



Fannin County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Jury Assembly Room
January 8, 2019 5:15 PM

OPENING REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Helton called the meeting to order at 5:15 PM.
The Invocation was led by Zach Ratcliff and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Johnson.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2018 Regular Meeting and the December 11 Budget Hearing. Second made by Chairman Helton; motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Henry Mallard of Cutcane Road requested that the board consider amendments to the Animal Control Ordinance to protect citizens from abusive breeders and puppy mills. Mallard commented about an animal situation next to his residence and commented that the dogs are without supervision for 20 hours a day.

Joe Webb of Dial welcomed Commissioner Patterson and stated he prayed for the commission. Webb commented on the striping on roads of Fannin County, especially the tourist roads. Webb stated it may be a good idea to take the percentage the county receives from the Hotel/Motel tax and use it towards striping the roads. Webb offered recommendations to the Post Two Commissioner.

James Bond welcomed Commissioner Patterson to the board. Bond commented on the three-minute rule for public commentary. Bond asked to be on the agenda and suggested a call to explain why he could not get onto the agenda. Bond commented on Open Records Requests for Animal Control Problem Reports. Bond commented that his last request was for all the Problem Reports for 2018 and was told they are all still under investigation. Bond stated if he did not receive the reports by the following week he would go to the Attorney General's office.

Julie Whitten discussed the Animal Control Ordinance and stated she had 23 roaming dogs on her property over 2.5 years. Whitten questioned Animal Control practices and offered recommendations for the ordinance. Whitten elaborated on the Cutcane Road issue and stated there are 127 dogs there that are not current on their rabies vaccinations.

Dana Worm of Aska Road discussed Animal Control issues. Worm asked for the laws to be enforced.

Frank Moore of Aska Road commented on a need for a County Charter and asked for it to be part of county business.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Helton stated there was a change to the agenda. Chairman Helton commented that the Chamber of Commerce was not able to attend the meeting, but that Fire Chief Larry Thomas needed to be on the agenda and would take the vacant slot.

Chief Thomas stated that the volunteers voted to commence the process of upgrading extraction tools. Thomas stated that the cost of three sets would be \$60,000. Thomas stated the volunteers had the money from donations but did not want to utilize all the money at once, as they had other items they needed as well. Thomas stated the volunteers paid \$17,000 down and were anticipating paying an additional \$7,300 more this year. Thomas stated the volunteers needed the Board of Commissioners' approval to borrow the additional funds. A board discussion followed, and Commissioner Johnson inquired about the note. Thomas stated it would be a three year note and they were looking to pay it off the next year. Motion made first by

Chairman Helton. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson; motion passed by unanimous decision. Thomas thanked the public for their donations.

Executive Director of Fannin County Development Authority Christie Gribble presented a new youth program through the Development Authority, Fannin Youth Initiative. Gribble explained that the program would be a youth version of Leadership Fannin. Gribble stated that the goal is to have 12 students complete the program the first year. Gribble explained aspects of the program including mentorship, economic development, and more.

The next item on the agenda was a resolution to change the signature cards on all bank accounts. Finance Director Robin Gazaway explained the change would be removing prior Post 2 Commissioner Sosebee and adding current Post 2 Commissioner Patterson. Motion made first by Chairman Helton. Motion made second by Commissioner Johnson; motion passed unanimously.

Sherry Morris of Fannin County Family Connections gave an overview of the services provided by Family Connections. Morris stated that the Board of Commissioners has acted as the fiscal agent for Family Connections for many years and asked the board to serve as the fiscal agent for the 2019 year. Chairman Helton made a motion to continue as the fiscal agent for Family Connections, starting July 1, 2019 through the end of June 2020. Second made by Commissioner Patterson; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Helton stated that the wireless phone bill for Fannin County runs approximately \$150,000 per year. Chairman Helton stated he had invited Steven Small to present opportunities to save money. Small, from SDS Wireless Consulting, gave an overview of Fannin County's Verizon bill and potential savings. Motion to enter into a three-year contract with SDS Wireless Consulting, LLC made first by Commissioner Johnson. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson; motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Helton addressed the board concerning the Advanced Disposal contract. Chairman Helton commented that if there are any changes or a cancellation to the contract, it must be done 180 days prior to the contract ending. Commissioner Johnson commented on looking into the tonnage that the county is producing and to see if the transfer stations could reduce the price per tonnage.

Chairman Helton moved to a contract with Trinity Services Group, Inc. Chairman Helton stated that the contract is for inmate meals and that Trinity Services Group, Inc. is requesting a 1.0% meal price adjustment. Motion made first by Commissioner Patterson. Motion made second by Commissioner Johnson; motion passed by unanimous vote.

Dawn Cochran, Chief Appraiser, presented a budget amendment request to the Board of Commissioners for \$683,209.22; \$633,493 had been previously approved. Cochran stated the Board of Assessors had two contracts with GMASS:

- Rural Land Contract: Approximately \$18,300
- Mapping: \$10,500

Discussion followed as to the contract with GMASS. Motion to approve contracts made first by Commissioner Patterson. Motion made second by Commissioner Johnson; motion passed unanimously.

Discussion followed as to the budget amendment from \$633,493 to \$683,209.22. Cochran stated that the increase was sufficient to complete all reassessments in one year. Commissioner Johnson inquired as to why a representative from the Board of Assessors did not speak at the Budget Hearing. Chairman Helton stated he was okay with amending the line item from Contract Labor to apply to Personnel but was not in approval to change the amount.

Commissioner Patterson made a motion to approve the \$683,209.22 request. Motion failed for the lack of a second.

Chairman Helton made a motion to keep \$633,493.00 original budget. Motion failed for the lack of a second.

Commissioner Johnson said he would be willing to meet half way, with everyone acting responsibly, and reevaluating the numbers in six months. Board of Assessors Chairman Troy Junnier inquired about the budget being reevaluated in six months. Commissioner Johnson stated the best idea would be to have more dialogue and did not believe the assessors would need the additional funds. Commissioner Johnson stated he was not getting exactly what he wanted and Junnier was not getting exactly what he wanted but they were meeting half way. Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve an increase to \$658,493. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion opposed by Chairman Helton. Motion carried 2-1.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

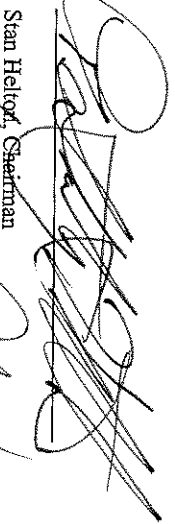
Chairman Helton stated the board needed Executive Session for personnel and potential litigation. Motion to enter Executive Session made first by Chairman Helton. Motion made second by Commissioner Johnson; motion passed by unanimous decision.

Motion to come out of Executive Session made first by Chairman Helton. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson; motion passed unanimously.

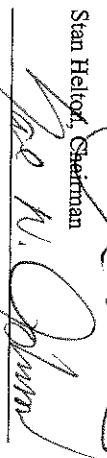
Chairman Helton stated that no decision was made during Executive Session.

CLOSING

Motion to adjourn made first by Chairman Helton. Motion made second by Commissioner Johnson; motion passed unanimously.



Stan Helton, Chairman



Earl Johnson, Post One Commissioner



Glenn Patterson, Post Two Commissioner

Attest:


Lynn Doss, Interim County Clerk