

**HEARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
JUNE 27, 2017 - 6:30 P.M.**

The Heard County Board of Commissioners held a Commissioners Meeting on June 27, 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 – Approval of Minutes - On motion (Denney) and second (Hammond), the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from May 23, 2017. On motion (Hooks) and second (Adams), the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from June 13, 2017.

Agenda Item # 4 – Amend Agenda – None.

Agenda Item # 5 – New Business – a. Approve 2017-2018 Budget – Chairman Boone read the budget resolution into the minutes for the 2017-2018 fiscal year budget. On motion (Denney) and second (Caldwell), the Board unanimously approved the 2017-2018 fiscal year budget.

b. Discuss Appointment to Heard County Board of Family and Children Services (DFACS) - Chairman Boone stated that he recently received a letter from Heard County Board of Family and Children Services (DFACS) stating that Mr. Willie Bradfield’s term on the DFACS Board will expire on June 30, 2017. The letter stated that Mr. Bradfield would like to be reappointed to the DFACS Board. On motion (Adams) and second (Hooks), the Board unanimously approved this request.

c. Discuss Appointment to Heard County Board of Assessors - Chairman Boone stated that Mr. Dustin Pate’s appointment to the Heard County Board of Tax Assessors expires July 23, 2017. He stated that Mr. Pate would like to continue to serve on this board. On motion

(Caldwell) and second (Denney), the Board unanimously approved reappointing Mr. Pate to the Board of Tax Assessors.

d. Discuss Proposed ATV Park – Commissioner Hammond – Chairman Boone asked Ms. Kathy Knowles, Executive Director of the Development Authority of Heard County, to update the Board on recent discussions she has had with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regarding the proposed ATV Park. Ms. Knowles advised the Board that the Development Authority has sent a list of questions to the DNR regarding the current plans for the ATV Park. Ms. Knowles advised that until the public hearing period ends on June 30, 2017, the DNR would be unable to provide answers to some of the questions that were asked. She stated that the DNR has indicated that after the close of the public hearing period they will sit down with local leaders to review the results and make their decision whether to proceed with the Park.

Ms. Knowles stated that there are warranted concerns about the park being unmanned and about erosion but that the Development Authority would like to have an opportunity to discuss with the DNR the development of water trails and access to the shoals. Ms. Knowles asked the board to wait until after the 4th of July holiday and after the meeting with DNR, to take a position on the ATV Park in hopes of salvaging the potential for water trail tourism in the event the ATV Park is abandoned. Ms. Knowles asked that if a position is taken that it be to oppose the ATV Park as it is currently planned and to ask DNR to review and possibly revise the plan based on public concerns.

The following Heard County residents spoke in opposition to the ATV Park:

Mrs. Jane Barker, 308 Bush Head Shoals Road, Franklin, GA;

Mr. Scott Parrott, 15475 GA. Hwy. 34, Franklin, GA;

Mr. Peter Underwood, 178 Memory Lane, Franklin, GA;

Mr. Jimmy Adams, 715 South Bridge Road, Franklin, GA.

Commissioner Hammond stated that he has a lot of valid concerns about the Park that he would like to see answered by the DNR. He stated that he and Chairman Boone spoke about writing a letter to the DNR discussing the Board's position on this project. After further discussion, Commissioner Hammond made a motion stating, "I make a motion to bring it up to a vote to express to them that the way it is proposed to us, we do not support it and for Chairman Boone to follow-up with a letter from the Board to them reflecting the same." Commissioner Caldwell

seconded. Commissioner Hooks thanked Ms. Knowles and the Development Authority for their hard work on the ATV Park even though he stated he felt it was not attractive to Heard County. He stated he felt that Heard County does need to offer the water tourism part if DNR is agreeable. Commissioner Denney explained that no one from the DNR has come to her or the Board to discuss the ATV Park. She stated she was highly offended that the DNR would tell her constituents and the residents of Heard County that the Board has the power to say if this park is or is not coming to Heard County when she had no idea because the DNR has never spoke to her or the Board about this. Commissioner Adams stated he felt the DNR could develop this park into something besides and ATV Park. After further discussion, the Board voted unanimously to approve Mr. Hammond's motion.

Agenda Item # 6 – Old Business – None

Agenda Item # 7 - Public Comments – Mr. Scott Parrott, 15475 GA. Hwy. 34, Franklin, GA stated his appreciation to the Development Authority and the Board on their decision regarding the ATV Park. Mr. Jane Barker, 308 Bush Head Shoals Road, Franklin, GA also thanked the Board on their decision regarding the ATV Park.

Agenda Item # 8 - Executive Session – None.

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

Adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

County Clerk

Chairman

Date _____