



Fannin County Board of Commissioners

Regular Scheduled Meeting

January 11th, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m.

Jury Assembly Room

Third Floor

OPENING OF REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING

Present in meeting were Chairman Jamie Hensley, Post One Commissioner Johnny Searce, Post Two Commissioner Glenn Patterson, County Attorney Lynn D. Doss, & County Clerk Sherri L. Walker.

Item #1: Invocation was led by Commissioner Patterson. Pledge was led by Commissioner Searce.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Item #2: Approve minutes of the December 14th, 2021 Regular Scheduled Meeting. Chairman Hensley asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Motion made first by Commissioner Patterson. Motion made second by Commissioner Searce. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Item #3: Variance Request from Lee R. Chip Stewart for the existing homes. Mr. Stewart is the owner and selling both homes; and the new owner is aware the homes are 8.5 feet apart. After discussion, Chairman Hensley asked for a motion to approve the variance request upon the conditional terms to remove the breezeway between homes within next 30 days or the variance would expire. First motion made by Commissioner Searce. Second motion made by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #4: Variance Request from Rotem & Ainsley Dayan to build a new home 15 feet from the edge of Enchanting Circle and 30 feet from centerline of Enchanting Circle. Bill Woody was present to oppose the variance based upon the stipulations of the building codes of the county. Jason Bryson with Higher Ground Builders was present to address the Board regarding the variance request. After discussion, Chairman Hensley made a motion to table the variance request until the next scheduled meeting being January 25th, 2022 for resolutions by all parties. Motion made second by Commissioner Searce. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #5: Appointment of Sheree Ralston as Executive Director of the Fannin County Development Authority to replace Christie Gribble: The Board accepted the resignation of Christie Gribble as the Executive Director. Chairman Hensley asked for a motion for the appointment. Motion made first by Commissioner Searce. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #6: Appointment of Keith Ledford to the Highland Rivers Health Board for a three-year term to replace Mayor Donna Whitener: This appointment is made by the Board of Commissioners. Chairman Hensley made motion first to appoint Mr. Ledford. Motion made second by Commissioner Searce. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #7: Director of Recreation Eddie O'Neal with bid proposals for ball fields #6 & #7. The bids were as follows:

Integrated Properties, LLC

Part 1: \$378,575.00

Part 2: \$311,900.00

Part 3: \$247,900.00

Part 4: \$13,000.00

Tri Scapes

Part 1: \$556,813.50

Part 2: \$418,986.26

Part 3: \$224,800.00

Part 4: \$58,250.00

Glossan Enterprises

Part 1: \$418,647.72

Part 2: \$441,305.30

Part 3: \$534,144.29

Part 4: \$18,372.88

Game Day Athletic Surfaces, Inc.

Part 1: \$495,890.00
Part 2: \$433,850.00
Part 3: \$189,200.00
Part 4: \$38,720.00

Mr. O'Neal requested time to review the bids. Chairman Hensley made a motion first to table until the next scheduled meeting of January 25th, 2022. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. O'Neal also requested to purchase equipment being netting and matting for the batting cages in the amount of \$12,374.03 to be paid from SPLOST funds. Chairman Hensley asked for a motion to approve this purchase. Motion made first by Commissioner Patterson. Motion made second by Chairman Hensley. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #8: Public Works Director Zack Ratcliff approached the Board regarding additions to the Fannin County Road List. Mr. Ratcliff stated he recommended Stites Road for approximately 300 feet to be added to road list. Also, Mr. Ratcliff recommended ½ mile of N. Burgess Road off Pickelsimer Road to be added also. Chairman Hensley made a motion first to accept 300 feet of Stites Road to the road list. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Hensley asked for a motion to accept ½ mile of N. Burgess Road to the road list. Motion made first by Commissioner Patterson. Motion made second by Commissioner Scarce. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Ratcliff also approached the Board regarding purchasing a 15' Rock Gravel Spreader to be mounted on the county truck. The cost would be \$42,184.00 and would be paid for using SPLOST funds. Chairman Hensley made a motion first to approve the purchase. Motion made second by Commissioner Scarce. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #9: Major Bosen with the Fannin County Sheriff's Office approached the Board regarding the camera system at the Detention Center. Major Bosen presented several quotes to replace the system verses repairing or replacing parts due to age of the system. Quotes were as follows: Mountain Valley Systems, LLC - \$44,820.39 with no labor cost quoted, Mountain Valley Systems, LLC - \$42,661.39 with no labor cost quoted, Blue Ridge Surveillance, LLC - \$21,200.00 (Partial Replace), ETC - \$17,278.46 (Partial Replace), Blue Ridge Surveillance, LLC - \$58,749.49 & ETC Security - \$57,960.98. Major Bosen recommended to the Board Blue Ridge Surveillance, LLC in the amount of \$58,749.49. Major Bosen stated the equipment would be purchased using the Public Safety SPLOST funds. Chairman Hensley asked for a motion to approve the purchase. Motion made first by Commissioner Patterson. Motion made second by Commissioner Scarce. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #10: EMA Director Robert Graham approached the Board regarding the Public Alert System. Mr. Graham stated the contract would be coming due on April 1st, 2022. Mr. Graham stated the county was presently using the Nixle system with a yearly cost of \$8,022.67 but he had researched several options and recommended to the Board the Hyper-Reach system. Mr. Graham stated this was presently a shared cost with the Municipalities and would continue to be a shared cost. Mr. Graham quoted a yearly cost of \$6,000 with a lock in of 5 years. Mr. Graham stated that both Gilmer and Murray counties use the Hyper-reach system and highly recommended the system. Chairman Hensley made a motion first to approve the purchase of the Hyper-reach system. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #11: Board action to set date & time of Public Hearings as to the 2022 Lodging Tax Revision: Ms. Walker stated the Notice of Public Hearings would run in the newspaper the weeks of January 26th and February 2nd with hearings to be held on February 8th and February 22nd with anticipated vote on adoption at the regular scheduled meeting of February 22nd. Chairman Hensley asked for a motion to approve dates of hearings. Motion made first by Commissioner Scarce. Motion made second by Chairman Hensley. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #12: Board action to set date & time of Public Hearings as to the 2022 Alarm Ordinance Revision: Ms. Walker stated the Notice of Public Hearings would run in the newspaper the weeks of January 26th and February 2nd with hearings to be held on February 8th and February 22nd with anticipated vote on adoption at the regular scheduled meeting of February 22nd. Chairman Hensley asked for a motion to approve dates of hearings. Motion made first by Commissioner Scarce. Motion made second by Chairman Hensley. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #13: Board discussion on Tiny Home Subdivisions Moratorium: Chairman Hensley stated he felt the moratorium should stay in place until the county could implement an ordinance; and that is presently undetermined at the time due to the county not having any zoning. Chairman Hensley made a motion first

to approve the moratorium on the Tiny Home Subdivisions. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Item #14: Board update on Shallowford Bridge & New Port Bridge: Public Works Director Zack Ratcliff stated at the present time, the Shallowford Bridge would only allow one car at a time with a weight capacity of three tons. Mr. Ratcliff stated KCI contractors would be doing work on the New Port bridge and the plan had been approved by GDOT. Mr. Ratcliff stated the New Port Bridge would be opened back up at same weight capacity.

Item #15: Board action on Tourism Product Development: Chairman Hensley stated "The Fannin County Chamber of Commerce has been designated fiscal agent of the County for tourism and marketing. The success of their efforts is apparent through the SPLOST and Lodging Tax dollars that have been generated and continue to be generated. Tourism Product Development funds must be spent on certain projects. Some of these projects overlap with programs already being done by the Chamber. Some of the applicants for programs/projects overlap. The Chamber has a rubric for determining the best us of these dollars. Making the Chamber responsible for the distribution of all the Tourism Product Development money makes sure that the greatest number of qualified programs/agencies are funded and avoids duplication."

Chairman Hensley asked for a motion first to amend the contract and agreement entered into between the Fannin County Chamber of Commerce, Inc. and the Fannin County Board of Commissioners approved by the Commission on September 25, 2021 so as to appoint the Chamber as the fiscal agent of the County for the portion of the Tourism Product Development funds allocated to the County. Motion made second by Commissioner Searce. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY:

Public Commentary was made by the following individuals: Henry Mallard, Mary Taylor, Ginger Rogers, & Kirk Williams. Public Commentary closed at 7:53 p.m.

Chairman Hensley asked if there was a need for Executive Session. Commissioner Patterson stated he felt there was a need for Executive Session. Chairman Hensley made a motion first to enter into Executive Session. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson at 7:53 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Hensley made a motion at 8:44 p.m. to come out of Executive Session. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Hensley stated there was discussion regarding real estate and personnel with no decision made.

CLOSING

Chairman Hensley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion made second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion passed unanimously. Adjourned at 8:44 p.m.


Janie Hensley, Chairman


Johnny Searce, Post One Commissioner


Glenn Patterson, Post Two Commissioner

Attest:


Sherri L. Walker, County Clerk

