

**GORDON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION MINUTES
JANUARY 6, 2015**

The Gordon County Board of Commissioners held a Work Session Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in the conference room of the Administration building.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

**JOHN KING, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
JIM LEDBETTER, COUNTY ATTORNEY
ANNETTE BERRY, COUNTY CLERK
MEDIA
30 GUESTS**

County Attorney Ledbetter called the meeting to order.

Attorney Ledbetter introduced Ms. Savannah Cronnon, candidate for Junior Mayor of Gordon County. Savannah is an 8th grade student at Sonoraville Middle School and she is running for Junior Mayor of Gordon County. Ledbetter announced that Savannah will lead the pledge of allegiance at the Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting tonight.

The Board discussed the agenda items for the Regular Meeting and made no changes or additions. One item was removed from the agenda as explained by Administrator King later in the meeting.

Attorney Ledbetter commented on the item for the Contract for the Fire Station at Redbud and advised that the fixed sum is for about \$1,500,000 with a contingency of about \$66,000. The contract starts January 15, 2015 and the fire station is to be built by August 15, 2015.

Administrator King advised that the item to provide 5311 van drivers with mobile communication devices is required by new safety requirements. This would have required a budget amendment, however, because of the lower price of gasoline the cost of the overall program has been reduced allowing for purchase of these devices without a budget amendment. This item was removed from the agenda

Attorney Ledbetter advised that the item for the Agreement for a Hazard Mitigation Assistant grant is for the Chairman's signature allowing the grant funding to be awarded to our Gordon County Emergency Management for the update of our Hazard Mitigation plan.

Attorney Ledbetter advised that a private citizen had requested to speak to the Board, the attorney called Mr. Ricky E. Smith to come and speak to the Board about his concerns with chicken houses and the ordinance. Mr. Smith was not in attendance.

Administrator King spoke to the Board about the data that he had gathered for the Board for their consideration in amending the ULDC regarding chicken houses. King advised that Gordon County issued 58 permits for poultry houses in 2013, in 2014, 41 permits were issued. Some of the surrounding counties reported that their number of permits were substantially lower. Some of the concerns that had been brought up by citizens was phosphorous in ground water.

Attorney Ledbetter spoke about the ordinance and advised that some of the surrounding counties had less restrictive ordinances concerning poultry houses. It is not necessarily that Gordon County has a liberal ordinance regarding distances and setbacks, there are other factors apparently driving the number of applications for chicken houses in Gordon County. This is a very important issue and this information and data is to help the Board with their decision about the ordinance. More information will be forthcoming from the County Cooperative Extension office.

The Board then discussed a possible retreat for the Board members and a date of March 6 was discussed.

Commissioner Cunningham made a motion to close the Work Session. Commissioner Sexton seconded the motion and all voted aye. There being no further business the Work Session adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Annette Berry, County Clerk

Becky Hood, Chairman

**GORDON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 6, 2015**

The Gordon County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, January 6, 2015, 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

**JOHN KING, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
JIM LEDBETTER, COUNTY ATTORNEY
ANNETTE BERRY, COUNTY CLERK
MEDIA
20 GUESTS**

Attorney Ledbetter called the meeting to order and advised that he would lead the meeting until a Chairman is elected.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Invocation was led by Rev. John Allen. The pledge of allegiance was led by Ms. Savannah Cronnon, a Sonoraville eighth grade student.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN FOR 2015-2016

Attorney Ledbetter advised that the first item on the agenda for tonight is the election of the Chairman and Vice Chairman for the term of 2015-2016. Attorney Ledbetter asked for a motion from the Board. Commissioner Sexton made a motion to keep Becky Hood as Chairman and Chad Steward as Vice Chairman. Commissioner Cunningham seconded the motion and all voted aye. Motion passed.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW FIRE CHIEF

County Administrator King introduced Doug Ralston as the County's new Fire Chief, also with Chief Ralston was his wife Sandy. Administrator King commented that this is one of the most important life safety positions in the County and we are really proud to have Doug on Board. He has worked his way up through the ranks as a lieutenant, captain, and has served as Battalion Chief for several years and has done a terrific job. He has gotten a degree and taken a lot of training and had lots of opportunities to learn. He is extremely respected, not only by the firemen in that department, but by all the other offices and other agencies he will be working with. Please welcome Doug to our team.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION – Employees with Anniversary hire dates in January.

Commissioner Steward read the list of employees with anniversary hire dates in January. Commissioner Cunningham drew the name of Kathy Bunch with the Road Department as Employee of the Month of January.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Hood asked if there were any additions, omissions, or deletions to the Minutes for the Work Session December 16, 2014, and the Regular Meeting December 16, 2014. Commissioner Cunningham made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Gazaway seconded the motion and all voted aye. Minutes approved.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

County Administrator King read the report into the record (copy attached).

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

Commissioner Gazaway reminded everyone that he is participating in the Dancing with the Stars competition. Commissioner Steward advised that he and the County Administrator met with the Gordon County Schools superintendent, Susan Remillard and her financial director. Chairman Hood advised that the State of the County at the Chamber is coming up on February 27th.

CONSIDERATION OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS**CONTRACT WITH CALHOUN COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION FOR THE REDBUD FIRE STATION**

County Attorney Ledbetter advised that the contract has been finalized and it is ready to be presented to the Board for consideration of approval. This is a fixed sum contract in the amount of \$1,521,795, which includes a contingency of \$66,165 that would be returned to us if unused, and includes allowances. The contract will begin January 15 and will end August 15, 2015.

Commissioner Cunningham made a motion to approve the contract with Calhoun Commercial Construction and to allow the Chairman to execute the contract. Commissioner Steward seconded the motion and Commissioners Cunningham, Steward, Gazaway, and Sexton voted aye. Motion passed.

CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS**GEORGIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY GRANTEE-SUBGRANTEE AGREEMENT FOR A HAZARD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE AWARD TO MEET FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE DISASTER MITIGATION ACT OF 2000**

Chairman Hood advised that this is the agreement for a hazard mitigation assistance grant to be used to meet federal requirements. County Administrator advised that the funds will be moved from the general fund over to the Emergency Management department.

Commissioner Gazaway made a motion to approve the agreement with the Georgia Emergency Management Agency. Commissioner Sexton seconded the motion and Commissioners Sexton, Gazaway, Steward, and Cunningham voted aye. Motion passed.

MALT BEVERAGE, WINE AND LIQUOR RENEWAL LICENSE APPLICATION FOR KWIK SERVE

Chairman Hood advised that this is a malt beverage, wine and liquor renewal license application for Kwik Serve for 2015. This application came to the Board late and was not included in the December 16, 2014 renewal list previously approved by the Board. All paperwork is in order.

Commissioner Gazaway made a motion to approve the renewal application for Kwik Serve. Commissioner Steward seconded the motion and Commissioners Gazaway and Steward voted aye. Commissioners Sexton and Cunningham opposed the motion. Chairman Hood voted with the motion. Motion passed.

MALT BEVERAGE, WINE AND LIQUOR RENEWAL LICENSE APPLICATION FOR HIGHWAY EXPRESS

Chairman Hood advised that this is a malt beverage, wine and liquor renewal license application for Highway Express. This application came to the Board late and was not included in the December 16, 2014 renewal list previously approved by the Board. All paperwork is in order.

Commissioner Steward made a motion to approve the renewal application for Highway Express. Commissioner Gazaway seconded the motion and Commissioners Steward and Gazaway voted aye. Commissioners Sexton and Cunningham opposed the motion. Chairman Hood voted with the motion. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Gazaway made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Sexton seconded the motion and all voted aye. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Annette Berry, County Clerk

Becky Hood, Chairman