

**HEARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
JULY 28, 2015 – 6:30 P.M.**

The Heard County Board of Commissioners held a Commissioners Meeting on July 28, 2015 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 and welcomed everyone present. Commissioner Hooks gave the invocation.

Agenda Item # 3 – Invited Guests – John Kennebrew, Executive Director, Showcase

Group – Mr. John Kennebrew, Executive Director with the Showcase Group spoke to the Board regarding the new center that will be opening on Highway 100 north in the near future. Mr. Kennebrew explained that the Showcase Group is in the process of remodeling the old daycare on Highway 100 into a ten bedroom home for youths in the foster care system. He stated that a major need for youth placement has been identified in Heard County. He stated that these youth would have twenty four hour supervision, seven days a week, transportation to area events, and an opportunity to attend area church services. The youth would be referred through the Department of Family and Children Services instead of youth detention centers. The center will employ approximately thirty workers.

Joanna Warren, Georgia Forestry Commission – Mrs. Joanna Warren from Georgia Forestry Commission presented the Board with information on the types of services the Georgia Forestry offers to counties. She expressed that the forestry is always willing and able to help the county with any control burns or any other services they can help the County with.

Agenda Item # 4 – Public Comments – Rezoning Application, Jimmy & Terri Thomaston, 10 Knight Road, Franklin – Chairman Boone opened the public hearing and read the request from Jimmy and Terri Thomaston, 10 Knight Road, Franklin, to rezone 2 parcels of 6.62 acres which is a total of 13.24 acres, from rural development to general commercial in order to build a go-kart track. He stated that after reviewing the “standards for evaluating zoning request”, the Planning Commission made a recommendation to change the zoning classification with limitations on it as attached. Mrs. Thomaston asked the Board to consider approving this request. Adjoining landowner, James William Newman, owner of 48.3 acres across from the property, requested that the commercial zoning be denied since it is in an agricultural area. He stated this go-kart track if built, would diminish the value of his property.

There were no other public comments. After further discussion, on motion (Denney) and second (Caldwell), the Board unanimously voted to close the public hearing.

Agenda Item # 5 – Approval of Minutes - On motion (Hooks) and second (Denney), the Board unanimously approved the minutes from June 23, 2015 as presented.

Agenda Item # 6 – Amend Agenda – Commissioner Adams asked for an amendment to New Business to add item “e – Discuss Grading and Paving of Kirk Road”. On motion (Adams) and second (Caldwell), the Board unanimously approved this amendment.

Agenda Item # 6 – New Business – a. Discuss Courthouse Renovations – Kevin Hamby – Postponed.

b. Discuss Proposal from Norman Appraisal Services – Chairman Boone asked the Board to make a decision on whether or not to hire Norman Appraisals to continue re-evaluating property in Heard County. He reminded the Board that the county must stay in compliance with the Georgia Department of Revenue in order to set the millage rate. County Attorney,

Jerry Ann Conner stated that she has reviewed the Norman Appraisals contract and would like to change the contract to a one year contract and add the option to opt out of the contract at any time with a 30 day notice.

After further discussion, on motion (Denney) and second (Hooks), the Board voted 3 to 2 to approve the contract with Norman Appraisals for \$277,500.00 with the changes to the contract as noted above. Commissioner Denney, Hooks, and Hammond voted for the motion.

Commissioner Adams and Caldwell voted against the motion.

c. Decision on Rezoning Application – On motion (Denney) and second (Caldwell), the Board unanimously approved the rezoning application for Jimmy and Terri Thomaston with the conditions recommended by the planning commission affecting hours of operation, buffering zones, parking, noise levels, and security. (attached).

d. Discuss Project at Heard County Industrial Park – Chairman Boone stated that he and the Public Works Director, Darold Wiggins recently met with the Development Authority regarding site prep work at the industrial park on Highway 34 near the West Georgia Technical School building. He stated that the Development Authority has agreed to fund this project up to \$500,000.00 if the County will do the site prep work. On motion (Adams) and second (Denney), the Board unanimously voted to enter into a memorandum of understanding between the Development Authority and Heard County for the County road department to do this site prep work.

e. Discuss Grading and Paving of Kirk Road – Commissioner Adams stated that the grading and paving of Kirk Road was discussed in the past but there was one resident who was opposed to the paving. That resident is no longer living on Kirk Road. He asked if the County could proceed with the grading and paving of this road. Public Works Director, Darold Wiggins

stated that this road was not in his current pavement program and that the County does not have enough money to maintain their current paved roads and therefore he would recommend not paving anymore gravel roads at this time.

Agenda Item # 8 – Old Business – None.

Agenda Item # 9 – Public Comments – None.

Agenda Item # 10 – Executive Session – None.

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

Affidavit for approved minutes for July 28, 2015

Patty A. Giles
County Clerk

Lee Boone
Chairman

Date: 8-25-15