

MINUTES
CALLED MEETING OF THE
COLQUITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2015
5:00 o'clock p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 5:00 o'clock p.m. by Chairman Terry R. Clark. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss pending litigation. The meeting was duly called and advertised.

PRESENT: Those present were Commissioners Luke Strong, Marc DeMott, Donna Herndon, Johnny Hardin, Chairman Terry R. Clark, County Administrator Chas Cannon and County Clerk Melissa Lawson.

ALSO PRESENT: Duke R. Groover and William P. Horkan, legal counsel with the law firm James, Bates, Brannan, and Groover, LLP.

ABSENT: Commissioner Winfred Giddens and Commissioner Paul Nagy.

INTRODUCTION: At this time, Mr. Cannon introduced Duke R. Groover and William P. Horkan, legal counsel with the law firm James, Bates, Brannan, & Groover, LLP. Mr. Cannon stated that Mr. Groover and Mr. Horkan were recommended by Lester Castellow, County Attorney, for the board's consideration as legal representation concerning the suit filed against the county by Lynn Lasseter/Northlake, LLC.

Mr. Groover introduced himself and briefly discussed his overall experience involving governmental litigation. Mr. Groover stated that he had collaborated with Mr. Castellow on previous cases and further stated that he appreciated the recommendation and the opportunity to represent the county.

Mr. Horkan introduced himself, stating that he was raised in Moultrie/Colquitt County and looked forward to assisting the county in any way possible.

MOTION TO APPROVE DUKE R. GROOVER AND WILLIAM P. HORKAN AS LEGAL REPRESENTATION: Commissioner Hardin made the motion to approve Duke R. Groover and William P. Horkan as the county's legal representation regarding the law suit filed by Lynn Lasseter/Northlake, LLC. Commissioner DeMott made a second. The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Commissioner Strong made the motion at 5:07 p.m. to go into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation. Commissioner Hardin made a second. The motion carried unanimously. (An affidavit, as required by Georgia Law, was executed by all Board members present stating under oath that the subject matter of the closed meeting was devoted to matters within the exception provided by law and identified the specific relevant exception as provided by law. The affidavit is hereby made a portion of the minutes by reference thereto.)

REGULAR SESSION: Commissioner DeMott made the motion at 6:04 p.m. to reconvene into regular session. Commissioner Hardin made a second. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Cannon informed the board that agenda packets for the July Board Meeting were available for pickup.

Mr. Cannon stated that two citizens, Tim Barber and Dorothy McCranie, had requested to be placed upon the agenda for the purpose of addressing the commission.

RECREATION DISCUSSION: Mr. Cannon stated that he anticipated substantial attendance at the meeting due to the reduction in funding to the Parks and Recreation program.

Discussion ensued regarding the Parks and Recreation program.

Mr. Cannon stated that he would continue to work with the City of Moultrie in order to find an equitable solution.

Commissioner Hardin stated there was a misconception that the county was not providing any sort of funding to the program.

Commissioner Herndon mentioned recent correspondence generated by Terry Peek, Recreation Director with the City of Moultrie.

Commissioner Hardin stated that the county simply requested specific participation information pertaining to the recreation program.

Mr. Cannon proposed that the City of Moultrie be allowed to retain the amount equal to the county's reduction in funding during the annual "true-up" of costs, in exchange for the implementation of requested changes and an overall streamlining of the Parks and Recreation program.

Mr. Cannon stated that county participation in the recreation program has decreased over the last several years, but declared that funding has remained the same.

Commissioner Herndon stated that she had received several calls and asked if she should instruct these individuals to attend the board meeting.

Mr. Cannon stressed the need to keep discussions with the City of Moultrie professional. He also stated that the county has presented the City with many problems, and should also be presenting them with potential solutions to those problems.

Mr. Cannon stated that even with the reduction in funding to the Parks and Recreation program, the Special Service District still required a slight millage increase, and the use of reserves, in order to fund operations.

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Commissioner Herndon stated that she did not desire a rift between the county and the city.

Commissioner Hardin agreed, stating that both parties should work together towards reaching an equitable solution to a common goal.

KEY DATES: Mr. Cannon reviewed a list of key, upcoming dates with the board.

Mr. Cannon briefly discussed a meeting sponsored by the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) on July 30th, with the Georgia Department of Corrections, regarding county prisons. Mr. Cannon stated this was a positive step towards an increase in state reimbursement costs for housing inmates at the county prison.

Mr. Cannon stated that he would also continue to work with Bill Acuff and the State Properties Commission regarding waiver of the annual leasing payments for the County Prison.

Mr. Cannon stated that he had also instructed Warden Billy Howell to devise ways in which to generate additional revenue via the use of inmate labor.

Mr. Cannon reminded the board that the 2% Cost of Living Adjustment granted to employees would be reflected upon the next payroll generated by the county.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry R. Clark
Chairman

Melissa Lawson
County Clerk

Approved:

AFFIDAVIT

This is to certify that the Colquitt County Board of Commissioners held an Executive Session Meeting (closed meeting) on July 1, 2015, at 5:07 o'clock a.m./p.m. The majority of the quorum present voted in the open meeting to go into Executive Session (closed meeting). The subject matter discussed was applicable under the following code section(s):

O.C.G.A. 50-14-2(1) - Consultation with an attorney regarding pending or potential legal action.

O.C.G.A. 50-14-3(4) - Discussion of future acquisition of real estate. (Notice was given as required and minutes taken.)

O.C.G.A. 50-14-3(6) - Discussion of personnel matters.

I further certify that the subject matter of the Executive Session (closed meeting) was devoted to matters within the exception provided by law and the above checked identifies the specific relevant exception.

This 1st day of July, 2015.

Terry Clark
Terry Clark, Chairman

Luke Strong
Luke Strong, Commissioner

Winfred Giddens
Winfred Giddens, Commissioner

Marc DeMott
Marc DeMott, Commissioner

Donna Herndon
Donna Herndon, Commissioner

Paul Nagy
Paul Nagy, Commissioner

Johnny Hardin
Johnny Hardin, Commissioner

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 1st day of July, 2015.

Melissa Lawson
County Clerk or Notary Public
My Commission Expires: _____

