

**HEARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**  
**September 19, 2023 - 6:30 P.M.**

The Heard County Board of Commissioners held a regular Commissioners Meeting on September 19, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the Commission Chamber of the Heard County Administration Building. In attendance at the meeting were Chairman Lee Boone, District 2 Commissioner James Perry, District 3 Commissioner Iris Harris, District 4 Commissioner Larry Hammond, and District 5 Commissioner David Walls. District 1 Commissioner Larry Hooks was unable to attend. County Attorney Michael Hill was also present at the meeting.

**Agenda Item # 2 - Welcome, Invocation, and Pledge to the American Flag**

Chairman Lee Boone called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone present, and gave the invocation.

**Agenda Item # 3 – Public Hearings**

Chairman Boone announced that public hearings for the applications regarding the solar farm from Viridi RE Development and the wedding venue from Brett Buchwald had been postponed until the next regularly scheduled Commissioners Meeting on October 17, 2023. He asked everyone to refrain from any discussion of either application. The Chairman went over the rules for public comments and asked that each person speak directly into the microphone.

- a) **Application to Rezone 181 Jenny D Lane, Tracy Chronic** - Chairman Boone opened the public hearing. Tracy Chronic addressed the Board regarding her application to rezone 181 Jenny D Lane. She stated to the Board that she would like the 3-acre property to be rezoned to single-family residential so she may split the property in order for her daughter to place an additional residence onto the property. The property currently has an existing residence already located on it. The Planning Commission

gave a recommendation to the Board to deny the application. On a motion (Perry) and second (Hammond), the Board voted unanimously to close the public hearing

**Agenda Item # 4 – Amend Agenda**

Chairman Boone asked for an amendment to New Business to add item “e” – Adopt SPLOST Resolution and to Sign SPLOST IGA, add item “f” – Approve FEMA IRC. On a motion (Hammond) and second (Walls), the Board voted unanimously to approve to amend the agenda to add items “e”, and “f” under New Business.

**Agenda Item # 5 – Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the August 15, 2023, regular Commissioner’s meeting along with the August 31, 2023, SPLOST Work Session and Called Meeting to discuss the millage rate were presented to the Board for approval. On a motion (Perry) and second (Harris), the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the August 15, 2023, regular Commissioner’s meeting. On a motion (Perry) and second (Harris), the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the August 31, 2023, Work Session and Called Meeting as written.

**Agenda Item # 6 – New Business**

**a. Decision - Application to Rezone 181 Jenny D Lane, Tracy Chronic**

County Attorney Hill addressed the Board to remind them of the standards for exercising their zoning power. On a motion (Perry) and second (Hammond), the Board voted unanimously to deny the application.

**b. Appointments to the 20-27 Corridor Joint Development Authority**

Chairman Boone stated that the Heard County Development Authority had submitted recommendations for three appointments. Rodney Kay was recommended for a 1-year term that

would expire September 30, 2024. Wilford Arnette was recommended for a 2-year term that would expire on September 30, 2025. Tim Grizzard was recommended for a 3-year term that would expire September 30, 2026. On behalf of the Development Authority, Ms. Knowles addressed the Board to advocate for each candidate based on their expertise and knowledge. On a motion (Hammond) and a second (Harris), unanimously voted to accept the recommendation of the Development Authority to appoint Rodney Kay, Wilford Arnette, and Tim Grizzard to the 20-27 Corridor Joint Development Authority.

**c. Decision – Request for Right of Way Easement from Georgia Transmission Corporation and Coweta Fayette EMC**

There was some discussion, the Board was open to the offer contingent to a few upgrades. Due to not having a more detailed offer, the decision was tabled until the next regularly scheduled Commissioner's Meeting on October 17, 2023.

**d. Update from Arena Committee**

Chairman Boone welcomed the Arena Committee. The committee is made up of the following individuals: Chairman Tim Rowley, Vice Chairman Danny Lavoie, Secretary Melinda Brown, Ricky Ray, and Roger Carmichael. The spokesman for the committee, Melinda Brown, addressed the Board to give an update. She stated that each District Commissioner appointed one person from each district to be a representative on the committee. The committee meets once per month to discuss the layout and features for the horse trails located behind the arena. A grant was awarded to the arena from the Carroll EMC Foundation. This grant was used to mulch, add trail signage, a map kiosk, and many scenic picnic tables along the trail. Committee Chair, Tim Rowley, addressed the Board. Mr. Rowley suggested that the horse trail be named Indian Creek Trails. He stated that the grant from Carroll EMC helped to provide six picnic tables to the trail,

the covered map kiosk, removal of an old rotten wooden bridge which was replaced with gravel. He also stated that there has been discussion of the Saddle Club possibly returning to the area and the need for a ribbon cutting ceremony to help promote the trails. Mr. Rowley suggested that a sanitation dump be added to the campground, a holding tank with water, some grass be planted, or straw put down to help control erosion, and the need for the gun range behind the arena to be addressed for possible safety issues while riding. Commissioner Perry asked if there was a way to tell how many people are using the trail. Mr. Rowley stated there was no way to know and that he did not want to advertise it right now due to the current conditions of the trails. Commissioner Walls asked how they planned to advertise. Mr. Rowley responded that he and the Secretary would get together to make sure that they got it out there. Commissioner Hammond thanked the committee for all their time and hard work.

**e. Adopt SPLOST Resolution**

Chairman Boone read the SPLOST Resolution into the record. On a motion (Perry) and a second (Walls), the Board unanimously voted to adopt the SPLOST Resolution and allow the Chairman and Clerk permission to sign the Resolution on behalf of the County.

1. On a motion (Perry) and a second (Walls), the Board unanimously voted to approve the SPLOST IGA and allow the Chairman and Clerk permission to sign the IGA on behalf of the County.

**f. Approve – FEMA IRC**

Chairman Boone stated that the County was awarded federal grant money for a study of the water at the rock quarry located on Old Field Road. The study will be conducted by engineer students from Georgia Tech. On a motion (Harris) and a second (Hammond), the Board

unanimously voted to approve the FEMA IRC CUPP Student Capstone Project service to Heard County to design fire suppression and potable water service.

**Agenda Item # 7 – Old Business**

**a. Request from Mayor Hayes on Tax Abatement for City of Franklin**

Chairman Boone stated the property still had not been acquired by the City of Franklin. Mayor Hayes was not sure if they would be closing on the deal due to some ongoing issues with the property. This item was tabled until next month's regular Commission meeting unless withdrawn.

**Agenda Item # 8 – Public Comments**

Debra Joe Steele, Joe Stephens Road, Franklin, GA – Addressed the Board regarding enhancements to the park located at Enon Grove.

Derrill Scott, Redland Road, Franklin, GA – Addressed the Board regarding two RVs located on his church property at 260 Armstrong Mill Road that he received county ordinance violations for. He asked for a temporary permit to allow the RVs on the property for Johnny Davidson and his wife to stay in.

Johnny Davidson, Burris Road, Tyner, KY – Addressed the Board to state he and his wife were unaware up until a few days prior of the violation to the county ordinance regarding living in an RV. He stated that he and his wife did stay in the RV until they purchased their home in Kentucky, and they do stay in it part time when they come to Georgia.

**Item # 9 – Executive Session**

Chairman Boone asked for an Executive Session to discuss potential litigation. On a motion (Perry) and second (Harris), the Board voted unanimously to enter into executive session to discuss possible litigation at 8:00 pm. On a motion (Perry) and second (Hammond), the Board

voted unanimously to return to open session at 9:23 pm. During the Executive Session possible litigation was discussed. No action was taken.

**Item # 10 – Adjourn**

There being no further business, on a motion (Harris) and second (Walls), the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Adjourned 9:24 p.m.

Katrina Billingsley

County Clerk

Lee Boone

Chairman

Date 10/17/2023

