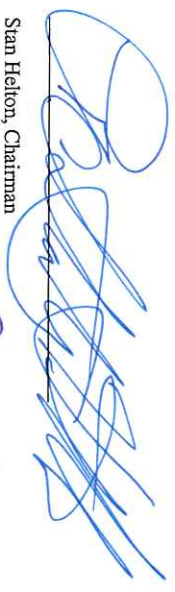
Chairman Helton asked again of there was a need for executive session and all agreed there was no need.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session needed

CLOSING

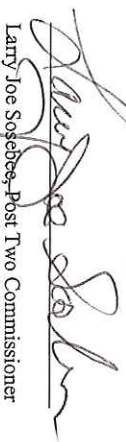
Chairman Helton asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second made by Commissioner Sosebee. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 6:16pm.



Stan Helton, Chairman

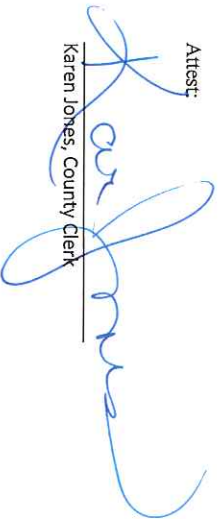


Earl Johnson, Post One Commissioner



Larry Joe Sosebee, Post Two Commissioner

Attest



Karen Jones, County Clerk