



Fannin County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Jury Assembly Room
August 14, 2018 at 5:15pm

OPENING REGULAR MEETING

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

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

Chairman Helton added Robert Graham to the agenda as item 3a.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve minutes from the July 25 regular meeting and the August 7 special called meeting. Commissioner Sosebee made second. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Peter Lindbloom Stanley Creek Road expressed concerns over Animal Control. Lindbloom stated that upon leaving Dr. Mitchell's office on July 12 at 11:55 PM, he noticed a new or almost new red truck that had a metal box on the bag with scarce ventilation. Lindbloom questioned who would do that to an animal and then realized the truck belonged to Animal Control. Lindbloom commented that upon the realization that several truths were confirmed to him. He noted that not insulting citizens by driving better vehicles and embarrassing Dawn Cochran applied only to the Tax Assessors and did not apply to other county departments. He noted this was an effort to undermine the Tax Assessors.

Ralph Garner stated that he questioned Dawn Cochran on how many properties were left for site visits. Cochran told Garner there were 8,000 properties left and with vehicles no longer an issue, she felt her staff would make faster progress. Garner saluted Cochran for the results that had been delivered. Garner offered praise to Debbi Holcomb of The Fannin Sentinel and Sydney Taylor of The News Observer for their detailed account of the argument between the Chairman and the Tax Assessors. He saluted the reporters for the coverage of public commentary. Garner stated he supported Lane Bishop's opposition to the Chairman's position that the county is not required to answer questions but only to produce documentation through open record requests. Garner gave an update pertaining to the GBI audit of the Recreation Department during Bernie Hodskins's tenure.

With no further remarks, Public Commentary was closed at 5:19 PM.

NEW BUSINESS

Variance request made by Glenda and Charles Reilly. Motion to approve the variance made by Commissioner Sosebee. Second made by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed by unanimous decision.

Robert Graham asked if he could develop a scope of work and send out a request for proposals for paving the parking lot and area surrounding the new fire station. Chairman Helton commented that the timeline would allow for the bid to be awarded at the September 11, 2018 meeting. Commissioner Sosebee stated he had no problem with the RFP. Commissioner Johnson gave permission to proceed. No formal action was taken. Commissioner Johnson asked who would take the specs for the project. Graham commented that Zack Ratcliff would be helping. Chairman Helton stated Commissioner Johnson was welcome to help.

Chairman Helton stated he asked Land Development Department Head Marie Woody to come to the meeting for discussion of the LED sign ordinance. Chairman Helton stated he thought it would be a good time for the board to see if the ordinance was adequate or in need of revision. Woody presented the board with documentation regarding the ordinance and gave an overview. Chairman Helton inquired about what has changed or needed to be addressed. Woody commented that nothing had really changed but the ordinance is confusing. Chairman Helton asked County Attorney Doss if she was involved with the writing of the ordinance and if there was wording to be simplified. Doss commented that she was involved. Doss commented that when the ordinance was updated there was a move from tradition billboards and there are challenges because the county does not have zoning. Doss recommended more regulation on LED lights

and reminded the board that they could not control anything in the City of Blue Rudge or the City of McCaysville. Commissioner Sosebee commented on the brightness and not having anything brighter to cut down complaints. Johnson questioned the level of enforcement and said it would hard to change something that the county does not enforce. Chairman Helton asked if there was any objection to Doss looking into simplifying the ordinance. Commissioner Johnson said he had no problem with it but did not want to spend a lot of time on it if the county does not enforce it. Commissioner Sosebee had no problem with Doss checking into simplifying the ordinance. Chairman Helton asked Doss to look into improving the language of the ordinance. Commissioner Johnson asked how many complaints were received regarding the LED lighting and Woody stated she had no complaints. Commissioner Johnson clarified he did not have an issue simplifying the ordinance. Commissioner Sosebee questioned Woody regarding the scrap tire reimbursement program from EPD and the local business Tristate Tire Recovery. Commissioner Sosebee stated he had received complaints regarding mosquitos around the location. Commissioner Sosebee commented on conversation he had from a representative from Liberty Tire. Commissioner Sosebee asked Woody if she had a bill of labor and she stated she did. Woody stated that they also haul tires from other places other than Liberty Tire and she also has the bill of labor from them as well. Woody added that they haul to Tennessee and it was approved by the EPD. Commissioner Sosebee inquired if Woody had been to the site lately and she said she had not but stated the company was under the EPD's eye. Chairman Helton asked Woody to contact the Health Department and follow up with Commissioner Sosebee.

Zack Ratcliff commented on an issue with fuel tracking. A representative from Fuel Master explained that the fuel management systems provides for fuel accountability and answered questions regarding the system. Motion to purchase Fuel Master system made first by Chairman Helton. Commissioner Sosebee made second the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Item 6 was an Alcohol License from Hard Pressed Beverages LTD. Motion to approve the alcohol license made first by Chairman Helton. Motion made second by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of a Wild and Exotic Animal Application from Project Chimps followed. The application allowed for an additional ten female chimpanzees. Motion to approve application made first by Chairman Helton. Motion made second by Commissioner Sosebee. Motion passed by unanimous decision.

Item 8 was the approval of the Compass Materials contract. Motion to approve made first by Chairman Helton. Second made by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 9 was the approval of the Chamber of Commerce Contract. Chairman Helton stated the board had voted to enact the change beginning January 1, 2019 to go to a 50/50 split with the Chamber of Commerce. Chairman Helton asked for a vote allowing half of the increase from Hotel/Motel tax, 5%, to go into a Public Safety account. Motion made first by Chairman Helton. Second made by Commissioner Sosebee. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Helton remarked that the current millage rate 4.176%, the lowest unincorporated rate in the state. Chairman Helton explained the timeline coordination with the school system and the need to move the next meeting. Motion to move the next meeting to August 29 at 6:00 PM made first by Commissioner Johnson. Motion made second by Commissioner Sosebee. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Not needed.

CLOSING

Chairman 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


Lynn Doss, Interim County Clerk