

MINUTES  
ELBERT COUNTY BOC CALLED MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2010 - 11:00 A.M.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tommy Lyon. Present for the meeting were Chairman Lyon, Vice-Chairman Harper, Commissioner Albertson, Commissioner Eaves, Commissioner Hubbard, Commissioner Hewell, County Administrator Bob Thomas, County Clerk Judy Vaughn and County Attorney Bill Daughtry.

**Adoption of agenda:** Commissioner Eaves made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Albertson seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Tom Brown, Administrator, Elbert Memorial Hospital:** Mr. Brown came before the Board to update them on hospital issues. He stated that the hospital is on track in cost saving measures, having reduced their deficit in excess of \$1 million for the prior year of 2009. Their revenues have stabilized, and the bad debt write-offs are averaging \$33,000 per month. They are still in the process of applying for "Critical Care Access". The discussion is whether to put the hospital on the July 20<sup>th</sup> ballot to determine proposed ad valorem tax for the hospital or to maybe to put the hospital on the next SPLOST vote. Their immediate needs are for equipment and improvements. Once in survival status, they want to recruit more physicians; and hopefully, more citizens will use local doctors and not go out of town. The hospital's contract with Quorum ends in September, 2011. Mr. Brown informed the Board of Commissioners that the Hospital Board did approve for a member of the BOC to be on the Hospital Board. The BOC will vote amongst themselves as to which member that will be. Commissioners feel that there will be more support from the citizens if we choose to put this on SPLOST instead of property taxes. Mr. Brown said that after the hospital has their meeting on Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, he should know more as to which direction they should go.

**Review and determine purchase of proposed volunteer fire department buildings:** County Administrator Bob Thomas has received an invoice from Craft Construction for buildings that have already arrived. However, Mr. Thomas said that we had not issued a purchase order with the go ahead to order. The USDA loan process takes a long time. He is concerned that they might not reimburse us

for these buildings if we go ahead and pay Craft Construction. Mr. Thomas will call USDA and ask how we should proceed on this issue. Commissioner Albertson made a motion to table this decision until Mr. Thomas has heard from USDA. Commissioner Eaves seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Review of GEBCorp Retirement Program:** At the request of the Board, Steve Vaughn, representative from GEBCorp, has looked into ways that the County can cut costs on retirement and still offer employees a good plan. He has come up with a plan for all new hires that will reduce the modifier (used in calculating the amount received monthly) from 2.5% to 1.25%. There will no longer be an “early retirement” (25 years of service; retire at 55 with full benefits) in the plan for new hires. In addition, 2% will no longer come out of employees bi-weekly checks. As for veteran employees already on the current plan, they can opt to stay with this plan and have 6 or 7% come out of their bi-weekly checks to cover this cost, or they can go with the new plan. The new plan is anticipated to begin with the new budget year in July, 2010. GEBCorp representatives will set up a day next week to come and talk with employees and further explain these changes. They will come back at another time to meet one on one with employees to get fill out the correct papers on their specific choice.

**Executive Session:** Commissioner Eaves made a motion to go into Executive Session for litigation and personnel. Commissioner Hewell seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0. Commissioner Hubbard made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0. During Regular Session there was a motion made by Commissioner Albertson to approve an attorney engagement letter with Webb, Tanner, Powell, Mertz and Wilson (however, the contents of the attorney engagement letter is attorney-client privileged). Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0. On another issue, Commissioner Eaves made a motion to approve acknowledgment and waiver with Bill Daughtry (however, the contents of the acknowledgment and waiver is attorney-client privileged). Commissioner Hewell seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

**Adjournment:** Commissioner Albertson made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hewell seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.