



**Fannin County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting**

May 26, 2020, 5:15 p.m.

Third Floor- Jury Assembly Room

OPENING REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Helton called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chairman Helton asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2020 Teleconference Board of Commissioners Meeting. Motion made first by Commissioner Johnson. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Helton made an amendment to the agenda to add Item #6 as being Rescheduling of the Regular Board Meeting of June 9th, 2020 due to the election.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Donna Thompson approached the podium to express her concern to the Board regarding the City of Blue Ridge Annexation and stated she supported the Boards decision to oppose the annexation. She also expressed her concern on how it would affect the community.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Item #3 on the agenda was County Extension Coordinator Ashley Hoppers. Ms. Hoppers gave a brief update on the programs offered through the Extension Office. Ms. Hoppers stated the Extension Office has been very busy during COVID-19 with citizens growing more vegetables and fruits at their homes. Ms. Hoppers also stated the water testing had increased with homes closing in the area. Ms. Hoppers spoke regarding her webinar which was implemented during the COVID-19. Commissioner Patterson stated he appreciated everything that Ms. Hoppers had done. Commissioner Johnson stated Ms. Hoppers was doing a good job.

Items #4 on the agenda was the Memorandum of Understanding between The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia by and on behalf of The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension and Fannin County. Chairman Helton addressed the MOU. Ms. Hoppers stated the last one was 2009 and she stated this was Statewide. Chairman Helton made Motion first to accept the MOU. Commissioner Patterson made Motion second. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #5 on the agenda was Acting Tax Commissioner Rita Newton. Ms. Newton approached the Board regarding moving money from a former employee to her current staff. Ms. Newton stated she had chosen not to replace the Part-time employee; and it wasn't a lot of money. Ms. Newton stated if the former Part-time employee had gone on to work, it would have been for a remainder of 39 weeks for a balance of \$9,500.00. Ms. Newton stated she wasn't asking for any new money; the money had already been budgeted. She also stated she had been very conservative with the money. Ms. Newton stated Ms. Sosebee had returned money to the County in the amount of \$15,000.00 for another Part-time position. Commissioner Johnson asked if she was taking a former employee's and Tax Commissioners and combing to give raises. Ms. Newton stated it did not have anything to do with the Tax Commissioners and it was already appropriated in the budget for salaries; it would just be the balance for her salary if she had stayed employed. Chairman Helton asked if one of the employees was getting a promotion. Ms. Newton stated that all of them would be. Chairman Helton stated he just felt it was a real bad time to ask for raises now with all the budget cuts across the State. Chairman Helton stated also the Tax Commissioners' Salary is set by the State. Chairman Helton stated he could not support the request at this time. Chairman Helton stated he would leave it up to the other two to decide on the matter. Chairman Helton stated to Ms. Newton everyone in the office does a great job. Commissioner Patterson stated that everyone was feeling the pandemic but stated that she may need that money on down the road. Commissioner Johnson stated if she was looking to hire a person next year; the salaries would be up \$10,000. Ms. Newton stated, at that point, she would be replacing

her position. Commissioner Johnson asked if it would be a \$23.00 per hour position. Ms. Newton stated they would not come in at that rate. Commissioner Johnson commented that one person would be getting a \$3.00 per hour raise. Ms. Newton stated this employee came in at a way under rate. Commissioner Johnson stated it was just a real hard time to give raises. Commissioner Johnson stated he wanted to find ways to save money and not spend money since we may see a shortfall next year. Chairman Helton stated it would not be long until the Board would be talking about the budget for next year. Chairman Helton asked Ms. Newton if she would like to rescind her request or wanted the Board to vote on it. Ms. Newton stated the staff was working hard and she wasn't asking to spend money that was not allocated. Ms. Newton asked the Board if they couldn't look at all the request, just to look at the one employee, and she could make a separate request. Chairman Helton stated he didn't feel that was unreasonable. Chairman Helton stated they were just trying to be very prudent with the County's money. Commissioner Patterson stated it was very commendable on her part for what she was trying to provide for her Department.

Last on the agenda was Item #6, the Regular Scheduled Board Meeting on June 9, 2020. Chairman Helton stated this was the night of the Election. Chairman Helton asked the Post Commissioners how they wanted to proceed. Commissioner Johnson stated he felt it should be handled by way of teleconference on June 1st. Chairman Helton stated the June 9th Regular Board Meeting would be cancelled and rescheduled to Monday, June 1st by way of teleconference at 4:00 p.m. Chairman Helton asked for a Motion to move Board Meeting to June 1st. Commissioner Johnson made Motion first. Commissioner Patterson stated Motion second. Motion passed unanimously.


EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was needed at present time.

CLOSING

Chairman Helton asked for a Motion to adjourn meeting at 6:11 p.m. Motion made First by Commissioner Patterson. Motion made second by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.


Stan Helton, Chairman


Earl Johnson, Post One Commissioner


Glenn Patterson, Post Two Commissioner

Attest:



Sherri L. Walker, County Clerk