

MINUTES

Troup County Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting

January 7, 2014

Troup County Government Center

Troup County Board of Commissioners Chairman Richard Wolfe called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Board Members Present:

Richard Wolfe, Chairman
Richard English, Vice-Chairman
Buck Davis, Commissioner
Claude F. Foster III, Commissioner
Morris Jones, Commissioner

News Media Present:

Wayne Clark, West Point News
Tommy Murphy, Troup County News
Matt Strother, LaGrange Daily News

Staff Present:

Tod Tentler, County Manager
Jerry Willis, County Attorney
James Emery, County Engineer
Cheryl May, Accounting/ Deputy Clerk
Scott Turk, Finance Officer/ County Clerk
Andy Harper, GIS Technician
Jay Anderson, Senior Building Official
Nancy Seegar, County Planner
Dexter Wells, Divisions Manager
Jon Whitney, Chief Deputy
Don Howell, Parks & Recreation Director
Diana Evans, Purchasing Director
Suzy Noles, E-911 Director
Charles Koone, Shop Manager

OPENING:

Chairman Richard Wolfe welcomed all in attendance.

Invocation - Father Patrick Scully of St. Peter's Catholic Church:

Father Patrick Scully of St. Peter's Catholic Church was recognized by Chairman Wolfe and asked to pronounce the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Commissioner Buck Davis led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA / MINUTES:

Approval of Agenda:

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the final agenda.

Commissioner Davis seconded. Unanimous.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2013 work session and the December 17, 2013 regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner English seconded. Unanimous.

PEOPLE TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:

- None.

SPECIAL BUSINESS:

Resolution for Annexation of Ethel Kight School: (2014-15)

County Engineer James Emery presented a resolution for annexation of Ethel Kight School. This resolution was needed because a portion of this property on the opposite side of Gordon Road was not included in the annexation request. When there is a unique situation like this, a vote on a resolution is required. The recommendation is to approve the resolution which is an acknowledgement that there is a portion of property that remains unincorporated. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Jones seconded. Unanimous.

Consideration of Airport Authority Legislation: (2014-16)

County Manager Tod Tentler presented a resolution to abolish the Airport Authority. Since 2001 the airport has been funded by Troup County. The item was fully discussed at the January 3, 2014 worksession. The City of LaGrange voted unanimously and passed to move the Airport back to Troup County. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the Airport Authority resolution. Commissioner Davis seconded. Unanimous.

Consideration of Purchases:

County Manager Tod Tentler presented a list of purchases requiring board approval under State contract. There is one piece of equipment, a tractor to be purchased for the Correctional Department for keeping right-of-way maintained. The cost of the tractor is \$24,275.58. The total request is for \$257,750.98 that will be purchased under State contract. Commissioner English made a motion to approve the State contract purchases. Commissioner Foster seconded. Unanimous.

State Court DUI/ Drug Court Supplementary Grant Award/ FY 14 Budget Amendment and Felony Drug Court Sub Award: (2014-17)

Finance Officer Scott Turk presented a resolution that combines the grant acceptance and budget amendments for State Court DUI/Drug Court Supplementary Grant Award and Felony Drug Court Supplementary Grant Award to cover two grants: One for \$7,000 and the other is for \$6,242 for a total of \$13,242. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Foster seconded. Unanimous.

911 Hiring Request:

E-911 Director Suzy Noles requested unfreezing a full-time position because a full time employee transferred to a vacant part-time position leaving a full-time position vacant. This is a budgeted position. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the request for a full time position to be unfrozen. Commissioner Foster seconded. Unanimous.

County Shop Hiring Request:

County Manager Tod Tentler announced a foreman at the shop was retiring at the end of January and Shop Manager Mr. Charles Koone is requesting the shop foreman be downgraded to a mechanic position to allow better efficiency within his department. This is a budgeted position. Commissioner Foster questioned the pay grade difference and Mr. Tentler responded a mechanic's pay would be a savings for the shop. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the mechanic position. Commissioner English seconded. Unanimous.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Commissioner Jones made a motion to go into public hearing. Commissioner Foster seconded. Unanimous.

Other:

(Vote Required)

Consideration of Ordinance- County Administration:

County Attorney Jerry Willis announced this is the seconded hearing on the County Administration Ordinance. Attorney Jerry Willis read the ordinance relating to County Manager administration which hasn't been updated since 1974. The amendment to the ordinance is actually part of local legislation under 'Home Rule' that will then be sent to the Secretary of State following the Commissioners approval. This ordinance

outlines that the Chairman will conduct a performance evaluation of the County Manager which will report to the board. This ordinance also states unless otherwise determined by the board, the chairman may make adjustments to the manager's compensation. Commissioner Foster felt the ordinance would take away the commissioners' review power on some items. Attorney Willis commented the manager is in charge of day to day operations but is approved by the commissioners and is replaceable by the commissioners. Commissioner Foster also was concerned about changes to the County manager's spending limits. The County Manager has a 25k cap but the ordinance clarifies that the cap does not apply to the employment contracts. Mr. Willis explained that the nature of employment contracts would exceed the \$25,000 cap over the several years of employment.

LaGrange residents, Mr. Tommy Callaway and Ms. Ellen Gilmore expressed concerns and felt the old ordinance and the new ordinance should have been posted as a 'side-by-side' comparison so the residents could compare the changes. Mr. Callaway commented the new ordinance process took away the power from the commissioners. Commissioner English and Commissioner Jones defended the ordinance that the County Manager is continuously evaluated for his work and regularly evaluated by the full board for his work and further that evaluations are generally held every six months on average. West Point resident, Mr. Ron McClellan commented the new ordinance would give the Chairman power over the board in the county manager's pay. County Attorney Mr. Willis responded explaining the board's authority is intact. Mr. McClellan then asked why this ordinance was brought up in the first place. Mr. Willis stated that it was initiated from the county attorney's office. Commissioner Foster then made a motion to continue the amendment for further review. The motion died for lack of a second. Commissioner Davis made a motion to adopt the ordinance, Commissioner Jones seconded. The motion carried 3-1 with Commissioners Jones, Davis and English in favor, Commissioner Foster opposed.

Subdivisions:

- None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- None.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Jones made a motion to go motion to go out of Public Hearing into Regular Session, and into Executive Session to discuss Board Appointments and Government Center Security Update. Commissioner Davis seconded. Unanimous.

Government Center Security:

No decision was made on the Government Center Security update.

Board Appointments:

Executive Assistant Valerie West read the slate of appointments to various boards.

Animal Control Board for Dangerous or Potentially Dangerous Dog Control:

Dr. William C. Whitlow, III and Dr. Amanda Greathouse would be reappointed to three-year terms expiring 12/31/2016. Ms. Melinda Bailey (as the Health Department representative) would be appointed to a three-year term expiring 12/31/2016.

Appeals Board/ Subdivisions & Road Specifications:

Mr. Tommy Baker would be appointed to fill unexpired two-year term expiring 12/31/2014. Mr. Charles Knight would be reappointed to a two-year term expiring 12/31/2015.

Building Board of Adjustments & Appeals:

Mr. Rick Torrance, Mr. Ashley Maddox and Mr. Wayne Bartley would be reappointed to two-year terms expiring 12/31/2015.

Community Action for Improvement:

Ms. Katie Cashen Harris would be appointed to fill a five-year term expiring 12/31/2017.

Three Rivers Regional Commission:

Mr. Bobby Frazier would be appointed to fill a one-year term expiring 12/31/2014.

Troup County Board of Zoning Appeals & Planning Commission:

Mr. Marion Carson, Mr. DeForest (Sandy) Winslow and Ms. Kristi Hacker would be reappointed to four-year terms expiring 12/31/2017.

Troup County Development Authority:

Mr. Charles Smith would be reappointed to five-year term expiring 12/31/2019.

Troup County Emergency Communication Advisory Board:

Mr. James Woodruff is appointed to fill the Sheriff's vacancy.

Troup County Library Board:

Ms. Carolyn Burke would be reappointed to three-year term expiring 12/31/2016.

Troup County Parks & Recreation Commission:

Mr. Michael Stogner would be reappointed to a two-year term expiring 12/31/2015.

Troup County Transportation Committee:

Mr. Ricky Wolfe would be reappointed to a two-year term expiring 12/31/2015. Mr. Kevin Henderson would be appointed to a two-year term expiring 12/31/2015.

Troup County Water Review Board:

Mr. Ellis Cadenhead, Ms. Nancy Green and Mr. Richard Woods would be reappointed to two-year terms expiring 12/31/2015.

Commissioner English made a motion to approve the slate of appointments. Commissioner Davis seconded. Unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Jones made motion to adjourn. Commissioner English seconded. Unanimous.

Richard Wolfe, Chairman

Attest: _____
G. S. Turk, County Clerk