

Twiggs County Board of Commissioners
Regular Scheduled Meeting
February 6, 2018
9:00 am

Present: Chairman Ken Fowler, Commissioners Brent DuBois, Steve Birdsong, William Bond, and Lonnie Ford

Also, present: County Administrator Kelvin Lewis

Call to Order: Chairman Fowler called the meeting to order

Pledge of Allegiance: Chairman Fowler led the Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation: Mr. Eddie Stephens led in Prayer

Public Comments:

Chairman Fowler asked if we had received the U.S. flag and the State of Georgia flag from Rep. Epps. Administrator Lewis advised they have not been received by the BOC office as of today.

Commissioner DuBois asked for any updates from Judy Sherling on the Economic Development Authority.

Mrs. Sherling advised the Board that there were several dates on the calendar including a meeting Thursday at the EDA office and then the 28th we will be doing a Twiggs Leadership Retreat at the EDA office from 10:00 am. to 4:00 pm. The Regional Development Commission will be facilitating and will include lunch. It will be an annual event. It was held in Macon last year but will be held here this year. The main theme will be rebranding our city and our county to be more positively seen by the state and most importantly the business area to bring more commerce into our county.

Administrator Lewis asked Mrs. Sherling to send these dates to him in an Outlook invitation and he will pass them onto the Commissioners as Outlook invitations.

Commissioner DuBois asked about the Early Warning testing on Wednesday, February 14th at 12:00 pm. Administrator Lewis elaborated on the date, time and gave the location as the water tower here in the city. He is also looking into a system called Code Red, which is an early warning system. He advised the 14th will be the first step in the route to an early warning system for the entire county and we are looking into several different avenues to keep the citizens informed.

Administrator Lewis asked the Twiggs Times to put an article in the paper advising the citizens of the date and time of the test.

Approval of the Agenda:

- a. Fire Station Consolidation Resolution
- b. New Tag and Titling System
- c. Online Property Auctions
- d. Logo Contest
- e. DFACS Building Testing
- f. DFACS Board Appointment (District 2)
- g. Election Board Reappointments
- h. Library Board Appointment (District 1)

Commissioner DuBois made a motion to approve the Agenda as stated. Motion was second by Commissioner Ford. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

New Business:

Fire Station Consolidation Resolution

Administrator Lewis explained the need for a consolidated Fire Department. This will improve the systems and the chain of command and also improve how we are recognized throughout the state. This action requires the Board to pass a Resolution. The Resolution has been reviewed by Kerry Howell, County Attorney.

Commissioner Ford made a motion to approve the Resolution to consolidate the separate Fire Departments into one known as the Twiggs County Fire/Rescue Department. Motion second by Commissioner DuBois. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

New Tag and Titling System

Administrator Lewis advised the State of Georgia has sent out a notification to the Tax Commissioners advising they will be conducting a feasibility study on the network connectivity requirements for each county prior to implementing a new system. Tax Commissioner NeSmith gave a high-level overview of the memo he received from the State. The State did not appropriate funds for this equipment and is asking the counties to pay for this equipment from their funds. Tax Commissioner NeSmith is recommending the Board contact the Legislature and Representatives and ask them to appropriate the funds to implement the new, required system to process tags and titles at the county level on behalf of the state. Tax Commissioner NeSmith advised he would keep the Board updated on the cost of the new system.

Commissioner DuBois made a motion that the Board draft a Resolution to send to all elected officials lobbying for State funds to pay for this update. Motion was second by Commissioner Bond. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Online Property Auctions

Administrator Lewis advised the Board he had worked with his staff to get together a list of properties and we were talking a little about what would be the most effective way to get these out into the public. An online property auctions group, that had worked with the county before, is interested in posting these properties after the Board has decided what you want posted so that we can get them out to the public with the hopes of liquidating them and getting them back on the tax digest. Our goal would be at our next meeting to decide which properties you want listed and get them out there on the web. I just wanted to get your reaction to that. One of our volunteer fire personnel is closely involved with this group.

Commissioner Bond made a motion to proceed with compiling a list of properties and review at the next meeting. Commissioner Bond asked that adequate signs be put on these properties. No second and no vote taken.

Logo Contest

Administrator Lewis gave an update on the efforts to create a Logo for the county. About 8 weeks ago we supplied a draft to you and Commissioner Ford suggested we have a contest with the local schools and accept submissions from them. Presented are four entries for your review. After discussion from the entire Board it was decided to award the prize monies between the two entrants and then submit them to the Regional Commission for their input.

Commissioner Ford made a motion to divide the award by the number of applicants, second by Chairman Fowler. Motion passed by unanimous vote. Administrator Lewis will advise the two entrants that components from both entries will be considered in the final logo decision. Administrator Lewis will give the Board an update at the next meeting.

DFACS Building Testing

Administrator Lewis updated the Board on the testing conducted at the DFACS building. We are expecting to get the results back in the next few weeks. The company that conducted the testing expressed to Administrator Lewis that they were surprised that the requested testing was being asked for due to the cleanliness, and overall appearance of the building. Chairman Fowler asked about the legality of discontinuing the funding to DFACS. Administrator Lewis stated that the Board had the ability to discontinue funding but given the opinion of the Board at the last meeting you wanted to wait until you had a legal opinion. Attorney Howell will be at the February 23rd meeting but from a legal stand point there was no reason. What I heard from the Board from an image standpoint if this was something you wanted to do. Commissioner DuBois asked Mrs. Shurling if she had any input into this issue and if she knew what their intentions were. Mrs. Shurling stated their intentions were to get back in the building and they have very specific needs and I think they were quite used to calling on the County Road Department as their personal maintenance department and that I am not their maintenance department and they are ready to get back into the building. They don't have their WIFI and they are ready to have that. So, the sooner they can get back in the building the sooner they can get their system back up. The issue you are dealing with now is not DFACS at the local level but the State Properties Commission and they are very, very specific about their requirements. They are very detailed at the State level. Administrator Lewis stated he has had no correspondence from the local level concerning the ability to move. Mrs. Shurling advised the lease is through the State and the local DFACS subleases it from the State.

DFACS Board Appointment (District 2)

Administrator Lewis updated the Board on the need for an appointment to the DFACS Board. This position has been vacant for some time. Commissioner Ford asked about the term limits for the DFACS Board. Administrator Lewis is in the process of compiling a list of the numerous boards and their members and terms. Commissioner DuBois nominated Mrs. Faye Bridges to the DFACS Board. Motion second by Chairman Fowler. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Election Board Reappointments

Administrator Lewis updated the Board on the request from Debra Stephens, Election Superintendent, to reinstate Luella Redd and Gene Brooks to serve on the Board of Elections beginning January 1, 2019 thru December 30, 2022.

Commissioner Bond made a motion to reappoint Mrs. Luella Redd, Commissioner Birdsong made a motion to reappoint Mr. Gene Brooks to the Board of Elections for the term of January 1, 2019 thru December 30, 2022. Motions second by Chairman Fowler. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Library Board Appointment (District 1)

Administrator Lewis advised the Board that there was a vacancy on the Library Board due to the death of Mrs. Merle Arnold.

Commissioner Ford stated he had been in touch with Mrs. Evelyn Taylor and she said she would get back with me. I would like to table this until the next meeting.

Minutes:

The corrected minutes from January 9, 2018 and the minutes from the January 23, 2018 meeting were presented for approval.

Commissioner DuBois made a motion to approve the corrected minutes from January 9, 2018, motion second by Chairman Fowler. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Commissioner Ford made a motion to approve the minutes from January 23, 2018. Motion second by Commissioner DuBois. Motion passed by vote of 4 yes (Ford, DuBois, Birdsong, Fowler) Bond – Abstain

Old Business:

Commissioner DuBois asked Administrator Lewis if the issues with the Sheriff's office vehicles had been resolved. Administrator Lewis advised they had been worked out.

Commissioner Birdsong asked about the convenience centers. Administrator Lewis advised this would be in Executive Session under personnel.

Commissioner Bond made a motion to add a metal safety railing around three sides of the ramp at the roll off dumpsters. This should be 3 feet tall to prevent someone from falling off the elevated platform when dumping trash. The Road Department could weld this. Commissioner Ford second the motion. Motion carried by 4 yes (Ford, Bond, Birdsong, DuBois), 1 No (Fowler).

Administrator Lewis advised the Board that the cameras are being reviewed and repositioned to be able to see the needed information. Sheriff Mitchum is investigating some things and it is taking time for due process.

Executive Session

Commissioner DuBois made a motion to go into Executive Session for personnel, legal and real estate. Motion second by Commissioner Birdsong. Motion passed by unanimous vote. Time out 10:27 am.

Commissioner Birdsong made a motion to return to Regular Session. Motion second by Commissioner Bond. Motion passed by unanimous vote. Time in 11: 26 am.

Public Comments:

Commissioner Bond asked Mr. Monte Bloodworth from P&Z if it would be permissible to push a house down and burn it to clean up the area. Mr. Bloodworth advised he would need to contact the Forestry Commission for a burn permit. Mr. Ezra Wyche also advised he would need to contact EPD for any restrictions on burning shingles and other contaminants.

Commissioner Bond stated the county had several locations that are in an uninhabitable state. Would P&Z govern any of this? Mr. Bloodworth advised he would need to get a demolition permit and then after that I would let the Assessors Office know to take it off the digest.

Commissioner Bond asked if the utilities were required to get a permit before they dig on the right of way? This is affecting our ability to pull a ditch and clean dirt off the side of the road.

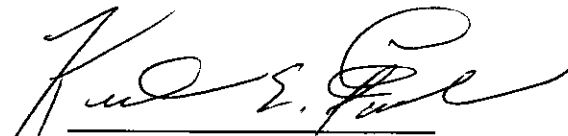
Mrs. Judy Sherling stated there should already be a Utility Easement.


Larry Thompson, Road Superintendent advised once there is a Utility Easement it will always be in place and it covers anything.

Adjourn:

Motion was made by Commissioner Ford to adjourn with second by Commissioner Birdsong. Motion passed with unanimous vote.

Minutes approved February 20, 2018


Kenneth E. Fowler, Chairman


Kelvin C. Lewis, Administrator