

HEARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
September 22, 2020 - 6:30 P.M.

The Heard County Board of Commissioners held a Commissioners Meeting on September 22, 2020 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, James Perry, District 3 Commissioner, Gwen Caldwell, District 4 Commissioner, Larry Hammond, District 5 Commissioner, David Walls, and County Attorney Jerry Ann Conner.

Agenda Item #2- Welcome, Invocation, and Pledge to the American Flag - Chairman Boone called the meeting to order, gave the invocation and welcomed everyone present.

Agenda Item #3- Public Hearings

a. Application to Rezone -Thomas Chesnut- 281 Eley Road- Mr. Chesnut spoke about the land, what he used it for, and how long it had been in his family. On motion (Hammond) and second (Hooks), the Board unanimously approved to close this public hearing.

b. Special Use – LaDonna Watson- 1121 Windy Hill Road- Ms. Watson is applying for a special use permit in order to start a dog kennel. Commissioner Perry ask about state permits, and Ms. Watson stated that she needed to go through this process first, before applying for state permits. Commissioner Walls asked how many dogs are being bred, and Ms. Watson stated she has two males and ten females, she will breed twelve litters a year. Commissioner Walls asked if Ms. Watson has any problems with any inspections, and Ms. Watson stated that she did not have a problem with inspections, she wants to be USDA approved. Ms. Watson stated she has water lines, insulation, heating and air, and dog runs. Commissioner Caldwell asked what breed, Ms. Watson stated it would be Poodles. Ms. Watson also stated she had Springers, Bernese Mountain Dogs, Sheep Dogs, she has two male Poodles, and the rest will be female. Commissioner

Hammond asked what the overall size of the kennel is, Ms. Watson stated there are eight runs, 4 by 4 on the inside and 5 by 8 on the outside with concrete pads. On motion (Walls) and second (Hammond), the Board unanimously approved to close this public hearing.

c. Special Use – Tillman- Doug Barker Tillman Representative- Mr. Barker stated that the Glenn area is a tremendously underserved area of the county when it comes to cell towers. Commissioner Perry asked Mr. Tillman what the radius for coverage on the perspective tower? Mr. Barker stated approximately three miles in all directions, and it helps link up with all other towers without outages. Commissioner Walls asked do you have any other companies for the tower? Mr. Barker stated no, they only have AT&T at this time. Mr. Golden, a resident near the property, spoke about how he and his wife need service out in the Glenn area. Mr. Golden requested that if there is an issue with the lights bother them, they would like the lights to be pointed up and not down. Mr. Barker stated that anything over two-hundred feet tall would need lights, but he does not believe the lights will be an issue. Mr. Barker also stated that his company has no problem planting a buffer. Commissioner Walls asked Mr. Barker if they would be willing to plant Cyprus, and Mr. Barker said absolutely. Chairman Boone acknowledged receipt of an email and letter from Ms. Sandra Williams and Rachel Williams about the tower. On motion (Walls) and second (Hammond), the Board unanimously approved to close this public hearing.

Agenda Item #3 - Approval of Minutes - On motion (Hooks) and a second (Hammond), the Board unanimously approved the minutes from August 25, 2020.

Agenda Item #4 - Amend Agenda – Chairman Boone asked for an amendment to new business to add item “d”—Discuss tractor purchase and trade-in. On motion (Hooks) and second

(Hammond), the Board unanimously approved to amend the agenda to add item “d” under old business.

Agenda Item # 5 - New Business - a. Decision- Rezone – Thomas Chesnut – 281 Eley Road –

Commissioner Perry stated that he had heard no opposition on the matter and was in full support to approve the rezone. On motion (Perry) and second (Caldwell), the Board unanimously approved this request.

b. Decision- Special Use – LaDonna Watson- 1121 Windy Hill – Commissioner Caldwell stated he did not have a problem with the dog kennel. On motion (Caldwell) and second (Perry), the Board unanimously approved this request.

c. Decision- Special Use – Tillman – Doug Barker Tillman Representative – Commissioner Walls stated he would like to approve this with the conditions recommended from the planning commission and buffer for the light issue. On motion (Walls) and second (Hammond), the Board unanimously approved this request.

d. Decision – Tractor Purchase and Trade-in – Caleb Pike, Heard County Arena Director stated that he had been having issues with the current tractor. Mr. Pike told the Board that he stopped by to look at a used tractor that he had noticed on the lot. Mr. Pike stated that the new tractor was an 85hp and the tractor that is currently used at the arena is a 50hp. Mr. Pike also said that the biggest problem with the current tractor is that it is maxed out because of the size of the plow. Mr. Pike asked the Board to consider purchasing the used tractor which comes with a bucket attachment, and the current implements owned by the county will adapt to the new tractor. Mr. Pike also stated that the new tractor is a 2016 with only 400 hours of use in four years, and the previous owner traded in the tractor for a cab tractor. Commissioner Hammond told Mr. Pike he thought the new tractor was really nice. Mr. Pike stated he was able to test the tractor out at an event at the arena, and he did not experience any

issues while he used it. Commissioner Perry was able to stop by the arena and look at the tractor, as well as run it, and it did not have any issues. Mr. Pike stated that the arena tractor has gone down during two shows, and that he does not want to start giving refunds on arena events because of a downed tractor. Commissioner Perry stated that he had researched the tractor and there are no known issues with that model. Commissioner Hooks made a motion to buy the new tractor with SPLOST and trade in the old tractor and accept the quote of \$23,900.00, Commissioner Hammond seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved this request.

Agenda Item # 6 – Old Business – a. Road Abandonment – Windy Hill Road – Chairman Boone reminds the Board that Commissioner Caldwell asked that it be continued until this meeting, on September 22, 2020, for further research. Also, Chairman Boone reminds the Board that the public hearing was closed during the previous meeting. Commissioner Caldwell makes the motion to approve the abandonment of that portion of Windy Hill Road with the conditions that the quitclaim documents are inspected and verified, and the additional right of way that the county needs to straighten out Fabiano Road, Commissioner Hammond seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved the request.

Agenda Item # 7 – Public Comment – Commissioner Hooks took a moment to formally inform and acknowledge the county's approval for the Community Development Block Grant, and that the approval was for the entire \$750,000.00 that the county applied for. Commissioner Perry asked if there was any progress on the Water Authority. Chairman Boone stated it is hard to get everyone together, but he will try to get at least two board appointments and the director together.

Agenda Item # 8 – Executive Session – No Executive Session

Adjourned at 7:36

Hope Cole

County Clerk

Date 10/27/2020

Lee Boone

Chairman