

Hart County Board of Commissioners

February 11, 2020

6:00 p.m.

Hart County Board of Commissioners met February 11, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the Hart County Administrative & Emergency Services Center.

Chairman Joey Dorsey presided with Commissioners Frankie Teasley, Marshall Sayer and Ricky Carter in attendance. Commissioner R C Oglesby was absent.

1. Prayer

Prayer was offered by Chairman Dorsey.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone stood in observance of the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Call to Order

Chairman Dorsey called the meeting to order.

4. Welcome

Chairman Dorsey welcomed those in attendance.

5. Approve Agenda

Commissioner Teasley moved to amend and approve the meeting agenda to include item 12b) Contract Amendment-Corp of Engineers and item 15- real estate. Commissioner Carter provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

6. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

- 01/28/2020 Regular Meeting

Commissioner Carter moved to approve the minutes of January 28, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Teasley provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

7. Remarks By Invited Guests, Committees, Authorities

Frankie Gray, Clerk of Court

Northeast Georgia Animal Shelter Update

Clerk of Court Frankie Gray presented Ann Roedler and Judson Bailey plaques upon their retirement from the Board of Equalization.

Director of NEGAS Tammie Jourdanais presented the Animal Shelter's report for 2019; Hart County had a total of 905 animals surrendered; 203 surrendered by Animal Control; 702 surrendered by citizens; 84% were saved through adoptions and rescue.

Donna Madkiff from the Humane Society encouraged everyone with animals to be more responsible; and ask the BOC to consider including cats in the Animal Control Ordinance.

8. Reports by Constitutional Officers & Department Heads

County Attorney Walter Gordon commended Public Safety and Public Works employees for their efforts repairing damaged roads during the recent flash floods and thanked County Administrator Terrell Partain for his leadership.

9. County Administrator's Report

County Administrator Partain reported a total of nine pipes were blown out as a result of the flash floods; Road crews worked through Friday repairing roads; announced a meeting with DOT @ Carnesville 2/26/2020 10:30 – 12:00; and weather conditions/road closure information is posted on Hart County Emergency Services Facebook page.

10. Chairman's Report January Financial Report

Commissioner Dorsey commended Road Department employees for working during the rain and long hours; offered condolences to the family of Police Chief of Franklin Springs John Thomas; reported the CodeRed alert system is a good tool to have during storms or other emergency related issues; and presented the General Fund Financial Report.

11. Commissioners' Reports

Commissioners Teasley, Sayer and Carter echoed the efforts of Public Safety and Public Works employees during the recent storms.

12. Old Business

a) Voter Registration budget Amendment for New Voting Machine Equipment/Supplies

Commissioner Sayer moved to cover overages from the contingency funds for new voting machine equipment/supplies. Commissioner Carter provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

b) Contract Amendment – Corp of Engineers

County Administrator Partain explained the Corp of Engineers requested combining Long Point Campground, Milltown Campground, Bradberry, Rocky Ford, Reed Creek Boat ramps into one contract which will expire at the same time.

Commissioner Teasley moved to approve the Corp of Engineers Contract Amendment to combine Long Point Campground, Milltown Campground, Bradberry, Rocky Ford, and Reed Creek Boats ramps into one contract. Commissioner Carter provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

13. New Business

a) Beer and wine license (class B) Application, Destiny Corporation of South Carolina, DBS Reed Creek General Store, 231 Reed Creek School Rd. Hartwell, GA

Commissioner Sayer moved to deny the Beer and Wine License Application as per the distance requirements established in the county ordinance to a church. Commissioner Teasley provided a second to the motion.

Chairman Dorsey explained the county ordinance is clear in regards to the distance requirements, other applicants have been denied; Maxsaver modified the entrance to meet the requirement. The Sonoco Station on Reed Creek Highway is in the city limits of Hartwell.

Commissioner Carter stated the ordinance is thirty-five years old and needs to be upgraded.

Applicant Arthur Gast stated the reason he applied for a beer and wine license was to get an even playing field; he didn't know any other convenience store that cannot sale beer and wine because of the proximity to a school or church; he presented a petition signed by 760 individuals in favor of the sale of beer and wine at the location.

Residents Alan Brown spoke in favor of the sale of beer and wine at the location and requested a variance or change in the ordinance.

Jerry Hanneken offered support for the sale of beer and wine; the store is convenient and has a friendly staff. He asked the BOC to review the ordinance.

Mr. Gast asked about the logic for issuing a license to Airline Store and the proximity to a school. Chairman Dorsey responded it is not a functioning school.

Chairman Dorsey called for the vote. Motion carried 4-0.

b) Pay scale Adjustment Clerk of Court Office

Clerk of Court Frankie Gray requested employee Ginger Pitt's pay grade be adjusted according to her responsibilities and knowledge in the office.

Commissioner Sayer moved to approve the Clerk of Court's request on behalf of Ginger Benton. Commissioner Teasley provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

c) Homestead Exemption for Age 65 and Older Discussion

Chairman Dorsey reported neighboring counties are considering increasing the homestead exemption for senior citizens; this issue would need to be considered this month go before the legislatures then placed on the ballot for November's election.

County Administrator Partain will review the impact on the county and report back to the Board.

No action was taken.

d) Bowersville Road Patching Assistance Discussion

Commissioner Sayer moved to provide road patching assistance to the Town of Bowersville. Commissioner Carter provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

e) Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission, Board of Elections Memorandum of Agreement Approval

Commissioner Carter moved to approve the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Memorandum of Agreement with the Board of Elections. Commissioner Sayer provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

f) February 6, 2020 Local State of Emergency Full Board Ratification

Commissioner Carter moved to ratify the Local State of Emergency dated February 6, 2020. Commissioner Teasley provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

14. Public Comment

None

15. Executive Session – litigation/personnel/real estate

Commissioner Sayer moved to exit into Executive Session to discuss litigation, personnel and real estate matters. Commissioner Teasley provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Upon exiting Executive Session, Commissioner Teasley moved to reconvene the regular meeting session. Commissioner Sayer provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

16. Adjournment

Commissioner Carter moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Teasley provided a second to the motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Joey Dorsey, Chairman

Lawana Kahn, County Clerk