

**GORDON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 5, 2013**

The Gordon County Board of Commissioners held a Work Session Tuesday, February 5, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Administration Building.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**BECKY HOOD, CHAIRMAN  
CHAD STEWARD, VICE CHAIRMAN  
NORRIS SEXTON, COMMISSIONER  
JEFF GAZAWAY, COMMISSIONER  
KEVIN CUNNINGHAM, COMMISSIONER**

**OTHERS PRESENT**

**RANDALL DOWLING, ADMINISTRATOR  
SUZANNE SMITH, COUNTY ATTORNEY  
ANNETTE BERRY, COUNTY CLERK  
MEDIA  
25 GUESTS**

Chairman Hood called the meeting to order.

Richard Cooper, Emergency Management Director for Gordon County, spoke to the Board and gave a brief update on the latest disaster relief and volunteer information affecting the citizens impacted by the recent tornado. Departments of Gordon County and other outside agencies and Sonora School were acknowledged and thanked for their help and support in assisting in the disaster relief.

Mr. Ed Weldon with the Gordon County Library Board and Mr. Jack Killian, the architect for the library expansion project came before the Board and presented the floor plan and talked about the timetable for the project.

Lusk & Company representatives, the contractor designing and constructing the proposed Agriculture Center, came before the Board to present the site plan and the floor plan and spoke about the timetable for the project. Board members were pleased with Lusk & Company's rendition of the building.

Following a discussion concerning a request from James Carver, Coroner, asking the Board to send a letter to the State Legislature in support of his request for a raise in compensation for himself and his assistants, there was a consensus of the Board to deny the request for a letter of support.

Mr. Tom Burgess, Director of the Building Inspection Department, came before the Board for clarification from the Board regarding waiving permit fees for damage to their home due to the recent tornado. The Board discussed the approval for waiving the fees and the time allotted to allow the waiver. There was a consensus of the Board to allow waiving the permit fees for a 30-day period initially and then the Board would consider an extension after the first 30 days. Mr. Burgess also asked the Board to consider allowing citizens who were not able to live in their damaged homes while repair work or rebuilding was done to be able to live in temporary mobile homes or campers on the property until they were able to move back into their homes. There was a consensus of the Board to allow temporary mobile homes or campers for a period of 90 days.

County Administrator Dowling discussed with the Board the County's policy of the County Public Works Department cleaning up the right-of-way of limbs and trees that littered the right-of-way on numerous roads in the County due to the recent tornado. Complaints were coming in from citizens wanting to clear their whole property and put the debris on the right-of-way for pickup by the County. Administrator Dowling advised that the County was clearing the right-of-way one day and then coming back later and more debris had been moved onto the right-of-way. There was a consensus of the Board to have the Public Works Department to clear the right-of-way and then post a letter on the property advising that this would be the only time the right-of-way would be cleared and advising not to move any more debris onto the right-of-way.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

**GORDON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 5, 2013**

The Gordon County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, February 5, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Administration Building.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**BECKY HOOD, CHAIRMAN  
CHAD STEWARD, VICE CHAIRMAN  
KEVIN CUNNINGHAM, COMMISSIONER  
NORRIS SEXTON, COMMISSIONER  
JEFF GAZAWAY, COMMISSIONER**

**OTHERS PRESENT**

**RANDALL DOWLING, ADMINISTRATOR  
SUZANNE SMITH, COUNTY ATTORNEY  
ANNETTE BERRY, COUNTY CLERK  
MEDIA  
APPROXIMATELY 20 GUESTS**

Chairman Hood called the meeting to order.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Invocation was led by Rev. John Allen. The pledge of allegiance was led by Chairman Hood.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**

Chairman Hood read the list of employees with anniversary hire dates in the month of February and Commissioner Cunningham drew the name of Richard Cooper with Emergency Management as Employee of the Month.

**PUBLIC HEARING – Abandonment of Roads**

Commissioner Cunningham made a motion to go into the public hearing. Commissioner Gazaway seconded the motion and all voted aye.

County Attorney Smith advised that this is the public hearing for the abandonment of Linda Lane and a portion of East May Street from Linda Lane to Peters Street. The notice was run in the Calhoun Times and County Attorney Smith read the notice that was run in the paper (copy attached). The property owners were identified according to the property records of Gordon County and each was sent a letter advising of the public hearing. County Attorney asked if there was anyone in attendance that wished to speak during the public hearing.

No one came before the Board to speak at the public hearing.

Commissioner Cunningham made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Steward seconded the motion and all voted aye. Public hearing closed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Hood asked if there were any additions, omissions, or deletions to the Minutes for the Work Session January 15, 2013, and the Regular Meeting January 15, 2013. Commissioner Gazaway made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Steward seconded the motion and all voted aye. Minutes approved.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Administrator Dowling read the report.

**COMMISSIONERS' REPORT**

Commissioner Gazaway gave a report on his attendance at the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission Meeting and advised that he had also attended the Existing Industries meeting, and the Community and Government Affairs meeting. Commissioner Cunningham gave a report on his attendance at the Historical Society meeting. Commissioner Sexton commented about

attending the recent ACCG Capitol Connection Conference, and hearing about the need to have extra security at the Tax Commissioner's office when the new vehicle tax comes into effect. He also commented about serious consideration for mental health needs being serviced at the mental health facility.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – GERMANE TO THE AGENDA**

None

**CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS**

None

**CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS**

**CONSIDERATION OF ABANDONING LINDA LANE AND THAT PORTION OF EAST MAY STREET FROM LINDA LANE TO PETERS STREET**

County Attorney Smith advised that this is for the Board's consideration of abandoning the roads as covered in the public hearing. She also advised that there has been a change in the law; it now requires a Certification of Abandonment. County Attorney Smith read the document into the records.

Commissioner Steward made a motion to approve abandoning these roads and approving the Certification of Abandonment. Commissioner Cunningham seconded the motion and Commissioners Cunningham, Gazaway, Steward and Sexton voted aye. Motion passed.

**APPOINTMENT TO THE LIMESTONE VALLEY RC&D FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2014**

County Administrator Dowling advised that this is an appointment to the Limestone Valley RC&D for a two year term ending December 31, 2014 for Sara Clark.

Commissioner Cunningham made a motion to approve the appointment of Sara Clark to the Limestone Valley RC&D. Commissioner Steward seconded the motion and Commissioners Steward, Cunningham, Gazaway, and Sexton voted aye. Motion passed.

**CONTRACT FOR THE 5311 VAN PROGRAM WITH GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

County Administrator Dowling advised the Board that is an annual contract with the Georgia DOT for the 5311 Van Program. Beginning this year the DOT will fund the program in the amount of \$114,517.

Commissioner Steward made a motion to approve the contract. Commissioner Gazaway seconded the motion and Commissioners Steward, Cunningham, Sexton and Gazaway voted aye. Motion passed.

**CONSIDERATION OF WAIVING PERMIT FEES FOR A 30-DAY PERIOD FOR STORM DAMAGED HOMES**

County Attorney Smith advised the Board that this is consideration by the Board following a presentation given by the Chief Building Official, Tom Burgess. The request to the Board is to approve a waiver of the building permit fee on storm damaged homes for a 30-day period. Additional time may be considered after the first 30-day period.

Commissioner Steward made a motion to approve waiving the building permit fee for a 30-day period. Commissioner Gazaway seconded the motion and Commissioners Steward, Cunningham, Gazaway, and Sexton voted aye. Motion passed.

**CONSIDERATION OF WAIVER OF ORDINANCE PROVISION CONCERNING CAMPER, RV, OR MOBILE HOMES USED FOR TEMPORARY HOUSING ON STORM DAMAGED PROPERTY**

County Attorney Smith advised the Board that this is consideration by the Board following the presentation by the Chief Building Official, Tom Burgess for the Board to allow a waiver of the ordinance. The zoning ordinance currently provides that you cannot live in a camper or RV on a building site during construction unless you are the person building it and going to be living there. This waiver would allow for relief for some of the homeowners allowing them to remain on the site on a temporary basis during the storm rebuilding for a period of 90 days.

Commissioner Gazaway made a motion to approve the waiver. Commissioner Steward seconded the motion and Commissioners Steward, Gazaway, Cunningham, and Sexton voted aye. Motion passed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Steward made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Cunningham seconded the motion and all voted aye. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

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Annette Berry, County Clerk

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Becky Hood, Chairman

**GORDON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 9, 2013**

The Gordon County Board of Commissioners held a Special Meeting at their retreat on February 9, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. at the Amicalola Park Conference Center.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**BECKY HOOD, CHAIRMAN  
CHAD STEWARD, VICE-CHAIRMAN  
JEFF GAZAWAY, COMMISSIONER  
KEVIN CUNNINGHAM, COMMISSIONER  
NORRIS SEXTON, COMMISSIONER**

**OTHERS PRESENT**

**RANDY DOWLING, COUNTY ADMINIST.  
SUZANNE HUTCHINSON, CTY. ATTY.  
ANNETTE BERRY, COUNTY CLERK  
DAVE WILLS, ACCG MODERATOR**

Chairman Hood called the meeting to order.

Mr. Dave Wills, Moderator from ACCG, opened the meeting by advising the Board of the "roll of the Board", which is primarily - setting policy. Dave advised that the Board should not worry too much about the day-to-day stuff, that's your County Administrator's responsibility. Your most important policy that you produce is your budget. It is a policy document, you put money where your priorities are and establish a level of service that you want to provide to your citizens.

The Moderator talked about the roll of the County Administrator.

The Moderator asked the County Clerk and the County Attorney to talk about their roll with the County.

The County Clerk gave a synopsis of the duties she is responsible for.

The County Attorney gave a synopsis of the duties she is responsible for. The County Attorney talked about the open meetings and open records laws. The County Attorney suggested that the County Clerk be appointed as the Open Records Officer. There was a consensus of the Board to have that added to the Agenda for the next Regular Meeting.

The County Administrator talked about the Budget and the budget calendar coming up starting in March. The upcoming budget expense issues of concern were discussed, such as health insurance costs, budget amendments, salary increases, funding operations of the Resaca Battlefield State Park, and storm costs.

The Board looked at the 5 year plan and the scheduled SPLOST projects, in particular the renovation of the courthouse. Plans were discussed to use the SPLOST money set aside for the courthouse and annex renovations to build courtrooms on to the annex building and do renovations to the courthouse and use it for the other departments currently in the courthouse.

The Board discussed items they want to consider accomplishing other than the 5 year plan, such as being involved in the choice of new Chamber personnel, exchanging the 911 building by looking into swapping the old GPS building for the 911 building, hotel motel tax, and annexing islands of the county into the city.

Commissioner Steward made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Cunningham seconded and all voted aye.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

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Annette Berry, County Clerk

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Becky Hood, Chairman