

**MINUTES**

**Troup County Board of Commissioners**

**Regular Meeting**

**February 18, 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  
Scott Turk, Finance Officer/ County Clerk  
James Emery, County Engineer  
Valerie West, Executive Assistant  
Cheryl May, Accounting/ Deputy Clerk  
Andy Harper, GIS Technician  
Jay Anderson, Senior Building Official  
Nancy Seegar, County Planner  
James Woodruff, Sheriff  
Valerie Heard, Human Resources Director  
Dexter Wells, Divisions Director  
Michelle Bowman, Juvenile Court  
Nicole Kostial, Chief Probation Officer  
Don Howell, Parks & Recreation Director

**OPENING:**

Chairman Richard Wolfe welcomed all in attendance.

**Invocation - Reverend J.R. Ware of Welcome Baptist Church:**

Reverend J.R. Ware of Welcome Baptist 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 add Item G, consideration of hiring a GIS employee, if Item F, Filling the open Election Supervisor

position is approved, and to approve the final agenda. Commissioner Foster seconded. Unanimous.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2014 called meeting, January 21, 2014 regular meeting and the January 31, 2014 work session of the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Foster seconded. Unanimous.

**PEOPLE TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:**

- None.

**SPECIAL BUSINESS:**

**Election of Vice-Chairman:**

Chairman Wolfe announced it was time for 2014 election of new vice-chairman and asked for any nominations to support the chairman.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to elect Commissioner English.

Commissioner Jones seconded. Unanimous.

**Employee of the Month Announcement:**

Chairman Wolfe presented the Employee of the Month award to Nicole Kostial from the Juvenile Court.

**Citizens Request to Include Alcohol Referendum on Ballot:**

Mr. A.B. Patel, owner of Ribitz Bait & Tackle, requested the Board of Commissioners take necessary steps to place the Sunday sale of alcohol before the voters at the next available election. Mr. Patel stated Sunday is a busy day for recreation at West Point Lake and not having Sunday sales costs him sales. Mr. Scott Gordy, Representative from McDonald Oil Company (Summit Stores), also requested to add alcohol referendum on ballot to allow for county residents be able to vote in May. Seventeen business owners signed a letter to take action on allowing the sale of alcohol after noon on Sundays.

Commissioner English made a motion to approve alcohol referendum on ballot for May 20, 2014. Commissioner Foster seconded. Commissioners Jones, Foster and English voted in favor, Commissioner Davis opposed.

**Consideration of Parks & Recreation Hiring Request:**

Parks and Recreation Director Don Howell is requesting to lift hiring freeze to hire five seasonal parks maintenance workers. These are all

budgeted positions. Commissioner Jones made a motion to lift the hiring freeze for five seasonal parks maintenance workers. Commissioner Foster seconded. Unanimous.

**Consideration of 2015 Grant Application for Troup Transit: (2014-20)**

County Manager Tod Tentler presented a Troup Transit grant resolution for 2015 as discussed at the prior worksession. Commissioner English made a motion to approve the 2015 grant application for Troup Transit. Commissioner Davis seconded. Unanimous.

**Consideration of Board of Elections & Registration Requests:**

County Manager Tod Tentler discussed three items related to the Board of Elections and Registration. First was a request from Board of Elections & Registration for compensation. Mr. Tentler stated the BOER members currently can be reimbursed for any expenses for attending pre-approved training or meetings. Chairman Wolfe asked how many members the BOER had. Mr. Tentler explained that the BOER had seven members, and further that many boards around the state had five or fewer members. Mr. Wolfe questioned the other Commissioners to consider requested elimination of the local partisan appointees to drop the BOER from seven to five members and to be more consistent with other election boards in the state. Mr. Tentler commented the county will have to draft local legislation to make the change, which will have to be approved by the General Assembly. Commissioner Davis made a motion to eliminate two partisan positions from the board. Commissioner Foster responded that he felt it very important that they keep one Republican and one Democratic person on the board. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Commissioners Jones, Davis and English voted in favor. Commissioner Foster opposed the vote.

County Manager Tod Tentler announced the Board of Elections & Registration recommended to the Board of Commissioners that Andy Harper, who is an employee in the GIS department, be appointed to the Elections Supervisor position. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve Mr. Andy Harper as the new Elections Supervisor. Commissioner Foster seconded. Unanimous.

**Request to lift hiring freeze to replace employee in GIS department:**

County Manager Tod Tentler requested to lift hiring freeze hire an employee in GIS Department. Commissioner Foster made a motion to approve lifting hiring freeze. Commissioner Jones seconded. Unanimous.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

**Consideration of Zoning Text Amendments Relating to Article IV Section 4.5-Principal Building and Use Per Lot:**

Senior Building Official Jay Anderson requested a text amendment relating to *Article IV Section 4.5-Principal Building and Use Per Lot*.

The language will change to: "Unless provided for elsewhere in this ordinance, there shall be no more than one principal building, structure or use upon any lot in any residential zoning district."

Chairman Wolfe asked if there was anyone who would like to speak in favor of or in opposition to this change. No one responded.

Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the text amendment.

Commissioner Jones seconded. Unanimous.

**Other:**

**Subdivisions:**

- None.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- None.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:**

- None.

**Executive Session To Discuss Board Appointment and Security Audit:**

Commissioner Jones made a motion to go out of Public Hearing into regular meeting and into executive session to discuss a Board Appointment and the Government Center Security Audit. Commissioner Foster seconded. Unanimous.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Commissioner English seconded. Unanimous.

Chairman Wolfe announced during Executive Session, a Security Audit was discussed by the Sheriff's Department and no action was taken at this time. A recommendation was received from the City of West Point concerning an appointment to Elections and Registration Board. County

Manager Tod Tentler announced that the City of West Point did not re-appoint within the 90 days of the term. A letter was received from West Point to recommend Ms. Gloria Watson continue her service. Commissioner English made a motion to appoint Ms. Gloria Watson to the Elections & Registration Board. Commissioner Davis seconded. Unanimous.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

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Richard Wolfe, Chairman

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
G. S. Turk, County Clerk

Clerk's Note:

Matthew Strother was not in attendance at this meeting for LaGrange Daily News. Asia Ashley was in attendance instead.

Tommy Murphy should be listed as Tommy Camp, Troup County News