



Fannin County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Jury Assembly Room  
May 14, 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 Robert Graham and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Johnson.

Chairman Helton stated that Mrs. Walker, County Clerk was absent from meeting due to being at required Clerk's Training and Ms. Doss would be filling in for the meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Chairman Helton made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2019 Regular Meeting. Second made by Commissioner Patterson; motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

Chuck Gorter approached the podium and stated he lived in Cashess Valley; and he wanted to address three items. One item was trash, Animal Control, and the third was roads. Under the Animal Control, he stated he had the pleasure to meet with the gentlemen over at the Animal Control and he elaborated on wanting to get something started like what was started in Blue Ridge with the Humane Society. He stated he would like to see this and he would volunteer to start this organization. Commissioner Patterson stated he wasn't clear on what he was getting at as far as the organization. Mr. Gorter explained it was an organization like you have with the Humane Society to serve and protect the animals and to expand the facility and he would like to see the people that work out there get a raise. Mr. Gorter stated the other thing was the trash; and went on to say he had made several suggestions to Mr. Kirby about using the county prisoners for trash pick up but there was some concern about security issues. The last thing is I would like to commend Zack Ratcliff. Mr. Gorter stated he had called him a while back and he put up a sign. Mr. Gorter stated that GPS didn't pick up very well out there in Cashess Valley. The Board thanked Mr. Gorter for his comments.

Joe Webb approached the podium to address the issue again about the road striping. Mr. Webb stated when he pulled public records on that issue three months ago, there was nothing on that so now that it is June, there may be something on it. Mr. Webb continued to comment on the water issue in the county pertaining to some governmental agreements. Mr. Webb continued onto his third topic, he stated he understood from reading the papers there was a lot of confusion on being able to read the financial numbers from the last meeting. Mr. Webb went on to state he had had a problem with that for years.

Chairman Helton closed Public Commentary at 5:35 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS**

On the agenda was Item #3, a Variance Request from Chase Kielman to leave a mobile home set up 7.3 feet from the property line. The reason for this variance was due to Award Mobile Home Company placing mobile home without double checking property line. Also attached, is a letter from the neighbor approving. Commissioner Johnson expressed his concerns on being less than 10 feet. Motion made first by Commissioner Johnson to approve variance. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was Item #4, a Variance Request from William Simmons to place a garage 23 feet from the edge of the Valley Lake Road and 44 feet from the center line of Valley Lake Rd. The reason for variance request was due to setback from creek and power line does not leave space for garage. Chairman

Helton stated the only issue that might come up is the drainage and that the county would not be responsible for that. Commissioner Patterson stated he had met with the gentlemen the day before and stated there might a drainage problem there and the gentlemen was aware but Commissioner Patterson stated he didn't see a problem. Commissioner Johnson stated with the spot that it was, he didn't think it was such a great idea. Commissioner Johnson stated that they did have a letter stating this and asked if it would carry over. Mr. Nicholson stated they had gone through and redone the application for the variance and stated that in the variance that Fannin County will not be held responsible and once signed it's legal. Commissioner Johnson stated he just wanted it, in ten years if someone else buys it, to carryover. Mr. Nicholson explained on the variances, once approved, it goes on the deed in the Clerk of Court's office. Mr. Nicholson stated if they read their deed, they would know. Commissioner Johnson asked Ms. Doss if she approved. Ms. Doss stated, "It would be cross referenced on their deed and it would just have to be sure that language was included." Commissioner Johnson stated, "In that case, I'm fine with it." Chairman Helton made first motion to approve variance request. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was Item #5, a Variance Request from Ahmad & Azza Al Jerdi to place a house 15 feet from the edge of Stanley Ridge Road and 20 feet from the centerline of the road. No other place to locate the structure. John Aiker came forth and stated this property joined his property and initially there were two variances requested. One variance was withdrawn. Mr. Aiker explained he was more concerned with the one that was withdrawn. Mr. Aiker stated if the buildings were drawn as is, he would be alright with it but if not, he would be forced to challenge. Mr. Aiker stated if the builder was there to reassure that it would be built the way it's laid out, he would be fine with it. Chairman Helton stated he would just be direct about it, and stated he didn't see a problem with it for the county at all. Chairman Helton asked if the home would block his view from the front porch. Mr. Aiker stated that it would not. Chairman Helton explained there was no zoning in the county and sometimes there would be a Homeowner's Association and that would strictly be between the homeowner and the Association. Chairman Helton explained what they looked for in the variances would be some overriding safety concern. Chairman Helton stated to Mr. Aiker he would be welcomed to talk to the builder regarding what the intent would be. Commissioner Johnson explained to Mr. Aiker exactly what the variance stated and where the builder could actually build. Chairman Helton asked Mr. Nicholson if he saw any issues with the variance. Mr. Nicholson stated he did not see any issues at all. Chairman Helton asked for a motion. Motion made first by Commissioner Johnson. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Items # 6 on the agenda was Robert Graham, bids on the remount on the ambulance. Chairman Helton explained that the remount would be a savings to the county. Robert Graham proceeded to read the bids as follows: Foundation Ambulance Inc. in the amount of \$127,257.43, ETR in the amount of \$130,941.00 with option \$2,504.00, Non spec for \$10,478.00, third bid was from Custom Works, Inc. in the amount of \$104,980.00 with options-power locks in the amount of \$1,800.00. Mr. Graham wanted verification on hand written bid. Verified amount being \$104,980.00. Mr. Graham stated that's all bids received. Mr. Graham made a recommendation on holding off on bids to make a decision. Commissioner Johnson made a Motion to table until next meeting in two weeks. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was Item #7, Zack Ratcliff, Director of Public Works stated he had some money to talk about regarding paving. Mr. Ratcliff stated the LMIIG amount was \$664,195.59. Chairman Helton stated LMIIG (Local Maintenance Improvement Grant) is the grant that GDOT gives us each year for planning to work on roads. Mr. Ratcliff stated the counties' portion would be paid for out of SPLOST. Commissioner Johnson stated he was glad to receive that amount from the State. Commissioner Patterson asked when he would plan on starting. Mr. Ratcliff stated it would be out for bid so it would be a couple of weeks; maybe around June 1<sup>st</sup>. Commissioner Johnson stated it was a very reasonable list. Motion made first by Chairman Helton to approve the 2019 LMIIG and the expenditures of approximate \$1,523,000 from SPLOST to make improvements. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Ratcliff presented one more item being an LMIIG also. He stated he had spoken with them and they had agreed to some money towards striping. Department had agreed to \$69,000 for LMIIG safety project which would be striping with 30% match of \$20,700. Chairman Helton stated the total amount would be \$89,700 LMIIG that we can do with GDOT Safety Assistance Program in which we have to do according to their standards. Chairman Helton commended Mr. Ratcliff since he had gone down and talked with GDOT and they came back with a little more money. Commissioner Patterson stated it came out to be around \$8,800 per mile and we were looking at 10 miles. Commissioner Johnson stated about the concern of striping and wanted Mr. Ratcliff to expand a little bit on the season for striping. Commissioner Johnson stated there was only about five months allotted for striping roads and he was glad that the grant for striping was now because it was the season for striping. Mr. Ratcliff elaborated on the conditions and some of the causes of the striping coming off. Commissioner Patterson stated it was important for the public to know that the funding was contingent on them picking out the roads; we (the county) do not pick the roads out. Mr. Ratcliff stated they formatted and pick them out for us. Commissioner Patterson stated it was Aska, eight miles of Aska, and two miles of Old Hwy. 76. Commissioner Johnson asked Mr. Ratcliff to elaborate on the type of striping. Also, Commissioner Johnson stated he wanted everyone to understand the issue of one ice storm and scrapping the roads that it would not be as reflective the next night. Motion made first for

the LMG project by Commissioner Patterson. Motion made second by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was Item #8, Waste Management Bids. Chairman Helton stated, for sometime, the county has been with Advance Disposal System and wanted to put the bid out there. Ms. Doss read off the following bids: Advance Disposal Services, Commercial Haulers Cost per ton being \$57.64, General Public across scales is \$57.64 per ton, General Public "trash bag" delivery at scales is \$57.64 per ton, Flat rates for bulky items & appliances is \$12.50 each. The proposal provides the host fee \$0.20 per ton. The proposal includes the total tons of garbage per month that the bidder can process and any limitations; total being 866 tons per month. The second bid is from Cash Environmental Resources, Commercial Haulers is Cost per ton \$52.00, General Public (across scales) per ton \$52.00, General Public "trash bag" delivery at scales \$1.00 per bag, General Public at Convenience Centers: Trash bag \$1.00 per bag, Contractor Bag \$3.00 per bag, C&D Debris, Yard Debris & Loose Waste: \$1.10 per pound, Bulky Items \$15.00 per item, Appliances \$15.00 per item, Tires: \$.25 per pound, Recyclables (clean) Free of Charge, Fannin County Host Fee \$1.00 per ton and can be negotiated based on county needs. Prohibited Wastes: Hazardous Waste, Bio-medical waste, Non-hazardous liquids & automotive fluids, Fluorescent Light Bulbs & Batteries. Escalation & Price Adjustments: The contract price schedule shall be reviewed and revised in June of each contract year and extension period, if any, in accordance with the most recent full calendar year annual percentage increase in the referenced annual Consumer Price Index escalator and the contract price shall be established for the next contract year beginning on July 1, following the June evaluation. This bid includes the Certificate of Liability Insurance as did Advance Disposals. Chairman Helton asked if Cash had just one convenience center in the county. Commissioner Johnson stated there was just one transfer station. Cash has one transfer station at Sugar Creek C&D Transfer Station at 79 Jeff's Way, Blue Ridge, Georgia. Chairman Helton suggested tabling the item until each Commissioner has time to review the bids. Chairman Helton made a motion to table the bids until May 28<sup>th</sup>. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Last on the agenda Item #9, Employee Resolution. Chairman Helton stated motion was needed to accept the resolution with our insurance carrier, ACCG with a former employee. Motion made first by Chairman Helton. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously. Elaine Owens asked the question, "The Media would like to know what this resolution is". Chairman Helton responded to Ms. Owen to let her know she could ask for Open Records and they had been advised not to elaborate on it and she would just need to ask for Open Records on it.

Commissioner Patterson stated he had some business that he thought he could handle expeditiously. Commissioner Patterson continued, that it had been brought to his attention and maybe Chairman Helton also that he had been signing all the checks for the county last month. Commissioner Patterson stated he was not aware of that and it was an oversight on everyone's part. He stated that this draws speculation, especially in the past it has been separated and both Post Commissioners had signed checks. Commissioner Patterson asked that better business practices be put in place to help both Commissioners to be equally involved and the bills be paid in a proper and timely manner. Commissioner Patterson asked each how they felt about that. Commissioner Patterson stated it was brought to his attention by one of the local newspapers. Chairman Helton asked if he was asking him and Chairman Helton stated his signature was on every check. Commissioner Patterson stated, "And Commissioner Johnson, about the co-signing." Commissioner Patterson stated that in the past, the Post Commissioners divided signing the checks. Chairman Helton stated he thought that was up to the two Post Commissioners. Commissioner Johnson stated he didn't mind signing the checks and he thought he was just having fun signing checks. Commissioner Johnson stated he would sign as many checks as someone asked him to sign. Chairman Helton made the comment about one signing checks for one of the meetings and the other for the other meeting. Commissioner Johnson stated he would make time to be here if he wasn't out of pocket. Commissioner Johnson stated that the key thing was two signatures and when it was changed, that's what the law said and there is nothing illegal about it as long as two signatures is on the check. Commissioner Johnson stated the key thing was not having the Chairman signing everything and to take some of the responsibility off the Chairman and to have the other Commissioners not just sitting back and acting like they didn't know what was going on. Commissioner Johnson stated that as long as they know what they are signing, and he has had to ask sometimes to get verification on what it was for.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made first by Chairman Helton to enter into Executive Session. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion made first by Chairman Helton at 6:58 p.m. to come out of Executive Session. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson.

Chairman Helton stated, "After carefully reviewing Phase I of Environment Site Assessment & Architectural Services Report, our Board will need to vote to purchase the Whitepath Fab Tech, LLC

located at 118 Industrial Blvd., Blue Ridge, Georgia.” Motion made first by Chairman Helton. Motion made second by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed unanimously. Chairman Helton made comments with additional information pertaining to the purchase by stating the county would close on or before July 1<sup>st</sup> of this year and we will take possession of the property January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2020. The purchase price will be \$1,350,000 and making the purchase using the Parking Administration SPLOST; and intend on making purchase without borrowing any outside funds.

**CLOSING**

Motion to adjourn made at 7:08 p.m. first by Commissioner Patterson. Motion made second by Chairman Helton. Motion passed unanimously.



Stan Helton, Chairman



Earl Johnson, Post One Commissioner



Glenn Patterson, Post Two Commissioner

Attest:

  
Sherri Walker, County Clerk