



**Fannin County Board of Commissioners**  
**Regular Scheduled Meeting**  
**August 10, 2020, 5:15 p.m.**  
**Jury Assembly Room – Third Floor**

**OPENING REGULAR MEETING**

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

Invocation was led by Commissioner Patterson. Pledge was led by Commissioner Johnson.

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 July 28, 2020 Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting. Motion made first by Commissioner Johnson. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Helton amended the agenda to add Item #3A being Robert Graham, Director of EMA.

**PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

No public commentary was given. Public Commentary was closed at 5:21 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Item #2 on the agenda was a variance request from Boulder Mountain, LLC to place a home ten feet from the edge of River Chase Way and five feet at the other end. There is limited space to place the home because of river setback and other side of road is septic field lines. No one was present to support or oppose variance. Commissioner Patterson stated he had gone out with Land Development and stated he felt it was a little limited. Commissioner Patterson recommended to re-evaluate. Commissioner Johnson stated he had no objections with the variance. Chairman Helton stated he had talked with Mr. Nicholson and he felt he was a little uncomfortable with the proximity. After discussion pertaining to the variance, Chairman Helton asked for a motion to table the variance until the next Board meeting of August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Motion made first by Commissioner Patterson. Motion made second by Chairman Helton. Motion passed two to one with Commissioner Johnson opposing.

Item #3 on the agenda was Fire Chief Larry Thomas. Chief Thomas gave a brief update on the ISO. Chief Thomas presented to the Board an updated list of fire hydrants in which had been serviced. Chief Thomas also stated he had met with all departments and cities and was receiving feedback on progress with all issues with the fire hydrants.

Item #3A was EMA Director Robert Graham to present an Award Letter from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for the Fiscal Year of 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program – COVID-19 Supplemental which had been approved in the amount of \$87,532.17 in Federal Funding. Mr. Graham stated he would like to thank Bill Brown who did most of the writing of the Grant and Patrick Cook who also assisted with Grant. This Grant would be a match of \$8,753.22. Mr. Graham stated he was asking for the acceptance of the Grant for medical equipment. Mr. Graham explained to the Board some of the equipment that would be purchased with the Grant. Chairman Helton asked for a motion to accept the Grant and a match in the amount of \$8,753.22. Motion made first by Commissioner Patterson. Motion made second by Chairman Helton. Motion passed unanimously.

Secondly, EMA Director Robert Graham presented to the Board a Proposal to Purchase Mechanical CPR Devices and Cardiac Monitors with COVID-19 Funds. Mr. Graham explained he felt the cost would be covered under the CARES Act. Mr. Graham elaborated on the companies that provide the equipment and stated the companies had agreed if the equipment wasn't covered by the CARES Act, the companies would take them back. Commissioner Patterson asked about the process of recovering the cost. Mr. Graham referred the question to Chief Finance Director Robin Gazaway. Ms. Gazaway explained about retaining the receipts for equipment and loading everything to the Portal for reimbursement. Mr. Graham stated the two major companies were Stryker and ZOLL that provided the equipment. Mr. Graham also stated the paramedics were more comfortable with the equipment from ZOLL. Chairman Helton stated he felt it was



important to get the paramedics input on the equipment. Chairman Helton suggested to have a conditional vote on accepting the equipment from ZOLL. Chairman Helton stated the price reflected was in the amount of \$265,020.64 for 4 Auto Pulse Devices with a 4-year maintenance agreement, 6 X Series Cardiac Monitors with a 4-year maintenance agreement and 1 Auto Pulse Free with 6 monitor purchase. Chairman Helton asked for a vote on a condition to receive in writing to take this equipment back if it was not approved by the COVID-19 Grant. Chairman Helton made motion first to make the purchase for the equipment from ZOLL on the condition in writing to return if not covered under the COVID-19 Grant. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Helton stated there was information that came from ACCG about hazard pay for public safety. Commissioner Patterson stated it was a great thing to do. Commissioner Johnson stated he thought it would be good if we could get it with no strings attached. Chairman Helton asked about getting some information together on how to award the pay. Commissioner Patterson stated a list would be important. Commissioner Johnson also stated they would need to determine who would qualify. Also, Commissioner Johnson stated it was a great thing to do with the CARES Act money; but we just need to figure out the right avenue to take. Chairman Helton stated the decision would need to be made by next Friday in order to get it into the payroll. Chairman Helton made the recommendation to move forward.

Item #4 on the agenda was Public Works Director Zack Ratcliff. Mr. Ratcliff spoke regarding the Fiscal Year 2021 LMIG Program. The counties formulated amount for the Fiscal Year of 2021 is \$642,084.07 with a local match of 30%. Chairman Helton stated the county would need to come up with \$193,000. Commissioner Johnson how much of a reduction it was from last year. Mr. Ratcliff stated it was around 12% reduction. Chairman Helton asked for a motion to approve the LMIG. Commissioner Johnson made motion first. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #5 on the agenda was Bid Proposals for Project of Re-paving & Re-Striping & Level Sugar Creek Road, Curtis Switch Road and Galloway Road. The County received the following bids:

Bartow Paving Company in the amount of \$1,824,707.53  
Colditz Trucking, Inc. in the amount of \$1,318,296.11  
Colwell Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$1,644,202.94  
C.W. Matthews Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$1,543,165.00  
NWGP, Inc. in the amount of \$2,314,708.70

Chairman Helton made a motion first to table the bids for late next week until details were reviewed. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.


Last item on the agenda was Item #6 being the 2020 Tax Digest/Millage Rate. Chairman Helton elaborated on some of the facts of a rollback vs. no rollback. Commissioner Patterson stated he felt some of the people in Fannin were hurting and he was not in favor of raising taxes. Commissioner Johnson stated he was not going to be remembered for raising taxes. Commissioner Johnson said there would have to be an increase somewhere to keep up with the growth but now is not the time with the COVID-19. Commissioner Johnson said everyone is grasping for money and people are having to do things differently. Chairman Helton stated the Governor did sign off on the agreement with the changes on the Hotel/Motel Tax increasing from 5% to 6% so that would be additional funds coming in. Chairman Helton stated some of the tax revenue would offset. Chairman Helton asked for a motion to accept a rollback Millage Rate from 3.938% to 3.862%. Motion made first by Commissioner Patterson. Motion made second by Commissioner Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.


#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**


No Executive Session was needed at present time.

#### **CLOSING**

Chairman Helton asked for a Motion to adjourn. Motion made first by Commissioner Johnson. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously. Adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

  
Stan Helton, Chairman

  
Earl Johnson, Post One Commissioner

  
Glenn Patterson, Post Two Commissioner

Attest:

  
Sherri L. Walker, County Clerk