



Fannin County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Jury Assembly Room
July 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 Commissioner Glenn Patterson and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Earl Johnson.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Helton asked for a Motion to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2019 Regular Meeting. Motion made first by Commissioner Johnson. Second Motion made by Chairman Helton. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Joe Webb made public comments again regarding striping to county roads. He recommended to the Board a management plan for Public Works. He also commented on the auditor's report and any audit adjustments for the first quarter of 2019.

Next to comment, was James Bond, which made comments regarding trash on Madola Road, and expressed how he would like to see the county being cleaned up.

Last to approach the podium was Jan Eaton. Ms. Eaton stated she was back to speak regarding the same Animal Control employee who worked a maximum of 106 minutes and got paid for time and a half. And this employee is going to doctor appointments and dentist appointments on company time and he's driving the company truck. Ms. Eaton went on to state she had put a poll up on Facebook asking for responses pertaining to this. Ms. Eaton stated, "This person had gone to Riverstone Medical Complex last Tuesday, drove his truck there and was picked up by the manager at Animal Control which is under all of your supervision." "Now, the same employee today, drove his truck to the dentist and was gone probably 45 to 50 minutes from the job." Ms. Eaton went on to elaborate on the volunteers there at Animal Control. Ms. Eaton stated, "There was a reason that the volunteers, like Mr. Williams, get so frustrated with you Mr. Helton is because they watch this every day." Ms. Eaton asked the Board to check on this.

Public Commentary closed at 5:29 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

First on the agenda was Item #3, Variance Request from Phillip & Elaine Payne to build a shed 30 feet from the edge of Spring Run Drive in River Ridge on the Toccoa Subdivision, Lot #3B. The shed is 30 X 32; and this is the best location for the shed based on the lay of the land. Motion made first by Commissioner Patterson. Motion made second by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was Item #4, Variance Request from Gary O. Lance, James L. Lance & Frances L. Lance to leave the house at its current location, 37.5 feet from the centerline of Linda Lane instead of the 55 feet from center line. This was the only location for the house without filling in a ravine, lots are small. Chairman Helton made first Motion to approve variance. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was Item #5, Variance Request from Gary O. Lance, James L. Lance & Frances L. Lance to leave the house 35 feet from the centerline of Linda Lane and Hunter Lane instead of the 55 feet from centerline. The lots are small; and this will be in line with all the other houses. Chairman Helton

asked for a Motion to approve variance. Motion made first by Commissioner Johnson. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was Item #6, Variance request from Richard and Wesley McNalley to place a new home 8 feet from property line on each side of lot. The lot has been resurveyed and the house needs to be 8 feet from the line on each side. Previous variance was approved on September 11, 2018 and recorded on September 19, 2018. The lot is now smaller than it was when first variance was approved. Chairman Helton made first Motion to approve variance. Motion made second by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was Item #7, Variance request from Victor & Jewelyn L. Mullins to build a garage 35 feet from the centerline and 20 feet from the edge of Aska Forest Trail. This is Lot #10 in Aska Highland Subdivision. The lot is very steep; and this is the best location for the garage. Chairman Helton asked for a Motion to approve variance. Motion made first by Commissioner Patterson. Motion made second by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was Item #8, Section 5311 Public Transportation Service Agreement for operation of the Mountain Area Transit System between the Fannin County Board of Commissioners and North Georgia Community Action, Inc. (DBA as MATS). The term of the agreement shall be from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. This is to provide the elderly transportation around the county and it's a good service. Chairman Helton made first Motion to approve the agreement. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was Item #9, Fire Chief Larry Thomas which addressed the Board about hoses on the fire trucks. Discussion continued as to the issues with pressure testing the hoses and the requirements on testing. He stated there was a company which would charge a cost of \$.22 a foot and the total would be around \$7,542.00 for all hoses. Mr. Thomas explained the process with pressure testing and how many hoses were available. Chairman Helton stated the pressure testing was once a year and it was done by a professional group and no one could question the process. Commissioner Patterson asked if it was required by the State. Mr. Thomas stated it was a requirement of the State. Chairman Helton made first Motion to move forward with recommendation on fire hoses. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. In closing, Mr. Thomas gave a quick update on the progress with completion of the new fire station.

Next on the agenda was Item #10, 2019 Financial Budget Report given by Chief Financial Officer Robin Gazaway. Ms. Gazaway presented slides pertaining to figures on the actuals to date as of June 30th, 2019 and points of interest 50% into the budget. Commissioner Johnson asked about Risk Management figures. Ms. Gazaway elaborated on the insurance claims and the implementation of programs to help with cost. Commissioner Johnson asked about the figures of savings since the new implementations. Ms. Gazaway stated it just started on July 1st. Commissioner Johnson asked about how much we had saved since some of the spouses had come off the insurance. Commissioner Johnson asked what we had in place to cover this huge overage. Ms. Gazaway stated we have fund balance that can take care of cash issue or we may look at revenue numbers to offset it. Commissioner Patterson asked about getting the overage out of general fund. Ms. Gazaway replied that it would come out of general fund. Commissioner Patterson asked if we had to get it out of the general fund last year. Ms. Gazaway stated they did get it out of the general fund last year. Commissioner Johnson stated with this much of an overage, we need to come up with a solution. Ms. Gazaway stated we would be getting money back from the insurance and she was waiting on some now. Commissioner Johnson stated he was very concerned about it. Ms. Gazaway stated we do have re-insurance and we have a maximum overall on employees. Commissioner Johnson asked what that number was. Ms. Gazaway stated around 2.4 million. Chairman Helton stated this is the third year of being on a self-insured. Ms. Gazaway stated we are going on the third-year. Chairman Helton stated we were hoping for savings and it hadn't happened yet so it may be something to look at, like going back on a more conventional program. Chairman Helton stated we would be unattractive to anyone else. Chairman Helton stated he was not hung up on this self-insured being the way to go and it may be something to look at. Ms. Gazaway stated if you have too many claims, they will not even quote it for you. She stated she had been told some of the surrounding counties have gone up as much as 37 percent. Commissioner Johnson asked if there was some way to buy it down. Ms. Gazaway stated you can raise your employee's deductibles which will make your insurance go down and raise the maximum out of pocket. She stated it would affect the employees. Chairman Helton stated they had kept the deductibles and the premiums the same for the last three years so it would not affect the employees.

Next on the agenda was Item #11, Director of Recreation Eddie O'Neal gave an update on the success of the day camp program, Mr. O'Neal wanted to talk about the SPOST. He stated he wanted to fix the drainage issues on some of the playing fields and build a set of restrooms at Horseshoe Bend Park. Mr. O'Neal stated they would like to start working on the drainage on the fields and the first thing that needed to be done is to get a Topo survey; he stated the quote for the Topo with Hayes James was \$13,700.00. Chairman Helton stated that had been one of the priorities from the beginning. Commissioner Patterson asked if he were to go out there today, what would be seen. Mr. O'Neal stated "Mud." Commissioner Patterson stated the fields would not be able to be used. Commissioner Patterson asked, "Where the money

would come from?" Mr. O'Neal said it would be SPLOST funded. Commissioner Johnson stated you would have to have the Topo to know what you have. Commissioner Patterson stated for safety reason, he felt we needed to move forward with it. Chairman Helton made first Motion to approve the Topo with Hayes James. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Last on the agenda was Item #12, Land Development Officer Marie Woody which presented an update on the Fannin County Residential Building Permits. Ms. Woody also gave an update on the Condemnations list for 2019. Ms. Woody stated they had four that was completely cleaned up and there were four new condemnations added. Discussion continued regarding the process and procedures on the issuance of citations. The Board thanked Ms. Woody for everything that she does.

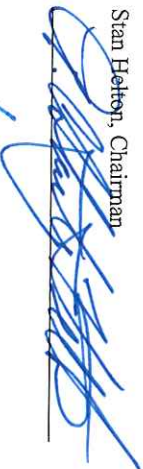
EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was needed at present time.

CLOSING

Motion to adjourn made at 6:23 p.m. first by Commissioner Johnson. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Stan Helton, Chairman



Earl Johnson, Post One Commissioner



Glenn Patterson, Post Two Commissioner



Attest:


Sherri Walker, County Clerk