

**HEARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
JANUARY 23, 2018 - 6:30 P.M.**

The Heard County Board of Commissioners held a Commissioners Meeting on January 23, 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 Commissioners 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, gave the invocation and welcomed everyone present.

**Agenda Item # 3 – Public Hearing – Amendments to the Heard County Zoning Ordinance –**

Chairman Boone opened the public hearing. Zoning Administrator Stacie Morris, asked the Board to continue this public hearing until the next meeting. On motion (Hooks) and second (Denney), the Board unanimously approved this request.

**Agenda Item # 4 – Approval of Minutes** – On motion (Hammond) and second (Hooks, the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes from December 19, 2017.

**Agenda Item # 5 – Amend Agenda** – Chairman Boone asked to amend new business to add item – l – Appoint County Auditor and item – m – Discuss Appointment to Development Authority of Heard County. On motion (Caldwell) and second (Hammond), the Board unanimously approved this request.

**Agenda Item # 6 – New Business – a. Discuss Public Hearing – Amendments to the Heard**

**County Zoning Ordinance** – Commissioner Hooks made a motion to move this item to the February 27, 2018 agenda for action. Commissioner Denney seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved this motion.

**b. Approve Heard County Resolution Regarding Emergency Management** – Chairman Boone, stated that Heard County needs to update their Heard County Resolution Regarding Emergency

Management Agency. On motion (Adams) and second (Denney), the Board unanimously approved this resolution.

**c. Approve Heard County Emergency Operations Plan Regarding Donated Goods and**

**Volunteer Services** – Chief Wirth presented the Board with the Heard County Emergency Operations Plan regarding donated goods and volunteer services. He explained that this is a new plan required in order for the County to qualify for disaster reimbursement from state and federal agencies. On motion (Hooks) and second (Hammond), the Board unanimously approved this request.

**d. Update on Courthouse Renovations** - Chairman Boone explained that due to inclement weather, the request for proposals on the courthouse renovations were received today and would be opened and sorted tomorrow by Project Manager, Kevin Hamby. The proposals will then be submitted to the scoring committee for review and their recommendation presented to the Board at a later date.

**e. Set Called Meeting Date Regarding Awarding the Request for Proposal (RFP) on**

**Construction Services for the Heard County Courthouse Renovations** – Chairman Boone stated a called meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 31, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. to discuss the RFPs on constructions services for the Heard County Courthouse renovations. All agreed.

**f. Discussion On Bush Head Shoals** – Chairman Boone stated that after speaking with Public Works Director, Darold Wiggins regarding the future grass cutting/bush hogging that will be needed at Bush Head Shoals, Mr. Wiggins stated that he felt that \$500.00 per cut, should be ample money to cover cutting the grass at this site. Chairman Boone also stated that to add this facility to the County's insurance policy would be approximately \$231.00 in additional premium each year. Commissioner Adams asked if the roads were graded going into the property and how much that was going to cost. Chairman Boone stated there are roads currently on the property but if these roads need any further work, such as gravel and/or grading, the Development Authority has agreed to pay for that.

Commissioner Adams also asked if there was going to be a boat ramp at this site. Ms. Kathy Knowles, Executive Director of the Development Authority stated that there was not going to be a full scale boat ramp, only a series of steps to get to the water. Ms. Knowles stated the contract between Heard County and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), would be a 5 year contract. Fees were discussed and Ms. Knowles stated there would be no fees collected through the DNR; the only fees collected would be through the outfitter that the County chooses for kayaking and canoeing services. Commissioner Denney asked if the contract had been reviewed by the County Attorney and if there were any neighbor concerns. Ms. Knowles stated that the County Attorney would be reviewing the contract and she was not aware of any neighbor concerns. Chairman Boone asked for a motion to move forward with this project.

Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve Heard County moving forward with this project, to maintain the park, and to authorize Chairman Boone to execute the contract pending the County Attorney's review. Commissioner Denney seconded. The Board unanimously approved this motion.

**g. Discussion on Snake Creek Park** – Chairman Boone stated that after serious vandalism to Snake Creek Park, the Board may need to consider closing the park or returning the park to the Corp of Engineers. He explained the damage recently done to the park and expressed his concerns of how much money the County will need to spend to clean up the park and to keep it operational.

Commissioner Hammond expressed his concerns about closing the park before the County received public input. Chairman Boone asked any members of the public who would like to speak regarding this park, to come forward. Mr. Dustin Pate, 2006 Armstrong Mill Road, Franklin, GA, spoke in favor of keeping the park open. He stated he had been fishing there for many years and it would be a shame to see Heard County close this park and that he felt as if Heard County would be losing a lot of revenue coming into the County, if the County chose to close the park. After Mr. Pate's comments,

Chairman Boone asked the Board to support and be willing to offer rewards for any information that led to arrests and convictions of any individuals found destroying or vandalizing government property. Commissioner Denney thanked Mr. Pate for his input and stated she was open to any options to keep this park open to the public. County Attorney, Jerry Ann Conner said she would look into what the County could offer in the way of rewards.

**h. Appointment for Vice-Chairman for 2018** - On motion (Hooks) and second (Denney), the Board unanimously voted to appoint Commissioner Hammond as Vice-Chairman for 2018.

**i. Appoint County Clerk for 2018** - Chairman Boone recommended appointing Patty Jiles as County Clerk for 2018. On motion (Denney) and second (Caldwell), the Board unanimously approved this recommendation.

**j. Appoint County Attorney for 2018** - Chairman Boone recommended appointing Jerry Ann Conner as County Attorney for 2018. On motion (Adams) and second (Hooks), the Board unanimously approved this recommendation.

**k. Set Meeting, Date, Time and Place for 2018 Commissioners Meetings** - On motion (Caldwell) and second (Hammond), the Board unanimously voted for the commissioner meeting date, time and place to remain the same as 2017; the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Heard County Administration Building.

**l. Appoint County Auditor for 2018** - Chairman Boone recommended appointing Mr. Kim Kimmel as County Auditor for 2018. Chairman Boone stated that Felicia Adams, Finance Director recently spoke with Mr. Kimmel who stated his fee would remain the same as 2017. On motion (Hooks) and second (Caldwell), the Board unanimously approved this recommendation.

**m. Discuss Appointment to Development Authority of Heard County** – Chairman Boone stated that he received a letter from the Development Authority of Heard County recommending the following appointments to the Development Authority Board:

Mr. Will Arnett to replace Mr. Terry Harper whose term expired on December 31, 2017.

Mr. Don Heard to replace Mr. Charles “Skip” Jones who resigned on July 25, 2017.

On motion (Hammond) and second (Hooks), the Board unanimously approved these recommendations.

**Agenda Item # 7 – Old Business** – None.

**Agenda Item # 8 – Public Comments** – Mr. Gerald Harjo, 933 Mayhaley Road, Franklin spoke regarding the condition of Mayhayley Road.

Mrs. Bonnie Reed, 640 Deer Creek Circle, Franklin spoke regarding the need for directional signs to the new administration building.

Mr. Jerry Nixon, Antioch Road, Franklin spoke regarding Snake Creek Park.

Commissioner Denney spoke regarding the parks and recreation department.

Chairman Boone complimented the public works department for their efforts during the recent inclement weather.

**Agenda Item # 9 – Executive Session** – None.

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

Adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Patty A. Giles

County Clerk

Date 2/27/18



Lee Boone

Chairman