



Fannin County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
July 14, 2020, 5:15 p.m.
VIA TELECONFERENCE

OPENING REGULAR MEETING

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

Present in teleconference were Chairman Helton, County Attorney Lynn D. Doss and County Clerk Sherri L. Walker. Present via telephone were Post One Commissioner Earl Johnson and Post Two Commissioner Glenn Patterson. The teleconference was held in the Commissioners Conference Room.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Chairman Helton asked for a Motion to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2020 Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting. Motion made first by Commissioner Johnson. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

No public commentary was submitted.

NEW BUSINESS

Item #2 on the agenda was a variance request from Thomas & Katrina Jourdan to build a carport 17 feet from the edge of Claude Neal Lane. Chairman Helton asked for a motion to approve the variance. Motion made first by Commissioner Patterson. Motion made second by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #3 on the agenda was a variance request from Blue Ridge Lake Investments, LLC. Chairman Helton stated this variance request was withdrawn by parties.

Item #4 on the agenda was a variance request from Somerset Partners of Tn, LLC (Lot #3) to place a home 20 feet from the edge of the present culdesac and 40 feet from the center of the culdesac on Morgan Trail. Chairman Helton asked for a motion to approve the variance. Motion made first by Commissioner Johnson. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #5 on the agenda was a variance request from Somerset Partners of Tn, LLC (Lot 4 & 5) to place homes 40 feet from centerline of Morgan Trail. Chairman Helton asked for a motion to approve variance. Motion made first by Commissioner Johnson. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #6 on the agenda was a variance request from Somerset Partners of Tn, LLC (Lot 8,9, & 11) to place homes twenty feet from the edge of the road. There is no easement shown on Quail Hollow. Chairman Helton asked for a motion to approve the variance. Motion made first by Commissioner Johnson. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #7 on the agenda was a variance request from David & Leigh Heymann to place a house within 10 feet of the property line. A letter from the neighbor was also provided granting permission. Chairman Helton asked for a motion to approve the variance. Motion made first by Commissioner Patterson. Motion made second by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #8 on the agenda was a variance request from D & H Land Development, LLC and Danny Patterson to build a home 23 feet from edge of Foster Cove Road and 30 feet from the center of Foster Cove Road instead of 55 feet requirement. Chairman Helton asked for a motion to approve the variance. Motion made first by Commissioner Patterson. Motion made second by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #9 on the agenda was the 2019 Auditor's Budget Amendment Recommendations. Chairman Helton went over the adjustments stating this is what was suggested by the Auditors to make it work. Once these are approved, the auditors would come back with the final audit and the State will review this. Chairman Helton stated if it was not approved there would be a comment that we did not work within the budget.

Commissioner Patterson stated he had not questions. Commissioner Johnson stated the only thing he had a question about were the salaries since the department numbers are not listed. Chairman Helton asked for County Clerk to provide those department numbers to Commissioner Johnson. Chairman Helton elaborated on the fund balance being a positive in the amount of \$866,940 for the year. Chairman Helton asked for a motion to accept the adjustments. Motion made first by Commissioner Patterson. Motion made second by Chairman Helton. Motion carried two to one with Commissioner Johnson opposing. Commissioner Johnson stated due to lack of detail.

Item #10 was the Mountain Area Transit System Agreement (DBA as MATS). Chairman Helton stated this agreement came to us as Local Operating Match beginning July 1, 2020 and is expected to be \$194,238.00 in total or about \$16,186.50 per month. Commissioner Patterson asked if it went up each year. Chairman Helton stated last year was \$158,701.00 and there was an increase. Commissioner Patterson asked if it was based on the number of persons. Chairman Helton stated he did not have that answer at this time. Commissioner Johnson stated it was a very valuable service with transporting the elderly. Chairman Helton asked for a motion to approve the agreement. Commissioner Patterson stated he certainly wanted to support the program. Chairman Helton made a motion first to approve the agreement. Motion made second by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #11 Tiny Homes Moratorium on Tiny Homes Subdivisions. Chairman Helton stated the moratorium had expired. Commissioner Patterson stated he was interested to see if Commissioner Johnson had heard anything from builders. Commissioner Johnson stated he had heard from builders; and stated he had not heard of any of the builders wanting to build tiny homes either. Commissioner Johnson isn't aware of any inquiries of anyone wanting to build tiny homes. Commissioner Johnson stated he felt, if you had your own land, you should be able to do what you want with it. Chairman Helton stated by extending it another year until July 1st, 2021 to see if this trend would be coming; then we could approach the ordinance.

Commissioner Patterson stated he had not heard any more on the tiny homes; and felt it was best to put it on hold for another year. Commissioner Johnson stated he was fine with holding off for another year since he had not heard of any interest of tiny homes. Chairman Helton asked for a motion to extend the Tiny Home Subdivisions until July 1st, 2021. Motion made first by Commissioner Patterson. Motion made second by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #12 was discussion on the Emergency Expenditure on Courthouse sanitizing due to COVID-19. Chairman Helton stated last week, on Wednesday morning, we became aware of potential cases or case of COVID-19 in the Courthouse so I began getting information on companies that could do cleaning and sanitizing. Chairman Helton stated he spoke with Judge Weaver and the Sheriff, and at that time we thought it could be contained to one floor but became concerned that there had been other exposures throughout the courthouse. At that point, we had to take this from one floor, and with the agreement of the other officials, we went with this company to professionally clean the courthouse. Chairman Helton elaborated on the thorough cleaning and sanitization process. Chairman Helton stated the courthouse was closed from mid Wednesday until reopening on Monday. Chairman Helton stated he had underestimated the square footage of the courthouse being thirty thousand square feet and he had been in negotiations with the company to get the cost lowered. Chairman Helton stated presently the cost was \$70,059.00 but hopefully on getting that cost reduced. Chairman Helton stated we would be able to recoup these funds from the State. Chairman Helton stated under the circumstances we did not have time to take bids. Chairman Helton stated he felt it was necessary to keep all the employees safe and anyone that comes into the courthouse. Commissioner Patterson stated it was a very important issue. Commissioner Patterson stated we also had to take measures to keep the citizens safe, and the employees also. Commissioner Johnson stated the best news was we would be able to recoup the funds. Commissioner Johnson stated this is an area he had not expertise in and he knew it would be a very big problem for employees to get sick. Commissioner Johnson stated the biggest challenge was what do we do if it happens again. Commissioner Johnson stated it was a huge cost but good to know there is money set aside. Commissioner Johnson stated he was glad it would be safe for everyone. Chairman Helton stated the only flaw was his underestimation of the square footage. Chairman Helton stated he hoped that any employees and citizens listening should not feel at fault if they brought this in; it's an invisible enemy. Chairman Helton made a motion first to approve the cost from American Property Restoration, Inc. in the amount of \$70,059.00. Chairman Helton stated he was still trying to negotiate the cost. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Last on the agenda was Item #13, Courthouse Protocol for Employees & Visitors. Chairman Helton elaborated on what measures would be taken and what we would be asking the public to help us with. Chairman Helton stated we could not mandate face masks; but we can strongly encourage the use of face masks. Commissioner Patterson stated we had guidelines to protect and people just needed to follow those guidelines. Commissioner Patterson stated that county wide, everyone needed to keep their guard up and be diligent. Commissioner Johnson stated his view of everything after being out over the weekend and the State opening back up; we still need to live our lives. Commissioner Johnson stated it was impossible to keep the virus out of here so all we can do is ask the employees and public to be smart and careful all they possibly can. Commissioner Johnson stated if anyone has any symptoms, they need to stay away from the courthouse. Commissioner Johnson stated he thought it was a good idea for the employees to wear face masks. Chairman Helton stated what has begun, we are asking the employees to come in through the front

door and have their temperatures checked and strongly encouraging visitors to wear masks and have temperatures checked at the security check point. Chairman Helton stated, we can require the employees to wear masks until they are in their offices. Chairman Helton stated the other elected officials could require other measures if they wish. Chairman Helton stated we are minimizing visiting other offices by employees and to stay in their own work areas. Chairman Helton stated he does not like wearing a face mask either but if it helps protect, then he would wear a mask. Chairman Helton stated this is some of the measures that we haven taken until this is under control across the country. Commissioner Johnson asked about the situation happening again with an employee being exposed. Chairman Helton stated the employee would be able to work with a mask and keep social distancing but if they are exhibiting signs such as a fever; they would be asked to get a test. Commissioner Johnson stated he felt we couldn't afford having the courthouse sanitized every time this happens. Chairman Helton stated, absolutely not; we are just going to have to handle this as it develops. Chairman Helton stated he was not in favor of this every time. County Attorney Lynn Doss stated, the State Department of Public Health, as part of it's reopening plan; if you have someone that was wearing a mask and was not within six feet, then you close the classroom and disinfect with your own approved cleaners. If people will voluntarily wear face masks then we can minimize the exposure.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

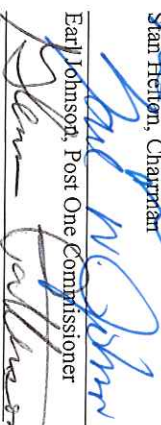
No Executive Session was needed at present time.

CLOSING


Chairman Helton asked for a Motion to adjourn at 6:48 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 L. Walker, County Clerk