



Fannin County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Jury Assembly Room
August 29, 2018 at 6:00pm

OPENING REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Helton called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
The invocation was led by Robert Graham and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Johnson.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve minutes from the August 14 regular meeting. Commissioner Sosebee made first the motion. Motion made second by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Chairman Helton invited citizens for public commentary.
Chairman Helton made another call for any public comments.

Public commentary closed.

NEW BUSINESS

A variance request was made from Edwin A. Patterson. Chairman Helton asked if anyone was present that opposed the variance. No one was present to oppose the variance. Commissioner Sosebee stated he had no problem with the variance. Commissioner Johnson also commented he had no issue with the variance. Chairman Helton agreed he had no issue and made first the motion to approve the variance. Second made by Commissioner Sosebee. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Helton moved to approving the county millage rate. Chairman Helton stated that the millage rate for the unincorporated area of Fannin County is 4.176, the lowest unincorporated millage rate of all counties in Georgia. Chairman Helton stated the following unincorporated rates for counties surrounding Fannin County:

Cherokee County 5.483
Dawson County 8.138
Gilmer County 6.983
Lumpkin 11.531
Murray 9.194
Pickens 7.883
Towns 5.375
Union 5.786

Commissioner Sosebee stated he felt the citizens should be proud of what is going on. Commissioner Johnson stated he was glad they were able to hold the same rate and hopefully they would be able to once again, if they spend tax payer money frugally. Chairman Helton called for a motion to continue the millage rate in the unincorporated area of Fannin County, as well as the school board's millage rate of 11.230 which was also a continuation of the previous rate. Motion made first by Commissioner Sosebee. Second made by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

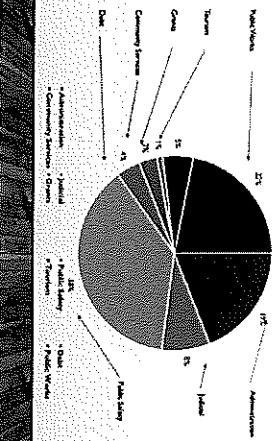
Chairman Helton shifted to a resolution to create a new bank account. Chairman Helton stated that the account would be for the increase the county receives from hotel/motel tax, going towards public service. Motion made first by Commissioner Johnson. Motion made second by Commissioner Sosebee. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Chief Financial Officer Robin Gazaway presented the budget report below:

2018 BUDGET REPORT

HANNIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Budget Expenditures



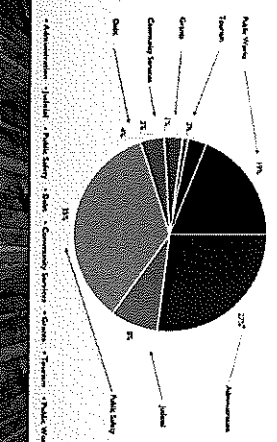
Points of Interest ... 58% into the Budget

Department	Priority	Actual	Original Cost	Committed Reserve
Recreation		\$35,823	\$4,918	\$7,611
Building Maintenance		\$58,198	\$28,532	17,223
Public Records/LOST		\$1,873,022	\$289,309	79,420
Fuel/MS/EMA		2,723,194	1,549,937	57,071
Tax-Assessor		\$48,235	48,630	3,443
Shoart		21,824,487	12,670,046	9,203
County Decision / JIS		1,587,401	\$4,871	18,443

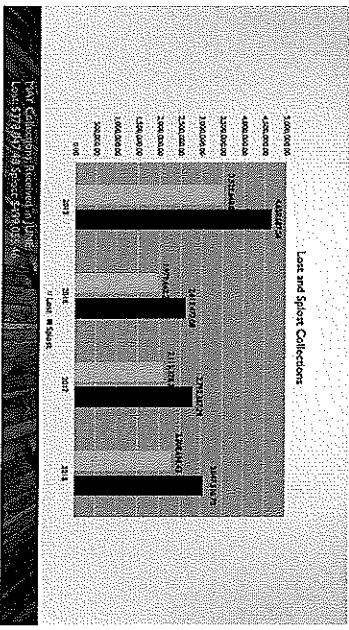
Department	Priority	Actual	Original Cost	Percentage
Administration		\$5,546,715	\$2,224,426	178/258%
Medical		\$9,239,171	\$1,776,678	519%
Public Safety		\$16,462,449	\$5,183,343	316%
Public		\$1,124,402	\$35,024	3208%
Community		\$848,815	\$444,435	191%
Other		\$377,558	\$6,433	5872%
Health/Animal		\$1,201,588	\$41,026	2929%
Public Works		\$4,177,242	\$2,844,429	146%
TOT		\$27,447,178	\$14,987,418	183%

ADDITIONAL BIDS OPTIMIZERS

Actual: 7/31/2018



\$1,047,870 UNDER BUDGET 4%



Commissioner Johnson inquired about any anticipated large expenditures. Gazaway stated she was aware of the courthouse debt payment. Gazaway stated the health insurance was dependent on the claims, and that she had been accruing the retirement each month.

EMA Director Robert Graham asked the board for permission to put out requests for proposals for the back, unfinished area of the Public Safety Complex. Chairman Helton inquired about timing issues with the current contractor and incoming contractor. Graham stated he did not know of any issues, but it would be best that the scope of work commence after the complex is released to the county. Bids would be due by October 9. Commissioner Sosebee stated he was ready to complete the project. Commissioner Johnson inquired about the time frame for bids and completion of the current project, in which Graham replied should be 4-6 weeks. Commissioner Johnson stated that if Graham felt comfortable with a month timeframe for the incoming bids, he was fine with it. Commissioner Johnson asked if the same specifications would be bid on that were previously engineered and Graham replied that it would be the same specifications. Motion to accept made first by Commissioner Sosebee. Second made by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

Graham proposed that the county purchase power cots and crash test loading systems to upgrade four frontline ambulances. Graham stated the power cots would reduce employee injuries. Graham commented that Georgia is expected to adopt the CAAS, The Commission on Accreditation, standards in 2019. Graham stated that all ambulances would be built to new standards, including crash test loading systems as power

cot systems. Graham said that, although they are not required to retrofit ambulances already in service, many others have done so to protect patients and employees. Graham presented the following bids from the only two companies that produce the ambulance cots:

Stryker: \$137,984.40, with no interest, five-year payment plan, \$4,500 installation fee
Ferno: \$186,881.60 plus interest of \$25,615.15, five-year payment plan, includes \$6,000 installation fee

Both companies agreed to defer the first payment until January 1, 2019. Graham stated he is presenting the purchase now because there is a 4% increase as of September 30 on Stryker and likely an increase on Ferno as well. Graham stated the purchase would be contingent on budget approval. Stryker would supply two cots until the new cots arrived. Commissioner Johnson asked about what changes would need to be done to the ambulance itself. Graham explained the changes and stated the work would be included in the quotes. Motion to purchase from Stryker made first by Chairman Helton. Second made by Commissioner Sosebee. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Chairman Helton commented that the county owns five acres on Bullen Gap Road that had been used for radio transmitters. Chairman Helton commented that the tower came down onto the building on the property however, there had also been a better location found for a transmitter station. EMA Director Robert Graham asked if the property could be sold and used for public safety, specifically for the fire station. Chairman Helton stated there was one bid. The only one bid was received for a sum of \$127,005.00 from Ron Alford of Flowery Branch, Georgia. Commissioner Sosebee stated he was happy with the bid. Commissioner Johnson stated he wished there were more bidders. Motion to accept made first by Chairman Helton. Motion made second by Commissioner Sosebee. Motion passed by unanimous decision.

Chairman Helton shifted to the PILT, Payment In Lieu of Taxes, lawsuit. Chairman Helton explained that the suit had begun in Utah, where a county sued the Federal Government. Chairman Helton stated 18 counties in Georgia had signed on to the suit including Gilmer, Lumpkin, Dawson, and Murray. Chairman Helton stated that Dawson was expecting \$3,500-\$5,000 recovery and they have 9,000 acres. Doss stated there is no expense to the county and that it is from previous years where the US Congress did not fully fund payment in lieu of taxes on federal property. Commissioner Johnson asked if the lawsuit would negatively impact the county's relationship with the Forest Service. Doss stated she had been told the money should have already been distributed and did not take anything out of the Forest Service's budget. Commissioner Johnson commented he would not want to do anything to jeopardize that relationship. Chairman Helton commented that 872 counties nationwide had signed on. Motion to sign onto the PILT class-action law suit made first by Commissioner Sosebee. Motion made second by Commissioner Johnson; motion passed by unanimous decision.

The next agenda item was the intergovernmental agreement between Pickens, Gilmer, and Fannin County for the provision of indigent defense in dependency cases. Doss stated that this is the agreement that the county has been operating under for the last three to four years. Doss gave an overview of the program and agreement. Commissioner Johnson asked who appoints the attorneys. County Attorney Doss answered that there is a three-person board that she is on, as she was appointed by the Governor but presumes there would be a new appointee. Doss stated another attorney is appointed by the Chief Judge and the last is appointed by the Chairman of the largest county in the circuit. Doss stated that, because her spouse currently represents Fannin County, she had nothing to do with the negotiations or the draft. Commissioner Johnson commented on the fact that Harry Doss would be representing Fannin County and Lynn Doss is the County Attorney. Doss stated that is why she had nothing to do with it and had seen the agreement for the first time that night. Commissioner Johnson inquired about the statement within the document, "That each of the above-named attorneys shall receive an annual salary of Sixty Thousand Dollars and no/100 (\$60,000) together with those other benefits described in the above referenced intergovernmental agreement". Doss stated that the attorneys would be considered county attorneys and could opt into benefits provided by the counties. Commissioner Johnson asked if Harry Doss is the indigent attorney now and Lynn Doss commented that he had been doing it since the system started. Doss commented that, in the past, Fannin County had paid less than any other county because Harry Doss did not have any of the benefits offered by Fannin County and he would continue to waive those benefits. The agreement is attached and should be considered part of the minutes. Commissioner Sosebee clarified that Doss would continue to waive the benefits. Lynn Doss stated he would and that the county has never had to provide office space or equipment. Commissioner Johnson expressed concern on the length of the agreement, 49 years. Commissioner Johnson said the kids need representation. Motion made first by Commissioner Sosebee. Second made by Chairman Helton. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Sosebee stated he had been asked about the time frame on Highway 2. Chairman Helton stated they had begun leveling on Monday. Commissioner Sosebee suggested placing a guard rail on Power Dam road where the creek runs close to the road, as there had been three accidents at the site over the last month and a half. Commissioner Sosebee asked Zack Ratcliff, Public Works Director, to investigate the price of a guard rail at the site. Chairman Helton stated he would follow up with Ratcliff.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
Not needed.

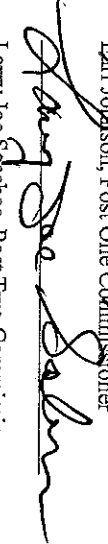
CLOSING

Chairman Johnson made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner


Sosebee made second the motion. Motion passed unanimously.


Stan Horton, Chairman


Earl Johnson, Post One Commissioner


Larry Joe Sosebee, Post Two Commissioner

Attest:


Lynn Doss, Interim County Clerk