

**HEARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
JANUARY 24, 2017 - 6:30 P.M.**

The Heard County Board of Commissioners held a Commissioners Meeting on January 24, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the courtroom of the Heard County Courthouse. 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, welcomed everyone present and gave the invocation.

**Agenda Item # 3 – Presentation of Service Awards – Melinda Davis and Stanley Hodge -**

Chairman Boone and the Board presented a service award plaque to Melinda Davis for 20 years of continuous service to Heard County. The entire Board thanked Ms. Davis for her loyal and dedicated service to Heard County. Mr. Hodge did not attend the meeting but will be presented with a service award plaque at a later date for 35 years of continuous service to Heard County.

**Agenda Item # 4 – Public Hearing – Special Use Application – David Blevins, 211 Herndon**

**Road, Franklin, GA** – County Attorney Jerry Ann Conner, explained that the Board recently revised the county ordinances to allow for special events. After this, Mr. David Blevins submitted an application for a special use for his property at 211 Herndon Road, Franklin to be used as an event center. After reviewing the standards for evaluating a zoning request, the Planning Commission made a recommendation to approve this special use application with the attached conditions (see attached). Mr. Blevins stated that this started out as a place for his two sons to get married and then he decided to apply for a special use for a public event center. Commissioner Hooks asked Mr. Blevins are there any of the conditions that he cannot meet? Mr. Blevins stated, no, he can meet all the conditions. Mr. Blevins stated that his neighbors did come to the Planning Commission meeting and left in favor of his

project. There being no public comments and no further comments from the Board, on motion (Hooks) and second (Denney) the Board unanimously closed the public hearing.

**Agenda Item # 5 – Invited Guests – Laurie Cook, Executive Director – Heard County Water**

**Authority** – Laurie Cook, Executive Director at the Heard County Water Authority gave an update on the Heard County Water Authority (HCWA) and introduced Mr. Chad Sike with Carter & Sloope engineering firm. Mr. Sike gave a presentation to the Board regarding water system improvements and upgrades that are needed to the current water system. He also updated the Board regarding several grants the HCWA has recently applied for. Ms. Cook stated that the Water Authority plans on minimizing their debt as much as possible while doing these projects. Commissioner Hooks asked Mr. Sikes if there is a water tank anticipated for the Corinth area of Heard County. Mr. Sikes stated yes, after the waterlines are updated inside the City of Franklin. Chairman Boone thanked Ms. Cook and Mr. Sikes for their informative presentation.

**Agenda Item # 6 – Approval of Minutes** – On motion (Denney) and second (Hammond), the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from December 27, 2016.

**Agenda Item # 7 – Amend Agenda** – Chairman Boone asked to amend the agenda to include item **m – Approve SPLOST Projects List and Budget for 2017**. On motion (Caldwell) and second (Adams), the Board unanimously approved this request.

**Agenda Item # 8 – New Business – a. Decision on Special Use Application** – On motion (Hooks) and second (Adams), the Board unanimously approved the Planning Commission’s recommendation to approve Mr. Blevins special use application with conditions.

**b. Discuss Heard County Water Authority’s Request** – Chairman Boone stated that in the recently approved SPLOST Budget for 2017, \$500,000 is allocated to the Water Authority for their water system improvements and upgrades. Mr. Kevin Hamby explained that this is the total appropriation for

the entire calendar year of 2017. Ms. Cook, Executive Director of the Water Authority, asked the Board to consider giving the Water Authority any money they can now for their recent improvements that are being done to the water tanks. Mr. Hamby stated that the Board can pay any invoices the Water Authority has on hand now for this project. Ms. Cook stated she does have an outstanding invoice for \$73,000.00 for current improvements being done. Mr. Hamby stated that this invoice can be paid if the Water Authority will present it to the Board.

**c. Discuss Easement for Power Services for New Administration Building** – Kevin Hamby, Project Manager, presented an easement to the Board that Georgia Power is requiring Heard County to accept and sign in order to get power to the new administration building. Kevin explained that this easement would allow Georgia Power to set a new pole on the west side of Park Avenue and include boring underground cables to a pad mounted transformer. He stated this is a standard utility easement. On motion (Hooks) and second (Denney), the Board unanimously approved this easement and gave permission for Chairman Boone to sign on the Board's behalf.

**d. Discuss Resolution Regarding Board of Elections** – Jerry Ann Conner, County Attorney stated that she was recently contacted by Chairman Boone and Probate Judge Bledsoe regarding a request for the enactment of local legislation by the general assembly of The State of Georgia to create a board of elections in Heard County. Chairman Boone read the resolution into the minutes (attached). Chief Registrar, Tonnie Adams explained the request and stated that most counties are moving to a Board of Elections and away from the Probate Judge being the Elections Superintendent. Ms. Conner explained that this resolution, if accepted, will move forward to the legislative council to draft the local legislation. After further discussion, on motion (Denney) and second (Hooks), the Board unanimously voted to move forward with this legislation and for County Attorney Conner to present this resolution to the legislative council with one change to item #3 (see attached).

**e. Discuss Resolution Regarding Name Change of Brush Creek Park** – Chairman Boone asked the Board to consider changing the name of Brush Creek Park to Chattahoochee Old Town. He read the resolution into the minutes (attached). On motion (Adams) and second (Hammond), the Board unanimously approved this request.

**f. Discuss Appointment to Heard County Planning Commission** – Chairman Boone stated that Mr. Doug Craven recently resigned from the Planning Commission and Mrs. Stacie Morris, Zoning Administrator, has recommended Mr. Dustin Pate to replace Mr. Craven. Mrs. Morris stated that the Department of Revenue has stated there is no conflict with Mr. Pate serving on this board and being employed as the Chief Appraiser for the Heard County Tax Assessors Office. On motion (Hammond) and second (Denney), the Board unanimously approved this request.

**g. Discuss Appointment to Heard County Development Authority** – Chairman Boone stated that The Development Authority of Heard County has recently made a recommendation to the Board to appoint Mr. Rodney Kay to the Development Authority Board to fill the remaining term of Ms. Cheryl Pollard. Ms. Pollard's term will expire on December 31, 2017. Ms. Pollard resigned from this Board for personal reasons. On motion (Adams) and second (Denney), the Board unanimously approved this request.

**h. Appoint Vice-Chairman for 2017** - On motion (Caldwell) and second (Adams), the Board unanimously voted to appoint Commissioner Hooks as Vice-Chairman for 2017.

**i. Appoint County Clerk for 2017** – Chairman Boone recommended appointing Patty Jiles as County Clerk for 2017. On motion (Denney) and second (Hooks), the Board unanimously approved this recommendation.

**j. Appoint County Attorney for 2017** – Chairman Boone recommended appointing Jerry Ann Conner as County Attorney for 2017. On motion (Denney) and second (Caldwell), the Board unanimously approved this recommendation.

**k. Appoint County Auditor for 2017** – Chairman Boone recommended appointing Mr. Kim Kimmel as County Auditor for 2017. Chairman Boone stated that Felicia Adams, Finance Director recently spoke with Mr. Kimmel who stated his fee would remain the same as 2016. On motion (Hooks) and second (Denney), the Board unanimously approved this recommendation.

**l. Set Meeting, Date, Time and Place for 2017 Commissioners Meeting** – On motion (Caldwell) and second (Hooks), the unanimously voted for the commissioner meeting date, time and place to remain the same as 2016; the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Heard County Courthouse.

**m. Approve SPLOST Projects List and Budget for 2017** – In a previous work session, the Board discussed a SPLOST Budget for 2017 (attached). On (Denney) and second (Adams), the Board unanimously approved this request. In the previous work session, the Board also discussed a SPLOST Projects List for 2017 presented by Darold Wiggins, Public Works Director. On motion (Adams) and second (Denney), the Board unanimously approved this request.

**Agenda Item # 9 – Old Business – a. Discuss Building Inspection Permit Fee** – Chairman Boone stated that in the December board meeting he stated that the current building inspection permit fees had not been updated in approximately 15 years. Since then, he discovered that those fees actually have not been updated in 22 years. He asked the Board to again reconsider increasing the building permit fees to \$.50 a square foot for heated square feet. He explained that on average, a house requires 12 inspections. He stated the \$.50 a square foot will not allow the County to break even on inspection fees. After further discussion, on motion (Denney) and second (Hooks), the Board unanimously approved this recommendation.

**Agenda Item # 10 - Public Comments** – Katrina Billingsley, 1085 Franklin Parkway, Franklin, GA, thanked the Board for doing a great job.

**Agenda Item # 11 - Executive Session** – Chairman Boone asked for an Executive Session to discuss personnel and litigation. On motion (Denney) and second (Hooks), the Board unanimously agreed to enter into Executive Session.

On motion (Denney) and second (Hooks), the Board unanimously agreed to reenter into Open Session. Chairman Boone stated in Executive Session the Board discussed personnel and litigation with no decisions being made.

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

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County Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

Date \_\_\_\_\_