

**THE EFFINGHAM COUNTY**  
**COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**

The Board of Commissioners of Effingham County, Georgia, Mr. C. D. Zeigler, Chairman, Mr. Reginald S. Loper, Sr., Vice-Chairman, Mr. Robert Brantley, Mrs. Vera Jones, and Mr. Steve Mason met in regular session at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 21, 2011 in the Commissioners' Meeting Room at the Effingham County Administrative Complex. Commissioner Phil Kieffer was not present.

**PERSONS ATTENDING THE MEETING**

Mr. Eric Gotwalt, County Attorney, Mr. David Crawley, County Administrator, Mr. Adam Kobek, Project Manager, Mr. George Shaw, Zoning Administrator, Mrs. Patrice R. Crawley, County Clerk, Mrs. Joanna Wright, Finance Director, Ms. Rushe Hudzinski-Sero, Human Resources Director, Mrs. Ruth Lee, Mr. David Grandgeorge, Mr. Jack Garvin, Mr. Homer Wallace, Mrs. Brenda Lovett, Mrs. Lucille Tate, Mr. Franklin Goldwire, Mr. Levan Scott, Jr. Ms. Beverly Scott, Ms. Lucy Powell, Mrs. Norma Wallace, Mr. Holmes Bell, Mrs. Clara Barnes, and Mr. Darrell Morgan.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Zeigler called the meeting to order.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG**

Chairman Zeigler gave the invocation and led the Pledge to the American Flag.

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

County Administrator Crawley requested to have item number New Business Number 3 removed from the Agenda.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the agenda with the removal of New Business Number 3 (see minute book page \_\_\_\_\_). Vice-Chairman Loper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Chairman Zeigler stated that all correspondence for the Board of Commissioners is kept in the County Clerk's office. Anyone who is interested in viewing these may do so in the County Clerk's office.

MINUTES

Commissioner Mason made a motion to approve the minutes for the June 07, 2011 Board of Commissioners Meeting. Commissioner Brantley seconded the motion. Chairman Zeigler abstained. The motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Zeigler stated that if anyone would like to discuss an Agenda Item, they may do so when that item is presented.

OLD BUSINESS

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE SOFTWARE FOR LIDAR EDITING SOFTWARE (01):**

GIS Project Coordinator Aycock explained that the software for the LiDAR editing was tabled at the June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. As a joint venture with other counties, Effingham County contracted with the Coastal Regional Commission in 2009 to acquire light detection and ranging (LiDAR) data at a cost to the county of \$200,000. Flights occurred in 2010 and the elevation data arrived in 2011. Software is needed to manipulate this data into a useful format. LiDAR can be used in many ways to benefit the citizens of Effingham County by determining the flow of water on property and distributing elevation information.

Vice-Chairman Loper made a motion to approve the purchase of LP360 software from QCoherent Software, LLC for LiDAR editing software (see minute book page \_\_\_\_\_). Commissioner Brantley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION TO COMMEND THE EFFORTS OF THE EFFINGHAM COUNTY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU AND THE SEVERAL ORGANIZATION PARTNERS THEY HAVE IN PREPARING FOR THE COMMEMORATION AND PLEDGE CONTINUING SUPPORT, AS MAY BE AVAILABLE, TO THE WORK BEING DONE TO PREPARE THE EFFORT TO INAUGURATE THE COMMEMORATION IN EFFINGHAM COUNTY (01):** Mrs. Ruth Lee read the resolution.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the Resolution. Vice-Chairman Loper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A CONTRACT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES FOR FAMILY CONNECTION (02):** Family Connection Chairman David Grandgeorge explained that the Board of Commissioners serves as the fiscal agent for Effingham Family Connection/Communities in Schools. The goal of Family Connection/Communities in Schools is all youth in Effingham County to grow up in strong and healthy families.

Vice-Chairman Loper made a motion to approve a contract with the Department of Human Services for Family Connection (see minute book page \_\_\_\_). Commissioner Brantley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING/AGREEMENT WITH GEORGIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (GEMA) REGARDING STATE USE OF HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT FUNDING ON BEHALF OF EFFINGHAM COUNTY FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT (03):** This item was removed during the Agenda Approval.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT TO ASSOCIATION COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GEORGIA DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN FOR EFFINGHAM COUNTY EMPLOYEES (04):** Human Resources Director Hudzinski-Sero explained that the Board of Commissioners requested to review and analyze the cost of offering an Early Retirement Incentive (ERI) per the approved cash out option to those who meet eligibility within the Defined Benefit Plan (DB) as of July 1, 2011. Effective May 1, 2011 the DB plan will be amended by the addition of a new Section 5.04 to read 2011 Window Benefit – In the case of a Participant, who has attained the age of 60 on or before January 1, 2011 and is otherwise eligible to retire, if such Participant elects to retire during the period May 5, 2011 and June 1, 2011, their retirement benefit will be computed by increasing his attained age to age 65 for purposes of determining eligibility for a Normal Retirement Pension and the addition Section 10.02 Other – 2011 Window Benefit – in case of a Participant, who has attained the age of 65 on or before January 1, 2011 and is otherwise eligible to retire, if such Participant elects to retire from current employee during the period May 5, 2011 and June 1, 2011, the Participant may select a Lump Sum

Distribution, which shall be actuarially adjusted from the Normal Form of Distribution.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the amendment to Association of County Commissioners of Georgia Defined Benefit Plan for Effingham County employees (see minute book page \_\_\_\_\_). Commissioner Brantley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE RANKING OF THE UNCONSTRAINED LIST OF ROAD PROJECTS FOR THE TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT ACT OF 2010 (05):** Civil Engineer Allen explained that the director of Planning for the Department of Transportation has issued the Unconstrained Investment List for the Transportation Investment Act of 2010. The Executive Committee of the Regional Roundtable must create a constrained investment list which matches the anticipated funding by removing projects from the unconstrained investment list. In order to facilitate this process, the Coastal Regional Commission has asked each county and municipality to rank their projects in order of priority to them. Staff, in conjunction with the Transportation Advisory Board, has prepared a proposed ranking of the projects that are included on the Unconstrained Investment List. The proposed ranking is as follows: Effingham Parkway Phase 1, Effingham Parkway Phase 2, I-16/Old River Road overpass, Effingham Parkway Phase 3, Effingham Parkway Phase 4 and the Springfield Truck Bypass.

Commissioner Mason made a motion to approve the ranking of the unconstrained list of projects for the Transportation Investment Act of 2010 with the ranking and list provided by staff. Vice-Chairman Loper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE AND ENTER INTO CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE DESIGN BUILD TEAM FOR THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND JAIL (06):** Project Manager Kobek explained that in November 2010, the voters of Effingham County approved a SPLOST referendum including funding the construction of a new Sheriff's Office and Jail as a tier one project. Tier one status, means that funds will come directly off the top of the SPLOST collection,

before SPLOST distribution with the County and municipalities. In March a request for qualifications was publically advertised, and 14 Design Build Teams responded. The Infrastructure Committee, along with the County Administrator and Sheriff, qualified four teams and interviewed the finalist on May 31<sup>st</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup>. Staff recommends the design build team of R. J. Griffin, Rives Worrell Construction, Hussey, Gay, Bell & DeYoung and Rosser International. The recommended team has a strong local presence, proven work history in the County and a strong track record in detention facilities. In accordance with the RFP, schedule and procedures, once the Board accepts a team, County staff and infrastructure committee will begin negotiating a contract to come back before the Board.

Vice-Chairman Loper made a motion to approve the design build team of R. J. Griffin, Rives Worrell Construction, Hussey, Gay, Bell & DeYoung and Rosser International for the design and construction of a new Sheriff's Office and Jail. Commissioner Brantley seconded the motion. Chairman Zeigler opposed the motion. Vice-Chairman Loper, Commissioner Brantley, Commissioner Jones and Commissioner Mason voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION CONTINUING THE OPERATING BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010-2011 (07):** Finance Director Wright explained that in June 2010, the Board adopted the current budget for fiscal year July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011. The Board has not adopted a budget for the fiscal year due to the Service Delivery Agreement and the early retirement incentive offer. The budget is anticipated to be adopted within the next 30 days. In that a budget has not been adopted, a continuing resolution is necessary to maintain consistent operations within the County.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve a Resolution to continue the operating budget for fiscal year 2010-2011 until such a time as the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 operating budget has been adopted (see minute book page \_\_\_\_\_). Commissioner Brantley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE FUND BALANCE POLICY NUMBER 11-32 (08):** Finance Director Wright explained that in February 2009, the Government Accounting Standards Based (GASB) issued Statement 54, Fund Balance

Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions, which is required to be implemented for fiscal year ending June 30, 2011. Under the requirements of GASB 54, the stabilization fund (rainy day) no longer meets the accounting conditions specified in GASB 54. The Board needs to adopt a Fund Balance Policy. This policy is a key element of the financial stability and sustainability of the County by ensuring adequate levels of unrestricted fund balance are maintained in the General Fund. The Policy specifies the composition of the County's financial reserves that are based on the historical cash flow needs and current commitments of the County. The policy updates and addresses requirements for GASB54 and continuation of County's stabilization fund.

Vice-Chairman Loper made a motion to approve the Fund Balance Policy Number 11-32 (see minute book page \_\_\_\_\_). Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE REAPPOINTING LUCY POWELL TO THE SOUTHEAST COASTAL REGIONAL MGRSA BOARD (09):** County Clerk Crawley explained that the Southeast Coastal Regional MGRSA Board establishes policy and direction for the planning, delivery, and evaluation of services to the disabled. Ms. Lucy Powell has represented Effingham County on this Board for the past several years. Ms. Powell is a retired employee of Gateway Behavior Development.

Ms. Lucy Powell spoke on the tasks the Southeast Coastal Regional MGRSA Board handles.

Commissioner Mason made a motion to approve reappointing Lucy Powell to the Southeast Coastal Regional MGRSA Board. Commissioner Brantley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE REAPPOINTING PHILLIP KING TO THE GATEWAY COMMUNITY SERVICE BOARD (10):** County Clerk Crawley explained that the Gateway Community Service Board operates community mental health centers for treatment and rehabilitation of individuals who are mentally ill, suffering from mentally substance abuser. Mr. Phillip King has represented Effingham County on the Community Service Board for the past several years.

Commissioner Brantley made a motion to approve reappointing Phillip King to the Gateway Community Service Board. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE REAPPOINTING REV. LLOYD DEES AND LINDA MERCER TO THE AGING SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL (11):** County Clerk Crawley explained that the Aging Services Advisory Council is comprised of volunteers representing seniors, persons with disabilities and care givers residing in the Coastal Georgia Region. Rev. Lloyd Dees and Linda Mercer have represented Effingham County on the Aging Services Advisory Council for several years.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve reappointing Rev. Lloyd Dees and Linda Mercer to the Aging Services Advisory Council. Commissioner Brantley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE REAPPOINTING MARGIE SULLIVAN TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY CHILDREN SERVICES BOARD TO REPRESENT THE FOURTH DISTRICT (12):** County Clerk Crawley explained that the mission of the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) is to enable families and individuals to provided the care, protection and experiences essential to their well-being. The role of a board member is to be a link between DFCS and the local community. Margie Sullivan has represented District Four for the past several years.

Vice-Chairman Loper made a motion to approve reappointing Margie Sullivan to the Department of Family Children Services Board to represent the Fourth District. Commissioner Mason seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE REAPPOINTING HERB JONES TO THE COASTAL REGIONAL COUNCIL (13):** County Clerk Crawley explained that Herb Jones currently represents Effingham County as the non-public representative of Effingham County. The City of Guyton, City of Rincon, and the City of Springfield have sent an email confirming that they are okay with the appointment of Mr. Jones to this board.

Vice-Chairman Loper made a motion to approve reappointing Herb Jones to the Coastal Regional Council. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE AMENDING THE PREVIOUS DONATION OF FUNDS FOR THE INDEPENDENCE DAY FIREWORKS DISPLAY AT EFFINGHAM COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL, TO SPLIT THE COST INCURRED BY THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD AND NOT TO EXCEED \$4,000 (14):** County Administrator Crawley explained that the Board had previously approved the donation of \$4,000 to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks at Effingham County High School. Subsequent discussion has led to reconsider this approval to match funds contributed by the City of Springfield not to exceed \$4,000. The event is held at the Effingham County High School free of charge.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to amend the previous donation of funds for the Independence Day fireworks display at Effingham County High School to split the cost incurred by the City of Springfield not to exceed \$4,000. Vice-Chairman Loper seconded the motion. Chairman Zeigler opposed the motion. Vice-Chairman Loper, Commissioner Brantley, Commissioner Jones and Commissioner Mason voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

**CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE ESTABLISHING AN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) COMMITTEE (15):** County Administrator Crawley explained that the Board has established multiple committees to provide input and direction as staff moves forward with planning activities. Information Technology (IT) has been overlooked in the process, yet has a significant bearing on the future direction of County Government. The establishment of an IT Committee will help provide valuable input for future planning. Staff request that an IT Committee be created and to assign two members to it.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve establishing an information technology (IT) committee with Commissioner Mason to serve on the committee. Chairman Zeigler seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

- Commissioner Brantley discussed the following:
- ◆ Shellie Helmey Road



Chairman Zeigler discussed the following:

- ◆ Recycling pilot program on the website. Sanitation Director to be handle

Vice-Chairman Loper discussed the following:

- ◆ Shadow Brook Subdivision roads

Commissioner Mason discussed the following:

- ◆ Marker at Tuckasee King landing
- ◆ Speed limits on Blue Jay Road

County Administrator Crawley discussed the following:

- ◆ Resurfacing of the roads
- ◆ Forest Haven road work has began
- ◆ ACCG Regional Meeting reminder of June 27<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Fire Audit will be completed by the end of this week
- ◆ Budget to be completed June 30<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Hospital Budget needs to be discussed
- ◆ Shellie Helmey Road
- ◆ Woodmen of the World
- ◆ Retirement reception June 28<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Redistricting to begin
- ◆ Goshen Road Public Safety Building almost complete
- ◆ Infrastructure Committee needs to meet

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 6:40 p.m., Chairman Zeigler made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel, property, and pending litigation. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

At 7:06 p.m., Chairman Zeigler called the meeting back to order.

**PLANNING BOARD PRESENTMENTS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**DARRELL MORGAN – PUBLIC HEARING (01):** A Public Hearing was held on the application by Darrell Morgan to rezone 5 acres located at 1042 Sandhill Road from AR-1 to I-1 Map 275 Parcel 1 in the Second District.

Zoning Administrator Shaw presented the request.

There were no objectors present.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the First Reading to rezone 5 acres Map 275 Parcel 1 located at 1042 Sandhill Road from AR-1 to I-1 with the following stipulations:

1. Each lot shall meet the requirements of the I-1 Zoning District.
2. Site development plans shall comply with the Effingham County Water Resources Protection Ordinance and the Storm Water Management Local Design Manual.
3. All wetland impacts shall be permitted by the USACE.
4. A subdivision plat shall be approved by the Health Department and the Zoning Office.
5. Hours of operation shall be limited to Monday through Friday and Saturday 8:00 a.m. to noon.

Commissioner Brantley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**CLARA B. BARNES – PUBLIC HEARING (02):** A Public Hearing was held on the application by Clara B. Barnes for a conditional use to operate a horse stable facility located at 1150 Hwy 17 North Map 293 Parcel 10 in the Third District.

Zoning Administrator Shaw presented the request.

There were no objectors present.

Commissioner Mason made a motion to approve the First Reading for a conditional use to operate a horse stable facility located at 1150 Hwy 17 North. Commissioner Brantley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 7:15 p.m., Chairman Zeigler made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel, property, and pending litigation. Commissioner Brantley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

At 7:47 p.m. Chairman Zeigler reconvened regular session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:47 p.m., Chairman Zeigler made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Brantley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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C. D. Zeigler, Chairman

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Patrice R. Crawley, County Clerk