



Fannin County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Jury Assembly Room
May 28, 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 Dr. Michael Gwatney and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Johnson.

Chairman Helton stated there was one item to be added to the agenda. Item #11 will be Public Works Director Zack Ratcliff.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Helton asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2019 Regular Meeting and the minutes of the May 16, 2019 Called Meeting. Motion made first by Commissioner Patterson. Second Motion made by Chairman Helton; motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Ralph Garner approached the podium and made public commentary regarding the transparency during Chairman Helton's administration. Mr. Garner stated that Chairman Helton's transparency had clearly improved over what his predecessor delivered but stated there is room for improvement. Mr. Garner elaborated on the open records request made by Debi Holcomb and the county charging for the cost of the copies in which were provided to her. Mr. Garner also asked the board to show more respect to the concerns of local pet rescuers.

Chairman Helton closed Public Commentary at 5:22 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

On the agenda was Item #3, a Variance Request from Garland W. & Cathey E. Duvall to build a garage and addition onto existing house 25 feet from Henderson Lane, lot #37 in Stuart Mountain Hideaway Subdivision. Reason for variance is the only location for the garage. First Motion made by Chairman Helton to approve variance request. Second Motion made by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was Item #4, a Variance Request from Theresa Patterson to build a porch 40 feet from the centerline of Mountain Brooks Road, Lot #3 in Staurolite Mountain Subdivision. Chairman Helton asked for a Motion to approve the variance. Motion made first by Commissioner Johnson. Motion made second by Chairman Helton. Commissioner Patterson abstained from the vote due to conflict. Motion passed with two votes to approve and one abstained.

Next on the agenda was Item #5, Chief Financial Officer, Robin Gazaway gave the 2019 Budget Report for the Fannin County Board of Commissioners.

Items # 6 on the agenda was the Library Board of Trustees Member Reappointment of Mark Tune for a term being July 1, 2019 and expiring on June 30, 2022. This will be a three year term. Motion was made first by Commissioner Patterson to approve the reappointment. Motion made second by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was Item #7, Intergovernmental Agreement with the Fannin County Board of Education and Fannin County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, here and after "County". Chairman

Helton stated this agreement between the school system and County Recreation Department was for our Summer Program. This program runs for the months of June and July. The school provides and leases buses and also provides food services and staff for the Summer Recreation Program. Chairman Helton asked for a Motion to approve the agreement. Motion made first by Commissioner Johnson. Motion made second by Chairman Helton. Motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was Item #8, a Contract and Agreement between Fannin County, a political subdivision of the State of Georgia, the County, acting through its governing authority, the members of the Board of Commissioners and the Humane Society of Blue Ridge, Inc. a Georgia non-profit corporation, acting by and through its duly authorized President and Secretary, the Humane Society. Motion made first by Chairman Helton to approve and enter into this agreement. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was Item #9, EMA Director, Robert Graham. Mr. Graham stated they had looked over the bids for the remount of the ambulance and there were three bids submitted. He stated there was a fourth bid which was not received timely and they did look at it afterwards; but it was much higher. After reviewing bids, Mr. Graham stated that Custom Works came in much lower at \$104,980.00 with an add on of \$1,800.00 for power locks. Mr. Graham stated the total would be \$106,780.00. Chairman Helton asked if they had used them before. Mr. Graham stated they had used them several times before. Chairman Helton asked for the time frame. Mr. Graham stated he thought somewhere around the first of the year. Chairman Helton asked if we had any concerns about being short on equipment. Mr. Graham stated there was no concerns. Chairman Helton asked for a motion to go with Custom Works for the remount of ambulance. First Motion made by Commissioner Patterson. Second Motion made by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Graham stated there was also bids on the new ambulance. This bid specification required that it could not be delivered und 2020 and would be in the 2020 budget. The first bid opened was from Medix Speciality for a 2020 Model not to be delivered before 2020 but 120/150 days for a delivery date, bid for \$140,130.00. Next bid was from Custom Trucks & Body Works, Inc. with delivery date on a 2020 Model from 90/120 days from the manufacturing from the factory but not before January 1st, 2020, bid price \$143,021.00. Next bid was from ETR, LLC for a 2019 Model with delivery date 90/120 days but not before January 1st, 2020, for bid amount on Ford F150 4X4 DRW Type I Ambulance in the amount of \$187,768.00. Commissioner Johnson asked about the truck being a Ford and if that was what was specified. Robert Graham stated they couldn't do a Chevrolet chassis so I gave them permission to quote a Ford with the understanding what we really wanted was a Chevrolet, but they wanted to close it. Mr. Graham asked for some time to review the bids. Chairman Helton asked for a motion to table until the June 11, 2019 meeting. First Motion made by Chairman Helton. Second Motion made by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was Item #10, Waste Management Bids. These proposals were presented in the Workshop prior to this regular meeting. Chairman Helton stated there needed to be a decision regarding the Bids that were presented. Chairman Helton asked for comments or concerns from the Post Commissioners on this issue. Commissioner Patterson stated he felt like they needed a chance to present their proposals. Commissioner Johnson stated he wanted more time to look over the proposals presented. Chairman Helton asked if they wanted to table the issue until the June 11th Meeting. Motion made first by Commissioner Johnson to table the Waste Management Bid Proposals until June 11th meeting. Motion made second by Chairman Helton. Motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was Item #11, Public Works Director, Zack Ratcliff presented an estimate from Mason Tractor Company on a used 2016 TS6-120 New Holland Mower with a 90 day warranty with 700 hours on it for a total of \$43,500. Mr. Ratcliff stated the mower they were using no longer worked; it was 16 years old with 10,000 hours on it. Chairman Helton stated it does qualify as an equipment emergency. Chairman Helton stated it was right in the middle of the mowing season. Commissioner Johnson asked about salvaging the old one and not planning on fixing it. Mr. Ratcliff stated that he was not putting any more money into it, that it was too old. Commissioner Patterson asked how many mowers we had presently. Mr. Ratcliff explained there were ten and with this one down it would be nine but purchasing this one would put them back at ten. Chairman Helton made first Motion to approve purchase. Second Motion made by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Johnson made comments regarding his absence during the last Board of Commissioners Meeting which was a Called Meeting held on May 16, 2019 regarding Health Insurance. Commissioner Johnson stated he had received questions on how he felt about it. Commissioner Johnson began by stating "I felt like the reason they went to self-insured was to save money and that had not been the case yet." "I was hoping next year they could at least get some different proposals to give everyone the opportunity or at least some options." He stated "I couldn't disagree with the tobacco policy. The biggest problem was the spousal carve out." He stated he would like to have seen some of the numbers on that; some of the employees have worked here for a number of years and that might cause a hardship. He stated, "I would like for us to start looking at options in six or eight months; that's always been the fight that we've always fought every year, are the premiums and we can't do anything about the number of claims each year."

Commissioner Johnson stated he felt that we were paying about the same and his experience with them was that they didn't pay anything. He stated he was coming off of it; and he didn't feel like it was a good route to take. He stated, "Personally, we should have had more options; and we shouldn't have done it at a Called Meeting." He stated, "We had a meeting that Tuesday and we could have presented it then." He stated, "I'm not upset that I wasn't able to take place in it, but we take two weeks to go over an ambulance bid and we had one meeting to change the entire insurance for the whole county." "We presented something and approved it in one meeting." "And a lot of people have asked me why I wasn't there, it's brought a lot of grief on me that I couldn't be here, and it is my fault, but I had other obligations and couldn't be here." Commissioner Johnson stated, "If there was any way possible to look at options to deal with this." Chairman Helton stated, "I am certainly open to looking at other options to deal with it." Commissioner Johnson stated "I felt like I needed to say something because people had claimed I had missed the meeting on purpose and I didn't miss it on purpose. And if you want my opinion, I'm coming off of it; that's how much I like it." Chairman Helton stated, "We are certainly willing to look at anything that reduces the cost, and the claims can be terrible, and it impacts everyone." "If we can reduce our number of claims with everyone being healthy and our claims being down, maybe we can be more attractive to other insurance companies than what we have been, so I would take that under advisement." Commissioner Johnson stated "You know that old saying, if you had a crystal ball to look in." "And I think if premiums had gone up, everyone would have been just as upset, you can't make everyone happy." "But I think just having different options and not doing it in one meeting." Commissioner Johnson stated, "That's all I have to say."

Chairman Helton stated there would be an Executive Session for Real Estate matters.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

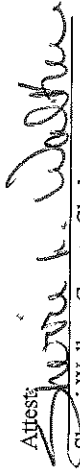
Motion made first at 6:09 p.m. by Chairman Helton to enter Executive Session. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.


Motion made first by Chairman Helton at 6:21 p.m. to come out of Executive Session. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Chairman Helton stated at the time, no decision had been made regarding real estate.

CLOSING

Motion to adjourn made at 6:22 p.m. first by Commissioner Patterson. Motion made second by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

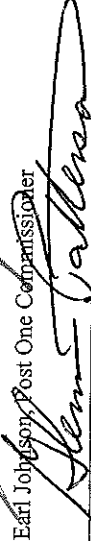
Attest:


Sherri Walker, County Clerk


Stan Helton, Chairman



Earl Johnson, Post One Commissioner



Glenn Patterson, Post Two Commissioner