



Fannin County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Jury Assembly Room
May 23, 2018 at 5:15pm

OPENING REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Helton called the meeting to order at 5:15pm. The invocation was led by Zack Ratcliff and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Johnson.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Helton made a motion to approve minutes from the May 8, 2018. Commissioner Johnson made second. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Peter Lindblom came to the podium and address the Board of Commissioners concerning the Horseshoe Bend Park proposed Walking Trail. Mr. Lindblom also stated that the Board members needed to have bios on the web page and that he did not believe that minutes of the meetings were not uploaded in a timely manner. Chairman Helton addressed Mr. Lindblom and clarified that the Horseshoe Bend Park walking path was a grant that was applied for and would be a split with the County being responsible for only 20% and 80% would come from the state. Chairman Helton also clarified that the minutes had to be approved before being posted.

Public Commentary was closed at 5:23pm.

NEW BUSINESS

Nicole Potzauf addressed the Board on the Art Center. Potzauf stated that the Art Center had received 6019 guests as to date and was opened approximately 53 hours a week. Economic impact based on 2017 expenditures and costs the economic impact is estimated to be \$618,000. American Craft Counsel has voted Blue Ridge number 4 on the list for top art towns nationwide.

Additionally, the Art Center has issued \$4,000 in scholarships to graduating seniors this year. Arts in the Parks will be held May 26-27 and will include 168 arts and craft booths and 14 food vendors.

Next on the agenda, Josh Hood of ETC addressed the Board on IT and Ransomware protection. Hackers have held Atlanta and Dawsonville's records hostage for ransom. Hood stated there is no guarantee but we must do all we can, Ransomware is constantly changing. Hood stated that the way that the County's data has grown that he is only able to keep one day of backups and advised the Board to expand the external drives for backups to ideally carry a weeks' worth of backup. Hood stated that a network the size of Fannin's could be shut down in about an hour by a virus. Hood recommended the Fortinet FortiGate 100E UTM with a 3-year bundle and 5TB Backup Hard Drive would be \$4,419.55 and \$480 a month for offsite backup. Commissioner Johnson said there was no question that the County needed to do everything it could to protect its data. Chairman Helton made a motion to move ahead of the ransomware. Second made by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

Variance request made by Carson Communities LLC Jed Larkin to allow property to be split into two parcels. One parcel will be .5 acres with a duplex and second parcel will be .95 acres off Cherrywood Court. Commissioner Sosebee made a motion to approve variance. Second made by Commissioner Johnson. Variance is approved unanimously.

Currently, the Chamber of Commerce and County split the lodging tax 60% / 40%. The Chamber receives 60% and the County 40%. A six-month notice is required to give the Chamber before any changes can be made. After evaluation, it was determined to move to a 50/50 split on January 1, 2019. Half of the increase will go into an account for public safety and half would go into the general fund. With the extra funds it would allow the County to purchase a new ambulance or more every year. "Tourism is our life blood and the extra safety is needed to provide the needs of our citizens and visitors", stated Chairman Helton. Commissioner Johnson stated that he would never want to negatively impact the Chamber in anyway. County Attorney Lynn Doss stated any money that the Chamber receives must be used on advertisements and the County is also limited to what we can spend that money on. Chairman Helton made a motion to a 50/50 split with the Chamber of Commerce as of January 1, 2019. Second made by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

Patrick Cooke addressed the Board concerning an accident that a County ambulance out of service. Although, the ambulance was totaled the box that the patients would be in was left unharmed. Graham is negotiating with insurance concerning the box to be placed on a new cab and chassis. This would save the County approximately \$25,000 if this is done instead of purchasing a new ambulance. Timewise this would also be quicker than ordering a new ambulance. Chairman Helton asked Cooke to have a few quotes at the next meeting to remount box to new chassis.

Larry Thomas, Fire Chief addressed the Board concerning an increase from the contractor on the new Public Safety Complex. The increase would be \$61,293 or approximately 25% to finish the back part of the complex. Increase is due to increase costs of labor and materials. Commissioner Sosebee stated that he knew costs had gone up but he thought this increase was too much. Commissioner Johnson stated that it was absolutely unheard of and they needed to get a roof on the building. Johnson said he was not interested with this contractor finishing the back. Chairman Helton mentioned that the contractor stated that the building would be ready to move in by middle of June and the building was nowhere near complete. Chief Thomas made a recommendation to have a local contractor finish the back of the complex and not who was presently on the job. Chairman Helton asked Thomas to get with Graham and the Post Commissioners to schedule a Special Called Meeting with the contractor.

Chairman Helton stated that the auditors requested that the 2017 budget be amended to match the actual expenditures.

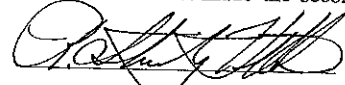
This would allow the county to submit this to Rushton and Assoc. and allows county to have a clean audit. Chairman Helton made a motion to amend the 2017 budget. Second made by Commissioner Sosebee. Motion passes unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Not Needed

CLOSING

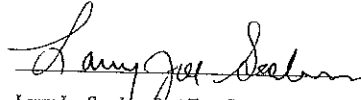
Commissioner Sosebee made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Johnson made the second. Motion passed unanimously.



Stan Helton, Chairman

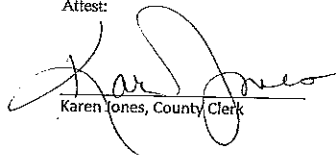


Earl Johnson, Post One Commissioner



Larry Joe Sosebee, Post Two Commissioner

Attest:


Karen Jones, County Clerk