

**HEARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
JULY 25, 2017 - 6:30 P.M.**

The Heard County Board of Commissioners held a Commissioners Meeting on July 25, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the courtroom of the Heard County Courthouse. In attendance at the meeting were Chairman Lee Boone, District 1 Commissioner Larry Hooks, District 2 Commissioner Keri Denney, District 3 Commissioner Gwen Caldwell, District 4 Commissioner Larry Hammond, District 5 Commissioner Joe Adams and County Attorney Jerry Ann Conner. Chairman Boone called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present. Mr. Randy Chesnut, Heard County resident, gave the invocation.

Agenda Item # 3 – Public Hearing – Request to Rezone – Brandy Woods, 3253 Bevis Road, Franklin, Georgia – Chairman Boone opened the public hearing. He stated that Ms. Brandy Woods is requesting to rezone 1.5 acres located at 3253 Bevis Road from residential to commercial for the purpose of opening a welding/fabrication shop. Mr. Billy Joe Beckom, a current Heard County resident, will be operating this shop. Mr. Beckom explained that this property was once used as a septic tank business. County Attorney, Jerry Ann Conner stated that the Planning Commission has made the recommendation to change the zoning classification from residential to commercial. There being no further comments or questions from the Board or the public, Chairman Boone closed the public hearing.

Agenda Item # 4 - Approval of Minutes - On motion (Hooks) and second (Adams), the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes from June 27, 2017.

Agenda Item # 5 – Amend Agenda – None.

Agenda Item # 6 – New Business – a. Decision on Request to Rezone – On motion (Adams) and second (Denney), the Board unanimously voted to approve rezoning the property at 3253 Bevis Road from residential to commercial for the purpose of opening a welding/fabrication shop.

b. Update of Heard County Administration Building – Chairman Boone gave a brief update on the construction of the new administration building. He stated that the moving date is held up due to the installation of the phone service by AT&T and the installation of the internet service by Charter. He stated the move has been pushed to mid to late August.

c. Discuss Appointment to Heard County Planning Commission – Chairman Boone stated that Mrs. Hazel Reeves term recently expired on the Heard County Planning Commission. He stated she would like to be re-appointed. On motion (Caldwell) and second (Adams), the Board unanimously approved re-appointing Mrs. Reeves to the Heard County Planning Commission.

d. Discuss Elections Superintendent Supplement – Chairman Boone explained to the Board that Probate Judge Joseph Bledsoe, who is the past elections superintendent, receives a supplement salary for conducting elections. This supplement is mandated by State Law. He explained that he recently found out that this supplement will continue to be paid to Judge Bledsoe even though he will no longer be handling the elections after the recent establishment of an elections board, who hired an elections superintendent. Chairman Boone also stated that Judge Bledsoe is responsible for issuing death and birth certificates in Heard County and he is allowed to keep that money as a salary supplement also. That is also mandated by State Law. After further discussion, Chairman Boone asked Judge Bledsoe for a breakdown for the past 4 years of all death and birth certificates issued and the amount of this salary supplement.

e. Discuss Delinquent Taxes on Roads for Countryside Estates – Commissioner Hooks – Commissioner Hooks stated that for the last 30 years, several private roads in the Corinth area of Heard County, have been impassable due to the lack of maintenance on these roads. He explained that the gentleman who originally built these roads has recently passed away and no one has been paying the County taxes on the road. These roads are now being sold for delinquent

taxes. He asked the Board to consider purchasing these roads and to begin maintaining them as County gravel roads. He stated there are nine roads that are being sold for delinquent taxes. The roads are as follows: Boogie Lane, River Court, Hammett Circle, Whitlock Drive, Judy Court, Whitlock Way, Jenny D. Lane Road, Flax Court and Flax Road. After some discussion, on motion (Hooks) and second (Denney), the Board voted 4 to 1 to purchase these roads for the delinquent taxes due and for Chairman Boone to negotiate with the Heard County Tax Commissioner regarding this purchase and for this to be paid with SPLOST funds.

Commissioner Hooks, Denney, Hammond, and Adams voted for the motion. Commissioner Caldwell voted against the motion.

Agenda Item # 7 – Old Business – None

Agenda Item # 8 - Public Comments – Darrell Garrison, 271 S. River Circle, Hogansville, GA (Heard County), asked the Board to also consider taking South River Circle in as a county gravel road. County Attorney Conner, stated she would look into who actually owns this road and report back to the Board.

Commissioner Caldwell stated that there are several private roads throughout Heard County and he would like to explore how to help them all with the private road situation. Commissioner Hooks agreed.

Agenda Item # 9 - Executive Session – None.

There being no further business, on motion (Caldwell) and second (Hammond), the board voted unanimously to adjourn. Adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

County Clerk

Chairman

Date _____