



MINUTES
FEBRUARY 14, 2023
6:00 P.M.

STEPHENS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING WAS HELD AT
THE STEPHENS COUNTY HISTORIC COURTHOUSE

PRESENT FOR MEETING: Chairman Dennis Bell, Vice-Chairman Tara Simmons, Commissioners Chris Rickman, Chuck Wright and Debbie Whitlock; County Administrator Christian Hamilton; County Clerk Samantha Turner; County Attorney Brian Ranck

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES

REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Bell called the regular meeting to order and welcomed those present. Mr. Teasley gave the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

I. APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Whitlock, seconded by Vice-Chairman Simmons, to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

II. APPROVE MINUTES

1. JANUARY 24, 2023 – PUBLIC HEARING, LAND USE AND REGULAR MEETING

A motion was made by Commissioner Rickman, seconded by Commissioner Wright, to approve the minutes. **Motion carried unanimously.**

III. OLD BUSINESS

1. Board to Consider Motion to Approve or Deny request from the Toccoa-Stephens County Humane Shelter for \$25,000 in supplemental funding.

Mr. Hamilton stated this item was discussed at an earlier meeting and also at the January work session. This is the second half of a \$50,000 request for the current fiscal year. Mr. Hamilton explains capital contingencies. Commissioners share with citizens their support of the shelter.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Simmons, seconded by Commissioner Rickman to approve the Toccoa-Stephens County Humane Shelter to partially fund the request for \$10,000 of the requested \$25,000 in supplemental funding. Chairman Bell, Vice-Chairman Simmons and Commissioner Rickman voted in favor. Commissioners Whitlock and Wright voted in opposition.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Board to Consider Motion** to deem items on Exhibit "B" as unserviceable surplus property and authorize staff to place surplus items on GovDeals and salvaged items to be sold as scrap and authorize Chairman to sign resolution.

Mr. Hamilton stated the Tax Assessor is clearing out old vehicles, a 2000 Ford Crown Victoria and a 2002 Ford Crown Victoria.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Simmons, seconded by Commissioner Whitlock to deem items on Exhibit "B" as unserviceable surplus property and authorize staff to place surplus items on GovDeals and salvaged items to be sold as scrap and authorize Chairman to sign resolution. **Motion carried unanimously.**

2. **Board to Consider Motion** to sign updated Business Associate Agreement with Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) and authorize Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Whitlock stated that she would like to discuss in the future what ACCG is and the money that is spent there.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Simmons, seconded by Commissioner Wright to sign updated Business Associate Agreement with Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) and authorize Chairman to sign. **Motion carried unanimously.**

3. **Board to Consider Motion** to allow Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield to release county plan information to Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) Group Health Benefits Program and authorize Chairman to sign.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Simmons, seconded by Commissioner Rickman to allow Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield to release county plan information to Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) Group Health Benefits Program and authorize Chairman to sign. **Motion carried unanimously.**

4. **Board to Consider Motion** to award the purchase of CRS-2H to Southeast Emulsions for the 2023 road work season and authorize Administrator to sign.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rickman, seconded by Commissioner Whitlock to award the purchase of CRS-2H to Southeast Emulsions for the 2023 road work season and authorize Administrator to sign. **Motion carried unanimously.**

5. **Board to Consider Motion** to approve the Local Road Activity (LRA) forms and authorize Chairman to sign letter to Georgia Department of Transportation.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Simmons, seconded by Commissioner Rickman to approve the Local Road Activity (LRA) forms and authorize Chairman to sign letter to Georgia Department of Transportation. **Motion carried unanimously.**

6. **Board to Consider Mid-year Budget Request** from Stephens County Board of Tax Assessors.

Christen Collier, Chief Appraiser with the Board of Assessors, shares his desire for a salary increase for his employees. He is losing employees to higher paying County positions, and is requesting this pay increase to be able to be more competitive with other positions in the County.

A motion was made by Commissioner Whitlock, seconded by Vice-Chairman Simmons to consider the mid-year budget request from the Stephens County Board of Tax Assessors for a \$2.49 per hour pay increase per employee with the exception of the Chief Appraiser, contingent upon all unallocated salary funds in FY23 be returned to the County should funds not be utilized. **Motion carried unanimously.**

7. **Board to Consider Motion** to sign Agreement with SAFEbuilt Georgia, LLC for as-needed Building Inspection and other Services and authorize Chairman to sign.

Mr. Hamilton and Commissioners explain why the desire for a change in building inspectors. Commissioners were receiving multiple complaints from citizens.

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Simmons, seconded by Commissioner Rickman to sign Agreement with SAFEbuilt Georgia, LLC for as-needed Building Inspection and other Services and authorize Chairman to sign. **Motion carried unanimously.**

V. INVOICES/REQUISITIONS OVER \$5,000

1. Henry T. Hayes Co. - \$17,960.00
2. Acree Oil Co. - \$13,699.92
3. Acree Oil Co. - \$13,119.34
4. Anderson Power Services - \$ 5,717.63
5. Akins Ford - \$67,937.00 (SPLOST VII)
6. Johnson Controls - \$23,220 (SPLOST)
7. Technology Upgrades - \$60,479.99
 - a. Quick Technologies, LLC - \$ 28,750.00
 - b. Tri-County Machines, Inc. - \$3,000.00
 - c. Dell Technologies - \$28,729.99
8. FireLine, Inc. - \$7,113.00
9. Peek Pavement Marking, Inc. - \$7,054.28
10. Affording Roofing & Construction, Inc. *
 - a. Health Dept. - \$36,210.73
 - b. DFACS - \$23,476.75
11. Martin Construction & Grading, Inc. - \$265,000.00

- 12. Landfill - \$7,313.00
- 13. Honor Code LLC - \$5,880

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Simmons, seconded by Commissioner Whitlock, to pay the invoices, with the exception being item# 10 for the purpose of additional discussion regarding this item. **Motion carried unanimously.**

VI. MATTERS FROM DEPARTMENTS

- 1. Administrator / Finance Report
- 2. Department Report
- 3. Commissioners Report:

Commissioner Whitlock shared with the citizens that she is asking questions so that they can understand the items that are being discussed.

Commissioner Rickman shared that we will soon have screens up in the courtroom so that we are able to share with everyone what the Commissioners are seeing in their agenda packets. Commissioner Rickman stated that he and Commissioner Wright visited the Eastanollee Volunteer Fire department to take a look at the facility, and also encouraged citizens to do the same. Commissioner Rickman encourages citizens to share their feedback with the Board.

Chairman Bell encouraged citizens to attend meetings and go by sites where public notice signs are posted.

VII. MATTERS FROM CITIZENS – TIME LIMIT OF THREE (3) MINUTES

Kevin brought to the Board a copy of the petition that has been signed by residents around 106 that are concerned about the duplex development discussed at a previous meeting. Kevin stated that residents in the area did not see the public notice sign after the first day it was put in place. Mr. Hamilton stated that the legal notice was filed at 47 days prior to the Board of Commissioners meeting as opposed to 45 days, and stated that those same properties will be on the agenda for the March Planning Commission meeting and again on the March 14th Board of Commissioners meeting.

Diane Brown who lives on 106 stated that she and some other area residents did not see the public notice sign that was placed.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Simmons, seconded by Commissioner Rickman to enter into executive session for real estate and personnel at 7:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Vice-chairman Simmons, seconded by Commissioner Rickman to adjourn executive session at 7:47 p.m.


IX. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Whitlock, seconded by Vice-Chairman Simmons, to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Approved this 28th day of February, 2023.



Dennis Bell, Chairman

Attest: 
Samantha Turner, County Clerk



Affidavit

Stephens County Board of Commissioners

Commissioners Bell, Ivester, Addison, Scarborough and Whitlock being duly sworn, state under oath that the following is true and accurate to the best of their knowledge and belief:

The Stephens County Board of Commissioners (the "Board") met in a duly called and advertised public meeting on the 14th day of February, 2023.

During the public meeting, the Board authorized an executive session pursuant to and in compliance with the provisions of O.C.G.A. 50-14-4.

The executive session was called to order at 7:00pm and adjourned at 7:47 pm

The subject matter of the executive session was devoted to the following matter(s) within the exceptions provided in the open meetings law (check each that applies):

Consultation with the County Attorney or other legal counsel to discuss pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the County or any officer or employee that may be directly involved as provided in O.C.G.A. 50-14-2 (1).

Discussion of tax matters confidential by state law as provided by O.C.G.A. 50-14-2 (2) and O.C.G.A. _____ (inserted is the citation to the legal authority making the tax matter confidential).

Discussion of the future acquisition of real estate as provided by O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (4).


Discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a county officer or employee as provided in O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 (6).

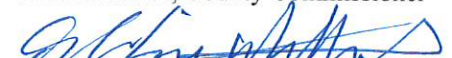
Other _____ (describe the exemption to the open meetings law): as provided in O.C.G.A. _____ (inserted is the citation to the legal authority exempting this topic).

This 14th day of February, 2023.



Dennis Bell, Chairman


Chris Rickman, County Commissioner


Tara Simmons, Vice-Chairman


Debbie Whitlock, County Commissioner


Chuck Wright, County Commissioner

Attest: 
Samantha Turner, County Clerk