

**HEARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2012 – 6:30 P.M.**

The Heard County Board of Commissioners held a Commissioners Meeting on January 26, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in the courtroom of the Heard County Courthouse. In attendance at the meeting were Commission Chair June Jackson, District 1 Commissioner Karen Isenhower, District 2 Commissioner Jacob Cammon, District 3 Commissioner Gwen Caldwell, District 4 Commissioner Frank Crook, District 5 Commissioner Sandi Allen, and County Attorney, Jeff Todd. Commission Chair Jackson called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present. Mr. Kim Kimmel gave the invocation.

Agenda Item # 3 – Approval of Minutes - On motion (Caldwell) and second (Allen), the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes from December 29, 2011 as presented and January 12, 2012 with changes.

Agenda Item # 4 – Amend Agenda – Commissioner Isenhower made a motion to amend the agenda to add “open dialogue with the new attorney.” The motion died for a lack of a second. Commissioner Isenhower made a motion to amend the agenda to add “discuss feasibility study.” The motion died for a lack of a second.

Agenda Item # 5 – Public Comments - Commission Chair Jackson opened public comments and reviewed the public meeting rules and regulations, regarding public comments. Mr. Walter Webb, 212 Webb Road, Franklin, spoke regarding Agenda Item # 7 – New Business – f – Discuss Appointment to Heard County Water Authority Board.

Mr. Paul King, (refused to give his physical address), spoke regarding Agenda Item # 7 – New Business - i – Discuss Conducting a Full 100% Audit of the Heard County Books and Inventory of County Equipment.

Agenda Item # 6 – Old Business – None.

Agenda Item # 7 – New Business – a. Discuss Request for Proposals for Fire Station

6 – Kevin Hamby – Mr. Hamby stated that the County received six proposals on the new construction of Fire Station # 6 and of those six, only five deemed responsive. He stated that after the scoring committee opened the five responsive proposals and scored them, his recommendation would be to award the project to Cook Brothers in the amount of \$286,000.00. On motion (Allen) and second (Crook), the Board unanimously approved this recommendation.

b. Approve Proposal for Program Management – Kevin Hamby – Commission Chair Jackson presented Mr. Kevin Hamby’s renewal proposal for program management for the Heard County SPLOST program for the period of January 1, 2012 through June 30, 2012 in the amount of \$24,500.00. On motion (Allen) and second (Cammon), the Board voted 4 to 1 to approve this proposal. Commissioner Crook, Commissioner Cammon, Commissioner Caldwell and Commissioner Allen voted for the motion. Commissioner Isenhower voted against the motion.

c. Appoint Vice-Chairman for 2012 – Commissioner Crook made a motion for Commissioner Gwen Caldwell to be appointed as Vice-Chairman for 2012.

Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. The Board voted 3 to 1 to approve this recommendation. Commissioner Crook, Commissioner Cammon, and Commissioner Allen voted for the motion. Commissioner Isenhower voted against the motion.

Commissioner Caldwell abstained.

d. Appoint County Clerk for 2012 – On motion (Allen) and second (Crook), the Board voted 4 to 1 to re-appoint Patty Jiles as County Clerk for 2012. Commissioner Crook,

Commissioner Cammon, Commissioner Caldwell and Commissioner Allen voted for the motion. Commissioner Isenhower voted against the motion.

e. Appoint County Auditor for 2012 – On motion (Allen) and second (Caldwell), the Board voted 4 to 1 to re-appoint Mr. Kim Kimmel, CPA as County auditor for 2012.

Commissioner Crook, Commissioner Cammon, Commissioner Caldwell and Commissioner Allen voted for the motion. Commissioner Isenhower voted against the motion. She asked Mr. Kimmel if he received a letter from her and if he was going to sign it. Mr. Kimmel stated, yes, he did receive a statement, not a letter, from her and he did not sign the statement and had no intention of signing it.

f. Discuss Appointment to Heard County Water Authority Board – Commission Chair Jackson stated Mr. James Ray Gosdin’s term on the Heard County Water Authority Board ends on February 14, 2012. She stated that the Board would need to make a new appointment or re-appoint Mr. Gosdin. She stated that Mr. Gosdin has agreed to serve another term. On motion (Caldwell) and second (Crook), the Board voted 4 to 1 to re-appoint Mr. Gosdin on the Water Authority Board. Commissioner Crook, Commissioner Cammon, Commissioner Caldwell and Commissioner Allen voted for the motion. Commissioner Isenhower voted against the motion.

g. Discuss Buying County Owned Equipment (parts) Out of State vs. Buying Locally– Commissioner Isenhower – Commissioner Isenhower questioned why the County purchases parts used in County owned equipment outside the County. Finance Director Felicia Adams provided numbers to the Board on parts purchased in and out of the County since 2005 to dispute this claim. She stated that in 2005, 67% of parts were purchased in Heard County; in 2006, 86% of parts were purchased in Heard County; in

2007, 78% of parts were purchased in Heard County; in 2008, 98% of parts were purchased in Heard County; in 2009, 86% of parts were purchased in Heard County; and in 2010 and 2011, 81% of parts were purchased in Heard County. Commissioner Isenhower acknowledged that the information she was given from a citizen was incorrect and there was no further discussion.

h. Discuss Collecting the Fair Property Tax Amounts from Local Utility Companies

– **Commissioner Isenhower** – Commissioner Isenhower asked the Board to petition the state legislature to remove the school tax burden on senior citizens in Heard County.

County Attorney Jeff Todd explained that anyone can petition the Georgia General Assembly for this purpose, but normally the school board would do this since it directly affects their budget. Commissioner Isenhower made this request in the form of a motion.

The motion died for a lack of a second. Commissioner Isenhower asked the Board why utility companies in Heard County are not taxed on their actual fair property values.

Chief Appraiser Dale Castillo, Personal Property Appraiser Janet Privett and Tax

Commissioner Sandra Nolen explained that utility companies are not audited in-house and that their values are provided to the Heard County tax office by the State of Georgia Department of Revenue. After further discussion regarding hiring an outside firm to audit

personal property, Commissioner Isenhower made a motion to obtain a quote for this service from the independent auditing firm, Mendola and Associates. Commissioner

Crook seconded. The motion passed with a 4 to 1 vote. Commissioner Allen,

Commissioner Crook, Commissioner Cammon, and Commissioner Isenhower voted for the motion. Commissioner Caldwell did not vote on this motion.

i. Discuss Conducting a Full 100% Audit of the Heard County Books & Inventory of County Equipment – Commissioner Isenhower

– Commissioner Isenhower stated that she felt the County should do a 100% physical audit of the Heard County books and a county equipment inventory. County Auditor Kim Kimmel stated that the Board could spend as much money as they would like for this purpose. He explained what type of work is performed by a CPA and stated the type of work she is referring to is not done by a CPA. He stated that he is comfortable with Heard County’s financial statements and the fixed assets as presented. Commissioner Isenhower stated that she has found discrepancies relating to contract labor payments. Commission Chair Jackson stated that she offered to go over each and every invoice that Commissioner Isenhower is questioning with her on three separate occasions and Commissioner Isenhower has refused.

j. Discuss Developing a Drivers Education Program in Heard County –

Commissioner Isenhower – Commissioner Isenhower discussed the County establishing a driver’s education program. Commission Chair Jackson stated that this is typically a program that is done in the school system. Commissioner Isenhower stated that she spoke with the school system about this and they indicated that there are no funds for them to provide this type of program. Commission Chair Jackson read a statement from the County’s insurance company, ACCG, stating that this type of program would be a huge liability for the County and ACCG would not recommend Heard County providing this type of program. Commissioner Isenhower asked the Board to pursue seeking a grant to fund this program. On motion (Isenhower) and second (Cammon), the Board voted 2 to 3 against the motion. Commissioner Isenhower and Commissioner Cammon voted for the

motion. Commissioner Allen, Commissioner Crook and Commissioner Caldwell voted against the motion.

k. Approve Georgia Day Proclamation – Commission Chair Jackson stated that Mrs. Carla Brown on behalf of the James Stewart Chapter DAR has asked the Board to approve a Proclamation making February 12, 2012 Georgia Day in Heard County. On motion (Allen) and second (Cammon), the Board unanimously approved this request.

Agenda Item # 8 – Executive Session – a. Discuss Property Acquisition –

Commission Chair Jackson asked for an Executive Session to discuss property acquisition. On motion (Caldwell) and second (Crook), the Board unanimously voted to go into Executive Session. On motion (Allen) and second (Cammon), the Board unanimously voted to return to Open Session. Commission Chair Jackson stated that property acquisition was discussed in Executive Session with no decisions made.

There being no further business, on motion (Caldwell) and second (Cammon), the Board unanimously voted to adjourn.