



Fannin County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Jury Assembly Room  
September 24, 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 and County Attorney Lynn D. Doss.

The Invocation was led by Commissioner Glenn Patterson and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Earl Johnson.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Chairman Helton asked for a Motion to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2019 Regular Meeting. Motion made First by Commissioner Johnson. Motion made Second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

Jacquelyn Howard approached the podium to speak regarding concerns over the 5G, Fifth Generation wireless technology. She expressed her concern to the Board on the dangers it imposes on the health of Fannin County residents.

Next, Steve Oakley approached the podium to elaborate on the Fannin Liter Busters and the Adopt A Road Program.

Lastly, Sue Campbell came forward to express her same concerns on 5G Fifth Generation wireless technology.

Public Commentary closed at 5:29 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS**

First on the agenda was Item #3, Variance request from Richard M. & Christina Young to build a carport 18 feet from the edge of Sunrock Mountain Trail. The carport will be 22 X 18 and this is the best location for the carport. Chairman Helton made a motion first to approve the variance. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was Item #4, Variance request from Bernard L. & Monica E. Hodskins to rebuild a house back at the current location which is 12 feet from the edge of Woodstock Drive. The house will be 32 X 46 and this is the best location for the house on the property. Chairman Helton asked for a motion to approve the variance. Motion made first by Commissioner Patterson. Motion made second by Chairman Helton. Motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was Item #5, Financial Update given by Chief Financial Officer Robin Gazaway.

Next on the agenda was Item #6, Kathy Williams, Vice President of Our Friends of the Fannin County Public Library. Ms. Williams expressed to the Board her appreciation for allowing the Library to use the old Fire Station location for the annual book sale which would take place on October 11<sup>th</sup> thru October 13<sup>th</sup>. She welcomed everyone to come out for the sale and stated there would be days for donations of books on Wednesday and Thursday before the sale.

Next on the agenda was Item #7, the new Agriculture Agent & CEF of the University of Georgia Fannin County Extension Office, Ashley Hoppers came forth to introduce herself to the Board. She gave the Board

an overview of her experience and explained the days in which she would be available here in the Fannin County Extension Office since she would be traveling to the Gilmer County Extension Office also.

Next on the agenda was Item #8, R. Scott Kiker, Fannin County Probate Judge. This Item was removed from the agenda since Judge Kiker did not want to move forward on the matter.

Next on the agenda was Item #9, discussion on Hotel/Motel Lodging Tax. Chairman Helton stated there was a Workshop held before the regular Board Meeting to discuss raising the lodging tax to 6%. After discussion regarding the tax increase and the benefits of using the revenues for the promotion of tourism, conventions and trade shows, and tourism product development here in the county; Chairman Helton asked for a Motion to adopt the Resolution for changing the hotel/motel lodging tax rate from 5% to 6%. Motion made first by Commissioner Johnson. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #10 was a change in the Budget Hearing Date. Chairman Helton stated the date was originally scheduled for October 2<sup>nd</sup>, the date has been changed to October 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Agenda Item #11, Director of the Fannin County Recreation Department Eddie O'Neal approached the Board with the cost of beginning construction on the restrooms at the Horseshoe Bend Park. Mr. O'Neal stated the cost would be \$53,680.00 which did not include electrical and heating & AC. He also stated most of the labor would be done by the maintenance employees. Chairman Helton asked about a completion time frame. Mr. O'Neal stated he was thinking completion would be in December. Chairman Helton also expressed concerns on security and the need for a security gate there at the park. Mr. O'Neal agreed there was an issue and he stated he would look into an estimate on a security gate. Chairman Helton asked for a motion on approving the estimated cost for the construction of the restroom in the total amount of \$53,680.00. Motion made first by Commissioner Patterson. Motion made second by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

Last on the agenda was Item #12, Fannin County Fire Chief Larry Thomas gave the Board an update on the ISO. Chief Thomas spoke regarding the hydrant testing and maintenance and the need to hire an additional contracted person to perform some of these tasks and; also hiring additional fire fighters was a need in order to gain the points. Chief Thomas explained to the Board other implementations that have taken place in order to help with the rating. Commissioner Patterson asked about the budget amount and where would it come from. Chief Thomas stated it would come out of his budget. Commissioner Johnson asked about the type of testing on the hydrant with the person that would be hired. Chief Thomas stated that it would be just for the maintenance. Commissioner Johnson stated he was glad that the guy was going around to grease the fire hydrants; but they need to do more flow testing. Chairman Helton asked when it would be done. Chief Thomas stated it would be the first of the year, in January, weather permitting; and they would turn right around and do it again. Chairman Helton inquired about the cost. Chief Thomas stated an amount of \$60,000.00 which would be \$75.00 per hydrant. Chief Thomas stated there were over 800 plus hydrants in our county. Commissioner Johnson elaborated on some different options about flow testing the hydrants. Chief Thomas stated there would need to be flow testing every year in order to get credit for it. Commissioner Johnson commented on having numbers together on the number of fire fighters needed with the budget hearings coming up. Commissioner Patterson asked if we were progressing on the ISO issue and asked Chief Thomas if he was comfortable with it. Chief Thomas said he felt good about it and they were progressing on the issue and he was in contact with the ISO. Chairman Helton stated he would like to see what the number would be at the budget hearing on how much it would cost the county to get the ISO rating back in order to be comfortable with it. Commissioner Johnson stated those numbers would be very important. Commissioner Johnson stated he got to witness first hand on Saturday, the need for more firefighters when there was an incident that happened in his area. Commissioner Johnson stated it was apparent that we were moving in that direction of needing more people. Commissioner Patterson commented on getting a little more out of the cities and their commitment on what they could do.

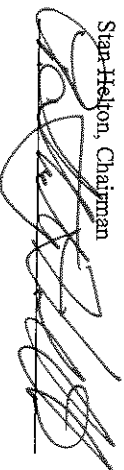
**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No Executive Session needed.

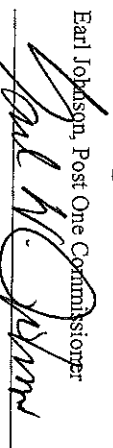
**CLOSING**

Motion to adjourn made at 6:21 p.m. first by Commissioner Johnson. Motion made second by Chairman Helton. Motion passed unanimously.

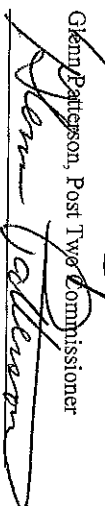
Star Helton, Chairman



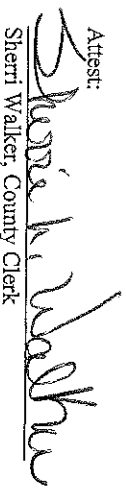
Earl Johnson, Post One Commissioner



Glen Patterson, Post Two Commissioner



Attest:



Sherri Walker, County Clerk