

**HEARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
NOVEMBER 27, 2018 - 6:30 P.M.**

The Heard County Board of Commissioners held a Commissioners Meeting on November 27, 2018 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 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. Commissioner Boone gave the invocation.

Agenda Item # 3 – Public Hearing – a. Special Use Application; Encounter Ministries, Inc. –

Property located on Notnomis Road, Franklin, GA – Chairman Boone opened the public hearing, reviewed the public comment rules and read the special use application from Encounter Ministries Inc. He stated that Encounter Ministries, Inc. is requesting to be allowed to construct a worship center and a lodge, on land they own on Notnomis Road. Chairman Boone stated that after review, the Heard County Planning Commission has made a recommendation to approve the special use application. At this time, County Attorney Conner stated there would be no decision made on this request tonight due to a fifteen day posting notice on the property, that was not met. She stated the public hearing and any Board decision, would need to be continued until the meeting on December 18, 2018.

Chairman Boone asked Encounter Ministries to speak regarding their request. Mrs. Sherrie Kagey, CEO of Encounter Ministries stated that in 2014 they formed a 501c3, called Encounter Ministries. She stated this is not a church, but a ministry. She explained their mission is to help people in their own community and surrounding areas. Mrs. Cheryl Clark, a Board member of Encounter Ministries spoke regarding the different phases and a timeline for the phases of this project. She explained that phase one would be to construct a multi-purpose facility/worship center called “The Barn”.

The second phase would be to construct and small operational petting zoo with a stable for the animals called "A Storyland". The third and final phase would be to construct a lodge/housing facility for overnight campers. She explained this phase would not be built for several more years. She also stated that all staff and/or volunteers would have yearly background checks as set forth by the Encounter Ministries Board of Directors. She stressed that outside missions were very important to Encounter and they would love to partner and unite with other local churches to meet the needs of our community and surrounding areas in West Georgia.

The following citizens spoke regarding this project as in favor of:

Joe and Kristie Jones

The following citizens spoke regarding this project as against:

Alicia and Michael McClain, David Jordan, Lynnette Gardner, Shelly Thiry, Teresa Griffin, Julie Boyd, Keith Smith, James Gardner, Tommy Boyd, Christine Pollard, Ken Kagey, and Don Hanson.

Mr. Kevin Raines, Co-Founder of Encounter Ministries addressed the citizens comments/questions.

He explained that phase one and phase two will be funded in full, before a building permit is applied for. He stated that phase three, would be constructed in the future. He explained that anyone wanting to use their facilities for an event would need to apply by application process to the Board of Directors.

Mr. Raines presented a map of the property that shows where the buildings and petting zoo will be located. After further discussion, on motion (Denney) and second (Hooks), the Board unanimously voted to continue this public hearing until December 18, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Agenda Item # 4 – Approval of Minutes – On motion (Hammond) and second (Hooks), the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes from October 23, 2018.

Agenda Item # 5 – Amend Agenda – None.

Agenda Item # 6 – New Business – a. Discuss Special Use Application; Encounter Ministries –

Decision postponed.

b. Discuss Purchase of New Ambulances – Chief Steve Wirth – Chief Steve Wirth asked the Board to consider a proposal to purchase two replacement ambulances. He explained that the current fleet of ambulances are requiring more maintenance to remain on the road. He stated five ambulances are in the fleet. Three are staffed every day with two ambulances in reserve for additional calls or maintenance work. He stated the ambulances are averaging 40,000 miles per year, per ambulance. He stated of the five ambulances, two of them have over 100,000 miles on them. One has over 200,000 miles and a fourth will have over 100,000 miles on it in the next twelve months. He asked the Board to approve the purchase of two ambulances now with one having a delivery date of March or April, 2019 and the other with a delivery date of July or August, 2019. Both would be purchased with SPLOST funds. He stated he received three bids as follows:

MEDIX Specialty Vehicles, Inc. -	\$ 150,800.00
Osage Industries, Inc. -	\$ 187,600.00
Braun Industries -	\$ 200,650.00

Chief Wirth recommended purchasing the two ambulances from MEDIX, Inc. at the cost of \$150,800.00 each. On motion (Hooks) and second (Denney), the Board unanimously approved this purchase to be paid with SPLOST monies.

c. Discuss Revoking an Approved Special Use Application for a Telecommunications Tower at 301 Kirk Road, Franklin, GA from November, 2017 – Chairman Boone asked the Board to begin the process to revoke an approved special use application from November, 2017. This tower has never been built and Mr. and Mrs. Rush, the property owners have never received any compensation from

the tower company. On motion (Denney) and second (Adams), the Board approved to start the revocation process for this special use application.

d. Approve Resolution Appointing a County Legislative Coordinator – Chairman Boone stated that in 2010 ACCG established the County Legislative Coordinator (CLC) network to help improve communications between and among counties and legislators while the General Assembly is in session. Heard County’s current CLC is Chairman Boone. ACCG has asked each County to adopt a resolution stating who their CLC is. On motion (Hammond) and second (Caldwell), the Board unanimously agreed to reappoint Chairman Boone to this position and to sign the resolution stating so.

e. Discuss Rescheduling December, 2018 Commissioners Meeting - Chairman Boone asked the Board to approve changing the December meeting to Tuesday, December 18, 2018 due to the Christmas holiday. He also stated a SPLOST work session will be held that same day at 5:00 p.m. On motion (Denney) and second (Hammond), the Board unanimously approved changing the December meeting to Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. with a SPLOST work session to precede the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Agenda Item # 7 – Old Business – None.

Agenda Item #8 – Public Comments – None.

Agenda Item # 9 – Executive Session – On motion (Adams) and second (Hammond), the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session to discuss possible litigation. On motion (Denney) and second (Hooks), the Board unanimously voted to return to Open Session. Chairman Boone stated in Executive Session, possible litigation was discussed with no decisions made.

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

Adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Patty A. Giles

County Clerk

Lee Boone

Chairman

Date 12-18-18