

MINUTES
ELBERT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MONTHLY MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 11TH, 2009

Chairman Tommy Lyon called the meeting to order. After the Pledge to the United States Flag, the invocation was given by Chairman Lyon. Present for the meeting were: Chairman Lyon, Vice-Chairman Horace Harper, Commissioner W.D. Albertson, Commissioner Frank Eaves, Commissioner Jerry Hewell, Commissioner John Hubbard, County Attorney Bill Daughtry, County Administrator Bob Thomas, County Clerk Judy Vaughn and Finance Director Daniel Goode.

Adoption of Agenda: Chairman Lyon asked to amend the agenda by moving Item 7 (Sandra Brown of the Chamber) up to Item 5. Commissioner Albertson made a motion to adopt the agenda with this change. Commissioner Hewell seconded the motion. Upon voting the carried 5-0.

Adoption of Minutes: Commissioner Eaves made a motion to adopt the minutes as read. Commissioner Hubbard seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Sandra Brown, Chamber Chairperson: Chairperson Brown came before the Board to give an update on the Chamber of Commerce from August through December, 2009. They continue to sell t-shirts, tote bags, brochures and other items to the public and visitors to the county. There were four hundred participants in the triathlon held at Richard B. Russell Park. The Chamber also had a booth at the Elbert County Fair. Mrs. Brown thanked the commissioners for their help through the Hotel/Motel Tax, which helped make these events possible.

Kevin Lewis, Citizens for Public Awareness: Mr. Brown represents this group and came before the Board to express their concerns on the incinerator and the landfill that are proposed to come to Elbert County. The Citizens for Public Awareness oppose both of these projects and ask for a moratorium of at least six months before deciding or taking a final vote on one of these projects. They believe that each proposes a risk to our health, property and that the value of the surrounding property will decrease. He stated that people are either uninformed or

misinformed. The CPA recommend that we authorize an independent comprehensive feasibility study and also form an advisory panel of citizens to work on this issue along with the Board of Commissioners.

Mike Jones, Councilman from Carlton: Councilman Jones came before the Board to express his concerns on the waste to energy projects on behalf of the City Council of Carlton. He stated that Carlton and Elbert County have always been good neighbors, and that a lot of Carlton citizens come into Elberton to shop. In the event that the incinerator is built in Elbert County, they have concerns for the air and water quality and also for the increase in truck traffic coming through Carlton. He wants more information from Green First on the “truck traffic” , and what they will be responsible for. He feels this is needed before permits are given.

Jimmy White, Jim-Ree African American Museum: Mr. White is asking the County to apply for a grant through USDA for improvements to the museum building on 24th South Oliver Street, which is a County owned building. This will be a Rural Business Enterprise Grant for \$99,999. Ms. Margaret Duck with the USDA has a package compiled on this grant for the County to review. This money will be used for heat and air, new plumbing, new electrical wiring and possibly new paint for the outside. Commissioner Hewell made a motion to move forward in applying for this grant. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Verdale Thompson, U.S. Census Representative: Ms. Thompson called before the meeting to let us know she could not be here tonite.

Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with City of Bowman: This will be for animal control in the City of Boman. They do not have an animal control office and are asking that we provide assistance to them. The City of Bowman approved the Memorandum of Understanding at their council meeting in December. They agree to capture the animals and bring them to us for \$20 each (cat or dog). Commissioner Hubbard made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Bowman. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Review and discuss changes to Chapter 54 of the E.C. Ordinances by the Planning Commission: This was for a “First Reading” only. County Attorney Bill Daughtry explained the changes in the ordinance will be in the language, outdated provisions. We also now have five districts.

Approval of a Resolution Renewal for Emergency 911 Fees: This is something we do annually to re-establish the fees. Commissioner Albertson made a motion to approve this resolution. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Approval of a Resolution Renewal for a 911 “Emergency Telephone Fund” Surcharge: This resolution is also done annually. Commissioner Hewell made a motion to approve this resolution. Commissioner Harper seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Approval to amend the budget: The amendment will be to the Board of Commissioners’ budget for a \$5,000 donation made by the Coggins Foundation. Commissioner Harper made a motion to amend the budget. Commissioner Eaves seconded the motion. Upon voting the motion carried 5-0.

Finance Report: County Administrator Bob Thomas informed the Board that overall the budget is under seven per cent. There are two departments that are a little over, and he plans to meet with them this week. The Rec Department did have to buy more supplies because of more registrations than expected. Also, we have to be aware of the gas prices spiking again.

Public Comments: Twelve members from the audience came before the Board to speak on the proposed waste to energy projects. Eleven are against both projects. Audrey Hardin was the only citizen to have positive things to say. She firmly believes that the Commissioners will get all the answers before they make a decision for Elbert County. Chip Rousey wants this put on a referendum on the November election to allow the people to vote on one of these waste facilities coming to Elbert County. They are concerned with the air quality and the smell, toxic gases, heavy metals, effect on wildlife, water quality and property values. They seem to think we should continue to transfer our garbage out of the county as we are doing now. Wayne Childs stated that our tax revenues will go down, which will cause the millage rates to go up. Most of those that spoke did ask that the Board not make a hasty decision. They ask that they study and research the

incinerator fully before deciding. Chairman Lyon assured those in attendance that they will consider everything involved with this project, and that they should watch the local paper for updates.

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