



**Fannin County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Jury Assembly Room  
February 12, 2019 5:15 p.m.**

**OPENING REGULAR MEETING**

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

Present in meeting were Chairman Helton, Post 1 Commissioner Earl Johnson and Post 2 Commissioner Glenn Patterson.

The Invocation was led by Zack Ratcliff and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Johnson.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2019 Regular Meeting and the January 28, 2019 Special Called Meeting. Second made by Commissioner Patterson; motion passed.

Chairman Helton amended the agenda to add the Item 6A being the discussion of Advance Disposal System's contract. Chairman Helton also introduced County Clerk Sherri Walker.

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

Lane Bishop commented on the Fannin County Tea Party Patriots and stated they still held meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of every month at the Senior Citizen Center at 6:00 p.m. He extended a special invitation to Chairman Helton, Commissioner Johnson and Commissioner Patterson.

Joe Webb addressed the Board regarding public safety and the need for striping of county roads. Webb commented on the striping of Aska Road and how difficult it was to see stripes on the road especially when it was raining at night. Webb also addressed the issue of using a portion of the Hotel/Motel tax for the striping of county roads. Webb commented on updates to a single document of Local Legislation and Charter to Fannin County; he stated he would be glad to help with this issue. Mr. Webb made the request to the Commissioners to give Mr. James Bond a place on the agenda to discuss the Fannin County Animal Control Ordinance.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Jan Hackett, President of the Fannin County Chamber of Commerce presented the Chairman and the Commissioners with attachments showing the Annual Activity Report for the Fannin County Chamber of Commerce Hotel/Motel Excise Tax expenditures for the county which included the 2018 Tourism Activity Report, 2018 Tourism Financial Report and 2018 Budget, & 2018 Economic Indicators. Ms. Hackett stated it had been another great year, with a countywide increase of 9% in lodging tax which translates into an amazing \$39 million spent by overnight visitors on lodging in 2018. She stated the Fannin County SPLOST was also up 9% according to statistics provided by the Board of Education. It is estimated that of the total \$555 million in retail sales countywide, \$170.5 million was spent by visitors. Ms. Hackett also elaborated on the growth expected to the McCaysville and Basin area due to the new growth and development that has transpired in that area. Commissioner Patterson asked about the date of the opening for the Mountain Mall. Ms. Hackett stated the projected date for opening was March 1<sup>st</sup>. The last items Ms. Hackett spoke about was the Chamber's new website which was launched in March 2018 and had 617,905 users with 82% being new to website. Chairman Helton commented on the adjustment of the ratio between the Board of Commissioners and the Chamber to take ½ of the increase; in which Chairman Helton stated he gave Commissioner Johnson the credit for that recommendation, to put this amount into a secluded account for public safety. Commissioner Johnson commented on the fact of numbers not declining on the lodging and stated even though visitors weren't buying or building in the area they were staying the night. Ms. Hackett thanked the Board so much for allowing the Chamber to utilize the Fannin County Hotel/Motel Excise Tax to promote Fannin County.

Steven Miracle, Board Member of North Georgia Mountain Crisis Center commented on the work which the Crisis Center does and has done in the past. Both he and Joy Welch, Executive Director spoke regarding the number of victims and their children in which they have helped and are presently helping. Mr. Miracle explained to the Board the types of support in which they provide to the victims. Those include promoting education and awareness, providing housing, safety and support, counseling and legal advocacy for those victims of domestic violence. Mr. Miracle thanked the Board and the community for all the support they have shown over the years. He stated the Crisis Center originally started in 1986 and had provided support to victims since that date. Chairman Helton stated he knew people that they had literally saved their lives and he expressed what great things they were doing for the community in which needs to be recognized. Commissioner Johnson also told Mr. Miracle he admired what he was doing; and no one really knows what they are doing to help the community. Joy Welch made the comment there was a whole host of people that were involved.

Next on the agenda, John Sugg, Chairman of Feed Fannin commented on the statistics of the Feed Fannin Program and he explained the achievements of the program; and the partnership they have with the school system. Mr. Sugg expressed his appreciation for all the support in which the program receives. Also, Chairman Helton proceeded to read and sign the Proclamation of Feed Fannin 10 Year Anniversary.

Next on the agenda was Item 6A which was added, Chairman Helton began discussion regarding the contract between Advance Disposal System and the County. 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 Patterson stated he was contacted by a gentleman this week which was interested. Chairman Helton stated this gentleman was interested and he was here locally in the county. Both Commissioner Johnson and Commissioner Patterson stated they were not opposed to receiving bids from others. Chairman Helton stated he didn't want to eliminate Advance Disposal System as primary supplier but if someone were in a position to prove themselves as being able to serve the county; this option would be considered. Commissioner Johnson stated there was a definite need for an alternative to compete with and to stabilize with. Steps were discussed on what the process would be to notify Advance Disposal.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No Executive Session needed.

#### **CLOSING**

Motion to adjourn made at 6:25 p.m. first by Commissioner Patterson. Motion made second by Chairman Helton; motion passed unanimously.

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Stan Helton, Chairman

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Earl Johnson, Post One Commissioner

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Glenn Patterson, Post Two Commissioner

Attest:

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Sherri Walker, County Clerk