

MINUTES

Troup County Board of Commissioners

August 16, 2011

Troup County Government Center Building

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

Board Members Present:

Richard Wolfe, Chairman
Morris Jones, Vice-Chairman
Richard English, Commissioner
Ken Smith, Commissioner
Buck Davis, Commissioner

News Media Present:

Matthew Strother, Valley News
Matt Chambers, LaGrange Daily News
Tommy Camp, Troup County News

Staff Present:

Mike Dobbs, County Manager
Stewart Mills, Finance Officer / County Clerk
Mark DeGennaro, County Attorney
Cheryl May, Accounting Clerk
Harold Edmondson, Senior Deputy Bldg Official
Valerie West, Executive Assistant
Nancy Seegar, County Planner
Shane Frailey, Captain, Sheriff's Office
Markette Baker, Solicitor
Dennis Knight, EMA Director
James Emery, County Engineer
Chad Mann, Sergeant, Sheriff's Office
Donny Turner, Sheriff
Jerry Heard, Fire Chief
Gail Foster, Admin Asst/Payroll, Sheriff's Office
Shane Morris, Deputy Warden, Correctional Institute
Suzy Noles, E-911 Director

Others Present:

Ellen Gilmore, Concerned Citizen
Jane McCoy, Concerned Citizen
Nancy Green, Concerned Citizen
Mike & Glenda Waller, Concerned Citizens
Tommy Callaway, Concerned Citizen
Lewis Davis, Concerned Citizen

OPENING:

Chairman Richard Wolfe welcomed all in attendance.

Invocation - Commissioner Buck Davis

Commissioner Buck Davis 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 revised agenda which would postpone discussion of the Data Exchange and Integration Proposal. Commissioner English seconded. Unanimous.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2011 "called" meeting of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Davis seconded. Unanimous.

PEOPLE TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:

- None.

SPECIAL BUSINESS:

Employee Recognition:

Deputy Chad Mann of the Sheriff's Office read the citations recognizing three individuals who rendered service above the ordinary call of duty to save the lives of two citizens. On June 29th, Deputy David Pasley responded to a suicide threat. Upon arrival Mr. Pasley found the citizen on a boat dock. She jumped into the lake and immediately showed signs of distress as if she was drowning. Mr. Pasley jumped in and saved the citizen.

On July 29th, Fire Engine 21 responded to a call at McGhee Bridge Access on West Point Lake. An elderly male was clinging to the door of his submerged pick-up truck for nearly hour and a half. The citizen's boat and vehicle plunged into the water when the engine shut off. The citizen was in great distress because he could not swim. Upon arrival and without hesitation, Firefighter/ EMT Kevin Hendrix and Firefighter Rick Smith swam out to the citizen. One assisted the citizen while the other retrieved a life jacket to aid in swimming 30 feet back to the ramp. The deputy and two firefighters each received an honor award and a medal of valor.

Employee Service Awards:

Chairman Wolfe recognized the following individuals during the employee service award ceremony:

- Thirty Years of Service

Administrative Assistant Wanda Cotton, Court Services

- Twenty-Five Years of Service

Administrative Secretary Charlotte Bohannon, Jail
Appraisal I Samuel Cotton, Property Appraisal

- Fifteen Years of Service

**Administrative Clerk Elaine Hiatt, Parks & Recreation

- Ten Years of Service

*Tag & Tax Agent Kathy Baker, Tax Commissioner
Deputy Sheriff Roland Daniel, Sheriff's Office
Correctional Captain George Shepherd, Correctional Institute
Deputy Marshal Curt Nation, Marshal's Office
*Firefighter/ Paramedic Joel Richardson, Fire Department

- Five Years of Service

Assistant Public Defender III Marc Acree, Court Services
Deputy Clerk Jennie Harris, Clerk of Court
*Correctional Program Counselor Richard Henry, Correctional Institute
*Chief Deputy Tax Commissioner Renee Hinkle, Tax Commissioner
Deputy Clerk Debra Morgan, Clerk of Court
Communications Officer Sherri Shepherd, E-911
Secretary Cassandra Huzzie-Snelling, Marshal's Office

Chairman Wolfe thanked the honorees for their years of dedicated service to Troup County.

* Indicates employees unable to attend the service awards ceremony.

** Attended the ceremony but was not recognized.

Consideration of Amendment to Intergovernmental Agreement Regarding 800MHZ:

EMA Director, Dennis Knight presented an amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement regarding 800MHZ. The amendment will permit other users (i.e., Army Corps of Engineers) to access the 800MHZ system. Commissioner Davis made a motion to approve the amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement regarding 800MHZ. Commissioner Jones seconded. Unanimous.

Consideration of Data Exchange and Integration Proposal:

Discussion of this agenda item was postponed pending further review by commissioners and staff.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Commissioner English made a motion to go into public hearings.

Commissioner Smith seconded. Unanimous.

Rezoning:

- None.

Other:

1st Reading - Board of Commissioners Vote Necessary

Consideration of Agritourism Ordinance Adoption: (Ordinance # 2012-02)

County Planner Nancy Seegar presented adoption of the Agritourism Ordinance. Ms. Seegar stated there were two public hearings previously held on the ordinance. This ordinance will allow farmers to operate a business without having to rezone their property. Chairman Wolfe asked if there was anyone who would like to speak in favor of or against the adoption of Agritourism Ordinance. Member of the Ordinance Committee, Ms. Barbara Short spoke in favor of the ordinance and commented that a lot of thought and care went into this ordinance. Ms. Short also commented this ordinance will allow local citizens to purchase local produce and helps farmers without their sacrificing individual property rights. Another Ordinance Committee Member, Mr. Rob Petry, of Liberty Hill Community, also spoke in favor of the ordinance and recommended approval. No one spoke against the ordinance. Commissioner Smith made a motion to adopt the Agritourism Ordinance. Commissioner Jones seconded. Unanimous.

Subdivisions:

- None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- None.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

- None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION, PROPERTY ACQUISITION AND PERSONNEL MATTER- BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

Commissioner Davis made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation, property acquisition and personnel matter. Commissioner Jones seconded. Unanimous.

MEETING REOPENED:

Following the Executive Session, Commissioner English made a motion to go back into public meeting. Commissioner Jones seconded. Unanimous. Chairman Wolfe announced that during Executive Session, the commissioners discussed pending litigation and property acquisition and no action was required at that time. Also, Chairman Wolfe commented that a personnel matter (board appointments) was discussed; the commissioners had thoroughly reviewed the candidates for appointment/reappointment and were prepared to take action. He recognized Executive Assistant Valerie West of the Board of Commissioners Office, who read the slate of proposed candidates for appointment/reappointment to the following boards, committees, and authorities:

Family & Children Services Board of Directors:

Incumbent Ms. Elaine Carr's five-year term expired 6/30/2011 and wishes to be re-appointed. The consensus of the commissioners was to re-appoint Ms. Elaine Carr to a five-year term expiring 6/30/2016.

Region 4 EMS Council:

This board has three incumbents, Mr. Chris Smith, Mr. Jerry Heard and Mr. Dennis Knight (Alternate) whose two-year terms expired 6/30/2011. The consensus of the commissioners was to re-appoint Mr. Chris Smith, Mr. Jerry Heard and Mr. Dennis Knight to two-year terms expiring 6/30/2013.

Region 6 Mental Health, Mental Retardation, & Substance Abuse Board:

Incumbent Ms. Bettye Patterson's three-year term expired 6/30/2011. The consensus of the commissioners was to reappoint Ms. Bettye Patterson to a three-year term expiring 6/30/2014.

Keep Troup Beautiful:

The consensus of the commissioners was to appoint Ms. Catissa Head to fill the unexpired term of Ms. Yvonne White ending 6/30/2013. Ms. Yvonne White had resigned. Incumbent Mr. Howard Mingo's three-year term expired 6/30/2011 and wishes to be re-appointed. The consensus of the commissioners was to re-appoint Mr. Howard Mingo to a three-year term expiring 6/30/2014. Incumbent Ms. Cheris English's three-year term expired 6/30/2011. The consensus of the commissioners was to re-appoint Ms. Cheris English to a three-year term expiring 6/30/2014.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the appointment/reappointment of the entire slate of candidates listed above. Commissioner English seconded. Unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT :

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

Richard Wolfe, Chairman

Attest: _____
Stewart P. Mills, Clerk