



Fannin County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Jury Assembly Room
January 14, 2020 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.

Chairman Helton moved to amend the agenda to remove Item #10 being Employee Safety Grant from ACCG which was previously presented in the October 22, 2019 BOC Meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

First to approach the podium was Debi Holcomb. Ms. Holcomb made comments directed to the Board regarding the Architectural Services, Inc. of the Whitepath building. Ms. Holcomb stated she didn't remember anything about a public hearing. Ms. Holcomb stated that she had received a couple of phone calls stating the three Board members had met at the Whitepath building. She also commented on the announcement in which the Speaker of The House David Ralston made on social media regarding the grant for the library. Ms. Holcomb closed with reminding the Board there were facts and transparency in which the citizens of Fannin County wanted to know when it came to spending their tax payer dollars.

Chairman Helton made clarification to Ms. Holcomb. Chairman Helton stated that the Whitepath Building, which is county owned property, and the three Commissioners are allowed by law to inspect County property. Chairman Helton stated, "We did not meet as three, we met with the library and some other people over there at the building. As far as the library grant, it was through the Mountain Regional Library and the grant was going through them. And as far as the architect, that is what the presentation will be about, and we haven't voted on that yet." Chairman Helton stated, "There has been nothing illegal and they were not trying to keep anything from the public."

Next to approach the podium was David Squire. Mr. Squire spoke regarding the Mitchell Branch Road and ask the Board about taking down a gate at the end of road.

Next to approach the podium was Dan Sisters. Mr. Sisters also stated his concerns about the Mitchell Branch Road to the Board.

Next to approach the podium was William Franklin, which also addressed his concerns about Mitchell Branch Road to the Board.

Chairman Helton advised the gentlemen in which addressed their concerns that he would put something in writing to them to give them the status of the Mitchell Branch road.

Next to approach the podium was Joe Webb. Mr. Webb presented to the Board a Candidate Fiscal Pledge in which he went over.

Public Commentary was closed at 5:31 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Item #3 on the agenda was moved to Consent Agenda. This item was regarding the Fannin County Road list corrections along with the Fannin County Road Mileage Corrections presented in the Workshop prior to the Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting. Chairman Helton asked for a motion to approve the list of corrections. Motion made first by Commissioner Johnson. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #4 on the agenda was a variance request from Beardsllee Custom Homes, LLC to build a new home and garage 27 feet from the edge of Old Toccoa Loop and 36 feet from the centerline of the road. Chairman Helton made motion first to approve the variance. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #5 on the agenda was a variance request from B R Land Investments, LLC to build heated two-level staircase 60 feet from the edge and 66.52 feet from the centerline of Hwy. 515 N turning lane and 50.29 feet from the edge and 60.35 feet from the centerline of Old Hwy. 76. Also, to build a new handicap ramp 15.90 feet from the edge and 26.84 feet from the centerline of Harris Drive. Chairman Helton made a motion first to approve the variance. Motion made second by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

Items #6 on the agenda was a variance from Walker & Donna Cocke to build a garage 32 feet from the edge and 41 feet from the centerline of Hickory Way; and to build a garage 12 feet from the property line. Chairman Helton made a motion first to approve the variance. Motion made second by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #7 on the agenda was a variance from MAW Investment Properties to build a house with a porch 30 feet from the edge and 38 feet from the centerline of Cloudland Trace in Big Sky Subdivision. Chairman Helton made a motion first to approve the variance. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #8 on the agenda was a variance from Serene Mountain Properties, Inc. to build a new home with a porch 17 feet from edge of Grandeur and 24.5 feet from the centerline of Grandeur Drive on Lot #'s 22, 23, 24, & 25. Chairman Helton asked if anyone was present to oppose the variance. Ms. Barbara Shrewsbury approached the podium to address all the concerns about the location of the home being built and the issues with the home being so close to the road; along with damage the construction would possibly cause to the area and road. Chairman Helton explained to Ms. Shrewsbury the Board would table this variance until the next Board meeting to give the parties some time to mediate the issue. Chairman Helton made a motion first to table the variance until the January 28th Board Meeting. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Commissioner Johnson abstained from voting due to conflict.

Item #9 on the agenda was Director of Fannin County Recreation Eddie O'Neal. Mr. O'Neal stated the Rec Department had a lot of success with the Afterschool Program and they have had a lot of request for a PreK Program and he would like to request to the Board of having a PreK Program. Mr. O'Neal stated it would be a \$54,000.00 line item in the budget which would pay for itself. Mr. O'Neal stated they would like to take the existing two part-time employees of the Afterschool Program and make them full-time. Mr. O'Neal stated they would have something small for 15 students being a three year old program and a four year old program. Mr. O'Neal stated they do have State approval for this having the facility in which they do. Commissioner Patterson asked about the times for the program. Mr. O'Neal stated it would be from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. and it would be two days a week for the three year old and three days a week for the four year old. Commissioner Patterson asked where it would be. Mr. O'Neal stated, "It would be at the house at the park where we do the current Afterschool Program." Chairman Helton asked, "If there would be any contracts required. Mr. O'Neal stated, "No." Chairman Helton stated, "Really all he was talking about is sometime this year and we may need to adjust the budget." Commissioner Patterson asked if the two ladies were already certified. Mr. O'Neal stated, "They were certified." Mr. O'Neal stated it would be the beginning of next school year. Commissioner Johnson stated, "With the need, it definitely would fill up with that age group of kids and would be a great service."

Mr. O'Neal moved forward talking to the Board about the security at the park and the construction. He stated he would like to move forward with SPLOST Project with the drainage issue at Tom Boyd Park Field. Mr. O'Neal gave the bid amounts from BIOME Products in the amount of \$10,780.00 and one from Barge Wagner in the amount of \$20,422.00. Mr. O'Neal stated they both do great work and one is small and one is larger. Mr. O'Neal stated Field 5 is really in bad shape. Mr. O'Neal also stated that he had spoken with Darren Danner at the High School and they used River City Athletics which does their fields. Mr. O'Neal stated the quote from River City Athletics was \$16,850.00. Chairman Helton stated they would need to get started on the project quickly. Mr. O'Neal stated it would be easier to do it under one SPLOST Project. Commissioner Johnson stated, "It was time that we do something with the drainage especially with the wet season this year." Chairman Helton asked for a motion to approve BIOME to do the drainage in the amount of \$10,780.00 and for River City Athletics in the amount of \$16,850.00 for the laser grading.

Chairman Helton made motion first. Commissioner Patterson made motion second. Motion passed unanimously.

Lastly, Mr. O'Neal made the recommendation for subbing out some of the mowing at the park. He stated the mowing tends to be a revolving door. Mr. O'Neal stated he thought it would be more feasible without hiring another fulltime employee. Chairman Helton stated he would combine it all in one bid. Chairman Helton asked if he was just getting permission for bids. Mr. O'Neal stated, "Yes." Commissioner Johnson asked, "Whenever we have anymore maintenance with Horseshoe Bend, and it comes up again; we'll just tie it all together?" Chairman Helton stated to Commissioner Johnson, "That is correct." Commissioner Johnson stated, "I don't have any issue with that." Chairman Helton advised Mr. O'Neal to proceed with bids.

Next on the agenda was Item #11, Presentation of Sutton Architectural Services, Inc. on the Whitepath Building. Mr. Sutton presented to the Board the Proposal of the two Phases for the Scope of work on the building. Mr. Sutton explained each Phase and how it would need to be done. Commissioner Patterson asked Mr. Sutton if he was pretty familiar with the property. Mr. Sutton stated, "I have a good understanding of the property." Commissioner Patterson asked Mr. Sutton when they anticipated getting started on Phase I. Mr. Sutton stated, "We could get started right away and would take about two months with the initial phase; and it would depend when they authorize them to get started. Chairman Helton went over the figures being for Phase One in the amount of \$37,234.00 and Phase Two in the amount of \$28,592.00. Commissioner Johnson stated, "By doing the assessment, this is where we need to start to know what we have and what everyone wants." "This is the correct step to take." Commissioner Patterson asked how long Mr. Sutton had been doing this kind of work. Mr. Sutton stated, "My company has been in business for 18 years, but 30 plus years with various projects. I have worked on Federal Projects and DOD Projects along with various Municipals Complex." Chairman Helton asked about the time frame on sending out bids. Mr. Sutton explained different ways of obtaining these bids and with attracting some of the contractors. Commissioner Patterson clarified that this is the starting point and we wanted to know how to do it properly and efficiently. Commissioner Patterson stated to Mr. Sutton, "You are the starting point and we just want everyone to understand that." Mr. Sutton stated, "When you are approving this, you are not approving all of the steps, just this initial step." Commissioner Patterson stated, "This will involve a lot of other people." Commissioner Johnson stated, "We need to have this initial first step, we need to know what is needed." Chairman Helton made motion first to use Sutton Architectural Services, Inc.. Commissioner Patterson made motion second. Motion passed unanimously.

Last on the agenda was Item #12 Resolution to Set Qualifying Fees for 2020. Chairman Helton asked for a motion to approve and set the Qualifying Fees for the Election year of 2020. Motion made first by Commissioner Johnson. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session was needed to discuss personnel issues. Chairman Helton made motion first @ 6:43 p.m. to enter Executive Session. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Helton asked for a motion @ 7:30 p.m. to come out of Executive Session. Motion made first by Commissioner Johnson. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Helton stated there had been no decision made at the time on the discussion of personnel matters.

CLOSING

Chairman Helton asked for a Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:32 p.m. Motion made 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