



Fannin County Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting

April 28, 2020, 5:00 p.m.

VIA TELECONFERENCE

OPENING REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Helton called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Present in teleconference were Chairman Helton, County Attorney Lynn D. Doss and County Clerk Sherri L. Walker. Present via phone were Post One Commissioner Earl Johnson and Post Two Commissioner Glenn Patterson.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chairman Helton asked for a Motion to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2020 Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting & April 8, 2020 Special Called Meeting via Teleconference. Chairman Helton made Motion first to approve the minutes. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Public Commentary was submitted by email to County Clerk Sherri L. Walker. County Clerk read comments by the following citizens: Dr. Steven Pruett, James English, Joe A. DiPietro, Scott & Lisa Fell, Kevin & Michelle Isaac, Chris Amos, and Scott Taylor. Public Commentary was closed at 5:10 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Item #2 on the agenda was a variance request from Anthony Rivera to place a garage 31 feet from the edge of Shechinah Ridge Drive and 37 feet from the centerline of Shechinah Ridge Drive. Chairman Helton made Motion first to approve the variance. Motion made second by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #3 on the agenda was Director of Recreation Eddie O'Neal. Mr. O'Neal presented to the Board the COVID-19 Re-Opening Policies and Procedures for the Fannin County Recreation Department. Mr. O'Neal stated this would be a slow opening with a limited time frame and limited people for each activity. The Recreation Department's projected opening date would be May 4th. Commissioner Patterson asked if it would be by appointment. Mr. O'Neal stated it would be by appointment and no more than 40 people. Mr. O'Neal stated they would take temperatures and have hand sanitizer on hand. Commissioner Johnson stated he felt it was a good plan and a good way to start opening up. Chairman Helton commended Mr. O'Neal and his staff for their efforts with this plan and felt it was a great plan. Mr. O'Neal stated he would have the Policies & Procedures Plan posted on the Fannin County website and on Facebook.

Mr. O'Neal also presented to the Board a quote to replace the trash cans at the Tamen Park in the amount of \$5,104.44. Mr. O'Neal stated the cans were rusted out and not in good shape. This would be for nine trash cans. Chairman Helton made Motion first to approve the purchase of the trash cans. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #4 First Quarter Financial Report was presented by Chairman Stan Helton. Commissioner Johnson stated the only comment he had was he wanted everyone to be very conservative as we creep our way out of this situation. Chairman Helton stated for the first quarter, the County is under budget by four percent.

Item #5 on the agenda was discussion regarding the Emergency Declaration & Ordinance. Chairman Helton asked County Attorney Lynn Doss to point out the situation with the Executive Order. County Attorney Lynn Doss stated these were unprecedented times and there had been five Executive Orders from the Governor in which this has caused some confusion. County Attorney Lynn Doss stated the ban on Short Term Rentals would be lifted on April 30, 2020. Ms. Doss stated there was a citizen that spoke regarding he wished the county would step in on Short Term Rentals. Ms. Doss stated there was nothing the County could do at the time since the Governor's Order was in place. Ms. Doss stressed if there was anyone with questions pertaining to a business opening; they should contact the Governor's office. Ms. Doss stated we would place the COVID-19 Governor's Hotline number on the County website. Chairman Helton commented when the Governor put his order into place; it superseded the County's order. Ms. Doss stated that was correct. Chairman Helton stated there was no need to vote on anything pertaining to the County's


Declaration. Ms. Doss stated thus far the State would be in charge. Commissioner Patterson urged the importance of following all guidelines so we would not have a surge. Commissioner Johnson stated he strongly disagreed with the Governor about opening at this time. Commissioner Johnson stated it was difficult for him to understand how people could be confused since vacationing was the last thing on his mind; but he could understand all the business owners here in Fannin County also. Commissioner Johnson stated he just hoped by opening vacation rentals, it would not cause a huge spike in cases here. Commissioner Johnson urged everyone to proceed with caution and common sense. Chairman Helton stated March 24th was the day the Board put into place the Declaration which was the day the first case of the Coronavirus was reported in Fannin County. Chairman Helton stated the Governor's emergency powers were through May 13th. Chairman Helton addressed a comment by Commissioner Johnson pertaining to the budget and cost. Chairman Helton stated that SPLOST could be impacted; and Chairman Helton recommended we suspend all non-critical Capital Improvement Projects until we know the impact of everything. Commissioner Patterson and Commissioner Johnson both agreed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION


No Executive Session was needed at present time.

CLOSING


Chairman Helton made a Motion first to adjourn meeting at 5:59 p.m. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.



Stan Helton, Chairman



Earl Johnson, Post One Commissioner



Glenn Patterson, Post Two Commissioner

Attest:



Sherri L. Walker, County Clerk