



Fannin County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Jury Assembly Room  
June 25, 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. County Attorney Lynn D. Doss was absent due to vacation.

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

Chairman Helton asked for a Motion to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2019 Regular Meeting. Motion made first by Commissioner Johnson. Second Motion made by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

Joe Webb approached the podium and spoke regarding the road striping and made a verbal open records request requesting a list of roads that were scheduled for striping.

Public Commentary closed at 5:21 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Item #3 on the agenda was the FY 2018 Audit Presentation by Auditor Sam Latimer. Mr. Latimer provided summary slides pertaining to the audit. After the presentation, Mr. Latimer asked if any of the Commissioners had any questions. Commissioner Johnson stated he did have some questions. Commissioner Johnson proceeded to state, "It had come up in the last meeting, on the final adjustments of the budget, you recommended on moving every line item or department within 2 or 3 % and I guess you and Ms. Gazaway decided how to come up with that adjustment?" Mr. Latimer stated, "That is correct, we assist with that." "And I guess you are asking why is that the case?" Commissioner Johnson stated, "You are just here to look at what we are doing and make an assessment; why are you helping with moving funds to one line or another?" Mr. Latimer stated, "Ultimately all the decisions are made on the management level. We are just here to help, not make the decisions on the management level." Commissioner Johnson stated, "You just stated that you help do it; I'm trying to clarify it. And the way your doing it now, is different than what you did before?" "The reason I want to know, I think that's part of my job." Mr. Latimer stated, "That's just to help, we just want to assist any way we can and that's just to help and not to make any decisions and we have always made those adjustments, that's what the State of Georgia just requires, the 3%." Commissioner Johnson stated, "I understand that; but it used to be done in February and now it's done later in June, our last meeting." Commissioner Johnson asked, "What's changed?" Mr. Latimer stated, "I see what you are saying." Commissioner Johnson stated, "I have spoken with you every year and what has changed?" Mr. Latimer stated, "He didn't know why it had changed and he didn't see anything to raise any flags on our end." Commissioner Johnson stated, "I would have loved to talk to you before now, just to clear the air with everyone; and I haven't spoken to you, just take my numbers here and I asked these questions in the last meeting; if we take these numbers and start moving them around like we have, it's hard for me to get a handle on it; it tells me maybe Public Works don't need \$500,000 next year. Maybe it's a question for you, Ms. Gazaway, "How do we differentiate where we are going to spread this?" Ms. Gazaway stated, "You have to be within the 3% and we just made it work basically." Mr. Latimer stated, "If you look at it, the amounts are decided on, are arbitrary numbers, and if you look at all the numbers." "There was not a misappropriation of funds or anything." Commissioner Johnson stated, "So you don't have any problem with the way the numbers are spread around or a person just spreading those out and no findings with the way they are?" Mr. Latimer stated, "I didn't have a problem with that, it sounds like you didn't like how that was done." Commissioner Johnson stated, "I was just asking, I was

told that you told the county it had to be within 3%.” Mr. Latimer stated, “That’s right, it’s has to be within 3% by State law to be in compliance.” “If that should be done earlier or throughout the year, budget has to be adjusted when things happen.” Commissioner Johnson stated, “So when things happen, you move the numbers.” Mr. Latimer stated, “When adjusted, bring it here for approval, bring it here for your approval, to you guys for approval.” Commissioner Johnson stated, “That’s what I needed you to say, thank you.” Mr. Latimer asked if there were any more questions. Mr. Latimer stated, “We appreciate the opportunity to work with you guys.” (See booklet for Attachment of FY2018 Audit)

Next on the agenda was Item #4 Khuyen Nguyen made a presentation of the 2020 Census. Ms Nguyen explained some of the options that were available to complete the Census and how the completion would benefit our State. Chairman Helton continued with the signing of a Proclamation for the 2020 Census Partnership whereas Fannin County is committed to partnering with the U.S. Census Bureau and the State of Georgia and will support the goals and ideals for the 2020 Census and will disseminate 2020 Census information and encourage all county residents to participate.

Next on the agenda was Item #5 Variance Request from Dorothy Gray & Gerald Hayman. The request was to build a new home with carport ten feet from the edge of Lenox Trace in the Highlands Subdivision. Chairman Helton asked for a Motion to approve the variance. Motion made first by Commissioner Patterson. Motion made second by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was Item #6 Variance Request from Thomas & Teresa Luken. The request was to build a garage to be eight feet from property line on both sides. Letters from the adjoining property owners were provided. Property location being Mid Mountain Road. Chairman Helton made first motion to approve variance. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was Item #7 Variance Request from Justin Sisson. The request was to place a structure sixty-two feet from the centerline of Aska Road. Chairman Helton asked for a Motion to approve the variance. Motion made first by Commissioner Patterson. Motion made second by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was Item #8 Variance Request from Shawn & Kimberly Wood. The request was to build a pole barn thirty feet from the edge of Wild Water Road. The pole barn would be a two level 40 x 40 and is the best location for the pole barn to remain out of the fifty-foot state buffer. Chairman Helton made Motion first to approve variance. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was Item #9, Renewal of the Community Television Company Franchise Agreement with ETC. Chairman Helton made Motion first to renew the Franchise Agreement. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was Item #10, discussion pertaining to remodeling of the old fire station building. Chairman Helton stated the building presently housed the offices of the County Extension, Coroner’s Office, The Red Cross and a Chaplin’s Office. Chairman Helton stated the building was in need of a new roof and new siding. Chairman Helton stated the building was worth around \$200,000. Commissioner Patterson asked about the cost of repairs. Chairman Helton stated he didn’t have a definite cost but Ed Hawkins had a rough number. Chairman Helton stated this wouldn’t be done until next year. The Board agreed to table the issue for two weeks until there was more information pertaining to the cost of repairs. Item #10 tabled for July 9, 2019 Board Of Commissioners Meeting.

Next on the agenda was Item #11, Zack Ratcliff, Director of Public Works proceeded with the bids on paving and striping. Mr. Ratcliff stated there was only one bid received for striping and that was Parker Traffic Markings, Inc. out of Cleveland, Georgia. Mr. Ratcliff stated the lowest bidder on the paving was Colditz out of Blairsville, Georgia for an amount of \$1,455,158.47. Chairman Helton stated that some of the projects were paid for by LMIG and SPL OST. Commissioner Patterson asked about the time frame of the projects. Mr. Ratcliff stated that completion needed to be done by October. Chairman Helton asked for a Motion to approve bid from Parker Striping. First Motion made by Commissioner Johnson. Second Motion made by Chairman Helton. Motion passed unanimously. Chairman Helton made first Motion to approve the bid by Colditz. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Last on the agenda was Item #12, Tiny Homes Moratorium. Chairman Helton stated there was a Workshop held prior to the Board of Commissioners Meeting to allow discussion from some of the local builders and citizens regarding Tiny Homes. After the Board heard various comments and concerns; the Chairman and Post One and Post Two Commissioners were in agreement to extend the moratorium for another year being July 1, 2020 to see what the demand would be for the Tiny Home Subdivisions. Chairman Helton asked for a Motion to extend the Moratorium. Motion made first by Commissioner Johnson. Motion made second by Chairman Helton. Motion passed unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No Executive Session was needed at present time.

**CLOSING**

Motion to adjourn made at 6:28 p.m. first by Commissioner Johnson. 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