



Fannin County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Jury Assembly Room
November 26, 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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chairman Helton asked for a Motion to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2019 Regular Meeting. Motion made first by Commissioner Patterson. Motion made second by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

First to approach the podium was Joe Webb. Mr. Webb stated he felt there was no need for the Public to comment since there was no answer. Mr. Webb continued to elaborate on striping of the roads. He also made comments pertaining to the budget and stated he agreed with Mr. Johnson on what the number was. (Comments by Mr. Webb were pertaining to the Public Hearing held at 4:00 p.m. prior to Regular Board Meeting.)

Public Commentary was closed at 5:24p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

First on the agenda was Item #3, variance request from Michael & Lee Hankamer to place a garage 24 feet from the centerline and 30 feet from the centerline. Chairman Helton asked for a Motion to approve the variance request. Motion made first by Commissioner Johnson. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was Item #4, variance request from Catherine Woolard & Christian Samuel to place shed #1 30 feet from the edge and 40 feet from the centerline of Ridgeview Road and to place shed #2 20 feet from the edge and 30 feet from the centerline of Ridgeview Road. Chairman Helton made Motion first to approve the variance request. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was Item #5, Chief Financial Officer Robin Gazaway gave the 2019 Budget Report for January thru October 2019. Commissioner Johnson stated if any individual looked at the report, it might be understood that Public Works would appear over budget. Commissioner Johnson and CFO Robin Gazaway made clarification points on the grant monies and keeping the grants separate. Commissioner Patterson asked about the SPL/OST and wanted to know if November and December would be good months. Ms. Gazaway stated it would depend on the holiday shoppers.

Item #6 was Fannin County Water Authority Appointment of Rick Landress to fulfill the term of Mark Burger. This recommendation came from Commissioner Johnson. Commissioner Johnson stated that it was very hard to find people to serve on any of the boards due to the publicity of serving. Commissioner Johnson stated he was glad to have Mr. Landress serve and he was sorry to see Mr. Burger step down and thanked him for his service. Chairman Helton asked for a Motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Landress. Motion made first by Commissioner Johnson. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was Item #7, Fannin County Fire Chief Larry Thomas gave ISO update. Mr. Thomas stated all the hydrants had been serviced and stated the ones that were out of service were flagged with ribbon. Mr. Thomas stated the Cities had been contacted and let them know it was something they needed to take care of. Mr. Thomas stated the hose and pump testing has already been scheduled for the first of the year but doesn't have the approximate date yet. Commissioner Johnson made the comment there had been speculation that Fannin had failed; and he wanted it clarified that Fannin County did not fail, the classification had changed and not failed. Mr. Thomas stated they did not fail, classification just changed. Commissioner Patterson asked if it had been six years. Mr. Thomas stated they do the classifications every five years and this last time everything changed on how they do the classifications. Mr. Thomas stated they do not spend the five days with us as they did before. Chairman Helton stated they proposed six new firefighters and that would help the ISO. Mr. Thomas stated the training would help also. Commissioner Johnson stated they would be busy all the time when not fighting fires. Chairman Helton stated they were moving ahead. Mr. Thomas stated he was getting help from some other counties also. Chairman Helton stated some of the other counties have full time ISO positions. Mr. Thomas stated there were a lot of things that go on and his schedule changes from day to day. The Board thanked Mr. Thomas for the update.

Items #8 on the agenda was 2020 Fannin County Financial Budget. Commissioner Patterson stated he felt they had gone over it well. Commissioner Johnson stated his concerns were not with the Budget but with the numbers on the new SPLOST with Public Works. Commissioner Johnson stated there was \$60,000.00 added for striping so the numbers were not right. Commissioner Johnson asked if they felt we were over budget \$175,000. Chairman Helton stated next year we would only have the new SPLOST. Chairman Helton stated the SPLOST money had been very active. Chairman Helton also stated as far as adding the LMIG money, we were fine. Ms. Gazaway stated that was what Mr. Johnson had asked for; for it to be split out. Commissioner Johnson stated the \$60,000 was not added on there. Commissioner Johnson stated he would not vote on the Budget tonight; he stated he did not trust any of the numbers on the budget and he didn't feel comfortable about voting on it tonight. Commissioner Patterson asked what he would want to do. Commissioner Johnson stated we could have real accurate numbers. He also stated this is a county and that is very serious to him. Commissioner Patterson asked if Commissioner Johnson really believed that we were over \$175,000. Commissioner Patterson stated it was all in semantics. Commissioner Johnson stated he would leave it up to the two of them to approve. Chairman Helton stated we were required to approve the budget by the first meeting in December. Commissioner Patterson asked if Commissioner Johnson agreed with the report. Commissioner Johnson stated again he would not vote on the budget with the numbers (on the Fund Balance) he had been provided. Chairman Helton stated he was okay with the budget because there were auditors that came in and turned the books upside down and the State Auditors approve it every year. Chairman Helton stated he was ready to vote on it and asked if Commissioner Patterson was ready to vote on it. Commissioner Patterson stated he felt, at this time, they needed to wait due to the importance of the budget for it to be unanimous. Commissioner Johnson stated he still may not vote on it. Commissioner Patterson stated he felt at this time, it needed to be postponed for it to be unanimous. Chairman Helton reminded the Board, the budget had to be approved by the next meeting. Chairman Helton asked for a motion to move the 2020 Financial Budget to the next meeting being December 10, 2019. Also, Chairman Helton stated there was the option of having a Special Called Meeting before that date. Commissioner Johnson made first Motion. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Patterson made comments by stating he felt the Board needed to have something that Commissioner Johnson would feel comfortable about. Commissioner Patterson stated he just didn't know how to do that but we need to work toward that so the citizens of Fannin County would feel good about it. Commissioner Patterson asked how the Board could do that and if there were any suggestions. Chairman Helton stated he was open for suggestions since Commissioner Patterson brought it up. Commissioner Patterson stated he felt there needed to be paperwork for Commissioner Johnson to look at beforehand. Commissioner Johnson stated he would be fine as long as the numbers were accurate. Commissioner Johnson stated he did not like "about" or "I think so", he wanted real numbers. Commissioner Johnson stated he shouldn't have to remember the \$60,000 grant that Mr. Ratcliff went out and got and that is actually generated revenue also. Commissioner Johnson stated once there were accurate numbers; he would be fine.

Last on the agenda was Item #9, Employee Deferred Compensation. Chairman Helton stated legally he had to call the Christmas Bonus "Employee Deferred Compensation". County Attorney Lynn Doss stated "Correct". Chairman Helton stated it had been traditional that they offer to all fulltime employees \$100 and all part-time employees \$50 at the end of the year. This would be for all county employees except elected officials. Chairman Helton made first Motion to provide Deferred Compensation for all full-time and part-time employees. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session needed.

CLOSING

Motion to adjourn made at 6:05 p.m. first by Chairman Helton. 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