



Fannin County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Jury Assembly Room  
April 23, 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 One Commissioner Earl Johnson and Post Two 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 April 23, 2019 Regular Meeting. Second made by Commissioner Patterson; motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

Greg Staffin made comments to the Board regarding the safety issues with the junk yard located on Loving Road.

Chairman Helton closed Public Commentary at 5:20 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS**

On the agenda was Item #3, Variance Request from MAW Investment Properties, LLC to place a house 39 feet from the centerline and 30 feet from the edge of the road. Property location being Cloudland Trace Lot #7. Motion made first by Commissioner Johnson. Motion made second by Chairman Helton. Motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was Item #4, Nichole Potzauf, Executive Director with the Blue Ridge Mountain Arts Association & Art Center. Ms. Potzauf gave an update on the Art Center. She stated the number of guest in 2018 was estimated to be 38,000.

Next on the agenda was Item #5, North Georgia Mountain Crisis Network. Board Member, Howard Slaughter spoke briefly about the Network. Chairman Helton proceeded to read and sign the proclamation declaring the month of April 2019 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Fannin County and encouraged all citizens to make this the beginning of the end of sexual violence.

Next on the agenda was Item #6, Memorandum of Agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation for the replacement of the bridge located in Epworth over Fightingtown Creek. The County was notified of this back in 2017 for the need of this bridge replacement. Chairman Helton stated when the State does this, they need the agreement with the County and the cost is shared. He stated the original cost was \$327,000 with the County's part being fifty percent of that. Since that original cost, it has been recalculated asking the County to put up \$75,000. Chairman Helton stated the original date for the work to begin would be the year of 2022. Commissioner Patterson asked when the money would need to be disbursed to the State for the project. Chairman Helton stated once the MOA is sent to them; the State would send back the signed MOA and then payment would be made. Chairman Helton stated the County had about a month to get the paperwork back to the State. Commissioner Johnson stated he felt the County didn't have a choice and he felt \$75,000 was a very good number for the County. Commissioner Johnson stated he wished it could be expedited sooner due to all the big trucks having to go around elsewhere to get to where they need to go. Commissioner Patterson asked about how long it would take to complete the project. Chairman Helton stated approximately one year. Motion made first to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with GDOT by Commissioner Patterson. Motion made second by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was Item #7, Robert Graham, Director of Fannin County EMA. Mr. Graham elaborated on the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Award being approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The total approved cost is \$26,000.00 with a federal share of \$19,500.00, a state share of \$2,600.00 and a local share of \$3,900.00. Mr. Graham stated these grants need to be updated every five years or so; and this grant will expire in December of 2021.


Last on the agenda was Item #8, Robin Gazaway, Chief Financial Officer. Ms. Gazaway gave a 2019 Budget Report for the first quarter of 2019 pertaining to each sector on Budget Expenditures and on Points of Interest twenty-five percent into the budget for each department. Ms. Gazaway stated each department was a little over due to things being prepaid. Chairman Helton asked about the debt of Courthouse being paid off next year. Ms. Gazaway stated she thought it was next year. Ms. Gazaway stated overall, it's about 1% over budget but not too concerned about it with some things being prepaid. Commissioner Johnson had questions regarding the SLOST funds and asked if Public Works had already spent \$1,963,072 this year. Commissioner Johnson, "Is that what you are saying?" Ms. Gazaway stated, "I can get you a detailed if you would like." Commissioner Johnson asked, "Is this through April?" Ms. Gazaway stated it was through March. Ms. Gazaway stated, "We are on track for the year, under Budget." Chairman Helton asked, "Is this SPLOST only or is it combined with Public Works?" Ms. Gazaway answered, "Both." Ms. Gazaway elaborated to state that the SPLOST included all. Commissioner Johnson asked, "Why are all of them in Public Works; it looks like Zaak is really spending some money right now." Ms. Gazaway stated that some of that is the Fire Station. Commissioner Johnson stated he would imagine that would be under Fire Station/EMA. Ms. Gazaway stated she would split it out if he wanted. Commissioner Johnson stated, "He didn't see how we could make heads or tails out of this report. If all that is lumped into one and I'm just a regular Joe sitting here and see that we are spending 2 million dollars, I'm not gonna know how we can make it through November." Ms. Gazaway stated, "I will separate it out." Commissioner Johnson referred to Chairman Helton and Commissioner Patterson, "Unless the two of you can make some sense of it." Chairman Helton asked, "If we split that out, what would it be?" Ms. Gazaway stated she would just split it out with the four. Commissioner Johnson stated, "He would just like to know what the others are doing." Ms. Gazaway stated, "She could give him a detail of all." Commissioner Johnson stated, "I can't understand why we are doing the report if I can't see the numbers." Chairman Helton asked Commissioner Johnson if it would help to have a whole separate SPLOST sheet by itself. Commissioner Johnson stated, "If you all are fine with it, it's okay." Ms. Gazaway stated she could do a whole sheet just on SPLOST. Commissioner Johnson stated, "I'm not asking you to go that far, just do it like you have it on the Tax Assessor, Building Maintenance, etc." "By this report, I have no idea what Public Works is doing, none of us do." Commissioner Johnson stated, "It just looks like the Public Works is way out of line." Commissioner Patterson spoke up to say, "I think the next time we could have it separated out for a little more clarity and it would be more transparent next time." Commissioner Johnson stated, "I just don't think it's fair to Public Works for it to be labeled that way." Chairman Helton stated they would work on more detail and clarity on it. Ms. Gazaway stated, "She would be glad to." Commissioner Patterson stated that he would like to thank Ms. Gazaway, he knew that she worked hard on what she does. Commissioner Johnson asked Commissioner Patterson if he had any difficulty understanding it. Commissioner Patterson stated he could see what he was saying; it simplifies it but he also sees that she works hard at it and it could be easily fixed with a little more clarity. Chairman Helton asked if there was anything else on this. No other comments were made.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION


No Executive Session needed.

#### CLOSING


Motion to adjourn made at 6:13 p.m. first by Commissioner Patterson. Motion made second by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.



Stan Helton, Chairman



Earl Johnson, Post Opr Commissioner



Glenn Patterson, Post Two Commissioner

Attest:   
Sherri Walker, County Clerk