



Fannin County Board of Commissioners
Rescheduled Regular Meeting
June 1, 2020, 4:00 p.m.
VIA TELECONFERENCE

OPENING REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Helton called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Present in Board Meeting via teleconference were Chairman Helton, Post One Commissioner Earl Johnson, Post Two Commissioner Glenn Patterson, County Attorney Lynn D. Doss and County Clerk Sherri L. Walker. Also present was Patrick Cooke handling the IT. Teleconference was held in the Board of Commissioners' Conference Room.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chairman Helton asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2020 Workshop & May 26, 2020 Regular Board Meeting. Motion made first by Commissioner Johnson. Motion made second by Chairman Helton. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

No Public Commentary was submitted.

NEW BUSINESS

Item #2 on the agenda was Recreation Director Eddie O'Neal. Mr. O'Neal gave a brief update on the re-opening of the Recreation Center due to COVID-19. Mr. O'Neal stated the Recreation Department is open until 9:00 p.m. through the week; and Summer Camp has kicked off. He stated the bathrooms at Horseshoe Bend Park were now open. Mr. O'Neal stated he would like to request the next SPLOST project on Field 5 with the drainage problems. Mr. O'Neal stated he wanted to take that field down by shortening the field and add drainage around the field. He stated this would allow there to be another small field. The total cost for all work performed would be \$173,170.77. Commissioner Patterson did not have any questions regarding the work. Commissioner Johnson asked if we were going to be able to have another field. Mr. O'Neal stated he would have another field. Commissioner Johnson stated that would be good since that field always flooded. Chairman Helton talked about SPLOST funds and stated there was enough funds to allow for this work; and it would solve the drainage issues. Chairman Helton stated this was one of the priorities for the Recreation Department and it had been talked about for a couple of years. Chairman Helton stated he liked the idea of adding an additional field. Commissioner Johnson stated a lot of people had asked about where the SPLOST Funds would be used. Commissioner Johnson stated people would be glad to see the problem solved with the field. Commissioner Johnson also asked who the work would be performed by. Mr. O'Neal stated North Georgia Grading would do the demolition and all the dirt work. River City Athletics Fields would do the outfield work; and Cochran Fencing will do all the fencing. Chairman Helton asked for a motion to approve the project in the amount of \$173,170.77. Commissioner Patterson made motion first. Commissioner Johnson made motion second. Motion passed unanimously. Chairman Helton asked about the time schedule for the project. Mr. O'Neal stated he hoped to be started in about two weeks and completion in September. Commissioner Johnson asked Mr. O'Neal to explain some of the particulars on how the work would be done. Mr. O'Neal elaborated on working with a flat field and the drainage; and how he had to find specialty workers on this type of project with it being more of a complex project. Mr. O'Neal stated these workers dealt more with athletic fields and he was very confident in their work.

Last on the agenda was Item#3 which was the Decision on Employee Health Benefits Renewal which runs from July 1st of this year through June 30th 2021. Chairman Helton reiterated there had previously been a Workshop on May 26, 2020 regarding the Insurance Benefits and stated there were five providers which supplied quotes. Chairman Helton went over the quotes again in which were received. Chairman Helton asked Commissioner Patterson about his thoughts. Commissioner Patterson stated he had talked to people about the pros and cons on the present policy. Commissioner Patterson felt that a fully insured program was a better option. Commissioner Patterson stated he liked the options with UnitedHealthcare for the employees. Commissioner Patterson also stated he liked the cost and it was a reputable company. Chairman Helton asked Commissioner Johnson about his thoughts. Commissioner Johnson asked who the actual agent was that carried UnitedHealthcare. Chairman Helton stated it would be the agent we were working with at this time, which would be English & Alford (Total Insurance). Mark Bailey is the actual Representative. Commissioner Johnson stated he was more confused with their presentation; and the

Representative stated he had been there for four years and had no complaints. Commissioner Johnson stated he could not believe he hadn't had any complaints. Commissioner Johnson stated he felt like Anthem would be the better choice; but he understood it was more money. Commissioner Johnson stated the UnitedHealthcare just confused him with all the back and forth with the Agent when trying to present the plan. Commissioner Johnson stated he felt the County needed to go with fully insured no matter what. Commissioner Johnson stated he would go with Anthem since Matt Bidwell presented the plan very well and was able to explain everything in twenty minutes. Commissioner Johnson stated he had good experiences with Anthem which is BCBS. Chairman Helton explained the difference with the two options the employees could choose from. Chairman Helton stated the one thing he liked about UnitedHealthcare; there would not be a disruption with changing doctors since most were on the plan. Chairman Helton stated if the employees choose Option 2, he would suggest passing the discount onto the employees by 7% which will reduce their cost. Chairman Helton stated he was pretty solid with going with UnitedHealthcare. Commissioner Patterson stated fully insured was the way to go. Commissioner Patterson stated he presently had UnitedHealthcare and they were a good company. Commissioner Johnson stated he didn't really have a problem with UnitedHealthcare; but the only problem was the agents that represented the plan were a train wreck. He stated they were unable to give the information on what they could or couldn't do with different companies. Commissioner Johnson stated that MSI (Anthem BCBS) is part of ACCG. Commissioner Johnson stated the sticky part was who was representing us and wanted it to be a simple process for the employees. Commissioner Johnson stated whatever the County chooses, he would like to see the County stay with it for a long time. Commissioner Johnson stated he was hoping to see a difference when they changed before; and they had not. Chairman Helton stated they had all had a week to review the information and proposals. Chairman Helton asked for a motion on which choice to vote for on the insurance renewal. Commissioner Patterson made motion first to accept UnitedHealthcare through English & Alford (Total Insurance). Chairman Helton made motion second. Commissioner Johnson opposed. Motion carried two to one.

Commissioner Patterson elaborated on the Annexation. Commissioner Patterson commented on the friction with the City of Blue Ridge Council and he stated he just felt it was not the right thing. Commissioner Patterson stated he did oppose the Annexation issue. Chairman Helton stated he did not have a comment on the issue at this time. Commissioner Johnson stated he did have any comments since he had not seen anything on paper. *not seen*

Chairman Helton commented on the COVID-19 and gave an overall of the drop on SPLOST for the month of April. Chairman Helton also commented on the unemployment numbers for Fannin County and surrounding counties.

Chairman Helton also stated that today's Teleconference took the place of the Regular Scheduled Meeting which was June 9th, 2020. Chairman Helton stated the next meeting would be June 23rd.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was needed at present time.

CLOSING

Chairman Helton asked for a Motion to adjourn meeting at 4:56 p.m. Motion made first by Commissioner Johnson. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.


Stan Helton, Chairman


Earl Johnson, Post Op Commissioner


Glenn Patterson, Post Two Commissioner

Attest:


Sherri L. Walker, County Clerk