

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, Mr. Steve Mason, and Mr. Phil Kieffer met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 03, 2012 in the Commissioners' Meeting Room at the Effingham County Administrative Complex.

PERSONS ATTENDING THE MEETING

Mrs. Elizabeth Pavlis, County Attorney, Mr. David Crawley, County Administrator, Mr. Adam Kobek, , Mr. Toss Allen Civil Engineer, Mrs. Patrice R. Crawley, County Clerk, Mrs. Joanna Wright, Finance Director, Mrs. Fay Kessler, Mrs. Kay Peacock, Mrs. Catha Kessler, Mr. Wiley Kessler, Mr. Charlie Peacock, Mr. Jack Garvin, Mrs. Ruth Lee, Mrs. Irma Davis, Mr. Wesley Joyner, and Mr. Allan Settles.

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.

ELECTION OF THE VICE CHAIRMAN

Chairman Zeigler called for the election of the Vice-Chairperson. County Clerk Crawley picked up the ballots. County Attorney Pavlis and County Clerk Crawley tallied up the votes and announced that Mr. Reginald S. Loper was elected Vice-Chairman.

Clarification was made at the January 17, 2012 Commissioners Meeting on the vote for Vice-Chairman. Commissioner Brantley, Commissioner Mason voted for Commissioner Brantley and Commissioners Loper, Kieffer, and Jones voted for Commissioner Loper.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the Agenda.(_____ _____) Commissioner Kieffer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES

Vice-Chairman Loper made a motion to approve the minutes for December 6, 2011. Commissioner Brantley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

CONSENT AGENDA

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE ERRORS AND RELEASES FOR PROPERTY TAX AS SUBMITTED BY THE TAX COMMISSIONER (01): Vice-Chairman Loper made a motion to approve errors and releases for property tax as submitted by the Tax Commissioner (see minute book page _____). Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE SECOND READING TO AMEND CHAPTER 70 OF THE CODE OF EFFINGHAM COUNTY (01): County Clerk Crawley explained that removing the fire fee will ensure that the correct fee is being collected when the resolution to set the fire fee is adopted by the Board.

Commissioner Kieffer made a motion to approve the second reading to amend Chapter 70 of the Code of Effingham County (see minute book page _____). Commissioner Brantley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2012 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET TO INCLUDE FINANCIAL POLICIES FOR ADMINISTRATION OF PURCHASES AND GRANTS AND TO RESCIND ALL CONFLICTING POLICIES (2): County Administrator Crawley explained that in order to assure proper fiscal management and compliance, staff has suggested the incorporation of financial policies for purchases and grants. Currently the County has a purchasing policy that is dated and should be amended for proper fiscal management and to assure compliance to purchasing requirements.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve a Resolution to amend the 2012 Fiscal Year to include financial policies for administration of purchases and grants and to rescind all conflicting policies (see minute book page _____).

Chairman Zeigler seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A SITE FOR SHERIFF'S OFFICE AND JAIL AND AUTHORIZE THE DESIGN TEAM TO MOVE FORWARD WITH SCHEMATIC DESIGN PHASE

(01): Community Relations Director Kobek explained that at the September 2nd Commissioners meeting the Board authorized a contract for design build services for a new Sheriff's Office and jail. The contract covered several areas of work, but requires Board authorization to begin each phase. The first authorized phase was programming. Staff and the design build team are now requesting authorization to move to schematic design and request the Board to choose a site for the new facility. Buddy Golson reviewed the team's findings and went over the programming information..

Vice-Chairman Loper made a motion to approve scheme E and to keep the jail at the current property jail site on First Street. Commissioner Mason seconded the motion. Chairman Zeigler opposed the motion. Vice-Chairman Loper, Commissioners Brantley, Jones, Kieffer, and Mason voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT TO THE SOLID WASTE REGULATORY POLICY (02):

Sanitation Director Burns explained that it is the policy of the Board to require that every residence or business in Effingham County properly dispose of their waste. The Board achieves this by a special tax assessment for sanitation services to be placed on every dwelling and applicable business tax bill in the County. The Board passed a Sanitation Release policy on July 21, 1998 that allowed for the release of sanitation fees if the property was abandoned or vacated, in deteriorating condition and not fit for habitation or not a permanent residence such as a camp or community gathering place. The current policy needed to be updated to follow state law.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the amendment to the Solid Waste Regulatory Policy (see minute book page _____). Commissioner Mason seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING AND NEW BUSINESS NUMBER 4

ABANDONMENT OF HERBERT KESSLER ROAD AND CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE HOW TO PROCEED WITH HERBERT KESSLER ROAD (04): Civil Engineer Allen explained that several residents along Herbert Kessler Road have requested that the County close a section of Herbert Kessler Road.

Mr. Wiley Kessler, Mr. Jeff Kilgore, Mr. Allen Settles, Mrs. Fay Kessler, Mrs. Mary Becton, Mr. Barry Kessler, and Mr. Troy Davis stated their thoughts on the abandonment of Herbert Kessler Road.

Chairman Zeigler made a motion to approve option one, for Herbert Kessler Road to remain open and the County to obtain right of way for maintenance of the road. Vice-Chairman Loper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN STATE OF GEORGIA, GEMA AND EFFINGHAM COUNTY REGARDING STATE USE OF HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT FUNDING ON BEHALF OF EFFINGHAM COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT (03): Fire Chief Ashcraft explained that funding in the amount \$675,000 was awarded to the State through Homeland Security. At the January 19, 2010 meeting, the board approved the concept of participating in this grant. The equipment sets up a 50 person self contained base camp with showers/toilets and air conditioned sleeping areas and will be deployed with one of the GSAR teams. There are a total of three equipment caches planned. With one in Douglas County, second in Warner Robins and the third offered to the County. The County has the option to deny a request for deployment of the equipment in the case of natural disaster or exercises, however, the equipment is required to be deployed if requested to weapons of mass destruction event but manpower is not required.

Vice-Chairman Loper made a motion to approve a memorandum of understanding between State of Georgia, GEMA and Effingham County

regarding state use of homeland security grants funding on behalf of Effingham County fire department (see minute book page _____). Commissioners Mason and Kieffer opposed the motion. Chairman Zeigler, Vice-Chairman Loper, Commissioners Brantley and Jones voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A RENTAL AGREEMENT WITH CONCERTED SERVICES INC. (05): Community Relations Director Kobek explained that Concerted Services, Inc. has been occupying the old DOT office building located at 304 Hwy 119 South in Springfield for quite some time. The office is used for emergency and energy assistances, case management services and food bank operations. Concerted Services, Inc. does not have a current lease agreement and is in need of a written lease agreement for the financial audit.

Vice-Chairman Loper made a motion to approve a rental agreement with Concerted Services, Inc. (see minute book page _____). Chairman Zeigler seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE COMMISSIONER TRAVEL (04): County Clerk Crawley explained that the ACCG Capitol Connection Conference will be held January 23rd – 24th and that Effingham Day at the Capitol will be January 29th – 31st.

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

REPORTS FROM COMMISSIONERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Commissioner Mason discussed the following:

- ◆ Log Landing turning lane – Civil Engineer Allen inspect the work

Commissioner Kieffer discussed the following:

- ◆ Update on the report from Attorney Hart – County Administrator Crawley to contact Attorney Hart for the report

County Administrator Crawley discussed the following:

- ◆ Ash Road field trial is moving forward
- ◆ Quarterly Local Elected Officials Meeting will be scheduled in February
- ◆ Resurfacing project, deceleration lane, and ash road repairs are complete
- ◆ Old Augusta Road Phase IIA and IIB – DOT contract should be before the Board at the next meeting.
- ◆ Tourism Assessment is tentatively scheduled for January 19th at 6:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room

- ◆ Gold Buyers Ordinance should be brought before the Board at the next meeting.
- ◆ Golf Cart Ordinance - County Attorney Pavlis is working on drafting the golf cart ordinance.
- ◆ Modification of the County Commissioners meeting room are in the works

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:31 p.m., Chairman Zeigler made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel, property, and pending litigation. Vice-Chairman Loper seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

County Administrator Crawley and Commissioners discussed personnel and pending litigation. (See copy of Chairperson’s affidavit on minute book page number _____).

RECONVENED

At 8:28 p.m., Chairman Zeigler made a motion to reconvene into regular session. Commissioner Kieffer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:28 p.m., Chairman Zeigler made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Brantley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Reginald Loper, Sr., Vice-Chairman

Patrice R. Crawley, County Clerk