

**HEARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
DECEMBER 29, 2011 – 6:30 P.M.**

The Heard County Board of Commissioners held a Commissioners Meeting on December 29, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. in the courtroom of the Heard County Courthouse. In attendance at the meeting were Commission Chair June Jackson, District 1 Commissioner Karen Isenhower, District 2 Commissioner Jacob Cammon, District 3 Commissioner Gwen Caldwell, District 4 Commissioner Frank Crook, District 5 Commissioner Sandi Allen, and County Attorney Jerry Ann Conner. Commission Chair Jackson called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present. Mr. Morris Long, a guest in the audience, gave the invocation.

Agenda Item # 3 – Speaker – Mr. Matt Brass, Representative for Congressman Lynn

Westmoreland – Mr. Matt Brass, a representative for Congressman Lynn Westmoreland, introduced himself to the Board and explained his role as a liaison between Mr. Westmoreland and his constituents. He thanked the Board for having him and asked the Board to call him if there was ever anything he or Mr. Westmoreland can help the Board with.

Agenda Item # 4 –Approval of Minutes – On motion (Allen) and second (Crook), the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes from November 22, 2011 with changes.

Agenda Item # 5 – Amend Agenda – Commission Chair Jackson asked for an amendment to New Business to add “f” – Heard County Water Authority SPLOST Update from Jimmy Knight, Executive Director of the Water Authority. On motion (Caldwell) and second (Allen), the Board unanimously approved this request.

Commissioner Isenhower asked for an amendment to Old Business to add “b” – Discuss

Yellowdirt Cemetery. She stated she would like to know what Georgia Power has done about this issue. County Attorney, Jerry Ann Conner stated this is a private matter not a county matter. The motion died for a lack of a second. Commissioner Isenhower asked for an amendment to New Business to add “g” – Discuss Office Hours for Commissioners Office. On motion (Isenhower) and second (Cammon), this motion failed on a vote of 3 to 2. Commissioner Isenhower and Commissioner Cammon voted for the motion. Commissioner Crook, Commissioner Caldwell and Commissioner Allen voted against the motion.

Agenda Item # 6 – Public Comments – Commission Chair Jackson opened public comments and reviewed the public meeting rules and regulations, regarding public comments. There were no public comments.

Agenda Item # 7 – Old Business – a. Discuss Feasibility Study for Courthouse – Commission Chair Jackson stated that at the last meeting the Board asked her to get other price quotes on this service. She stated she did not feel that this would be fair to the company that has already given us a quote since everyone knows their price. She stated she would like to bring back to the Board a recommendation at a later date when Mr. Kevin Hamby can be present to discuss this also. All agreed.

Agenda Item # 8 – New Business – a. Approve Resolution for Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan – Ms. Sharon Caton, Project Planner with Plans & More, LLP addressed the Board regarding the pre-disaster mitigation plan. She explained that a public hearing was held at 5:00 p.m. today regarding this plan. She stated that the Board of Commissioners and the representatives from each city will need to approve the resolution stating they are accepting this plan. On motion (Crook) and second (Allen), the Board

unanimously approved this resolution and authorized Commission Chair Jackson to sign the resolution on behalf of the Board.

b. Discuss Economic Development – Mrs. Mary Cates – Mrs. Mary Cates, 845 Robinson Street, Franklin, Georgia 30217 addressed the Board regarding economic development in Heard County. She asked the Board and the Heard County Development Authority to devise a plan that would bring business back to the City of Ephesus.

c. Set Qualifying Fees for 2012 Election – Commission Chair Jackson presented a resolution to the Board that is required by law, setting the qualifying fees for the 2012 election. She read the resolution into the minutes. On motion (Caldwell) and second (Cammon), the Board unanimously approved the resolution.

d. Discuss Fire Inspections for the City of Franklin – Chief Scott Blue stated to the Board that the City of Franklin approached him about entering into an agreement with Heard County for his department to provide fire inspections on buildings within the city limits. He explained that he does provide fire inspections now for the City of Franklin but without an agreement he has no authority to enforce the inspections if anyone is found in violation. He recommended an agreement with the City of Franklin similar to the building inspection agreement the County now has in place with the City of Franklin. County Attorney, Jerry Ann Conner stated she would work on this agreement with Chief Blue. Commissioner Caldwell stated that he had no problem with Heard County providing this service as long as there is no additional personnel needed. Chief Blue stated there would not be any additional personnel needed. On motion (Caldwell) and second (Crook), the Board unanimously approved this request and gave permission to Commission Chair Jackson to sign the agreement.

e. Discuss Appointments to the Greater West Georgia Joint Development Authority

– Commission Chair Jackson stated that Mr. Emmett Harrod’s term and Mr. Morris Long’s term are ending on December 31, 2011 on the Greater West Georgia Joint Development Authority. The Heard County Development Authority as recommended that they both be reappointed for another two year term. On motion (Caldwell) and second (Allen), the Board voted 4 to 1 to approve these reappointments. Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Crook, Commissioner Cammon and Commissioner Allen voted for the motion. Commissioner Isenhower voted against the motion stating she felt it was a conflict of interest for Mr. Long to serve on this board since he is also a Board of Education member.

f. Heard County Water Authority SPLOST Update – Mr. Jimmy Knight, Executive Director, Heard County Water Authority

– Mr. Jimmy Knight, Executive Director of the Heard County Water Authority gave an update to the Board regarding the addition of a new water tower for the new industry, PPI, Inc., in the industrial park inside the City of Franklin. He explained that this business did not have enough water without a new water tank being built. He explained that the Development Authority received \$300,000 in grant money to help build this tank and the Water Authority is funding the remainder of the tank, \$380,000 with SPLOST monies and the Water Authority will be the owner of the tank when it is complete. He also stated that after speaking with Georgia Power regarding a lake at Plant Wansley, he found that this lake is not big enough to use as a potential reservoir for Heard County.

Agenda Item # 9 – Executive Session – None.

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