

GORDON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING

Brasstown Valley in Young Harris, Georgia

May 22 -23, 2015

The Board of Commissioners met in Special Session on May 22 and May 23, 2015 for a Strategic Planning Meeting .

Friday, May 22, 2015 Special Meeting 3:30 p.m.

Attendees: Commissioners Kevin Cunningham and Jeff Gazaway, County Administrator John King, County Attorney Jim Ledbetter, County Clerk, Annette Berry, Facilitator Langford Holbrook.

Chairman Becky Hood and Vice Chairman Chad Steward joined later in the meeting

Topics for discussion and consideration were as follows:

BUDGET

Administrator King discussed the budget with the group and advised that the county paved 35 miles of roads, purchased some new patrol cars, backup generator for 911, fuel system for public work, new roof at Senior Center. New contracts for pest control and gas and diesel. George Chambers grant, library reconstruction, new parking deck, and started the new fire station, new system and path at animal control. Fire Dept got a new fire chief and new training officer. Building permits have improved, park and recreation hosting lots of tournaments, procedures for the Resaca Park. Budget has maintained a steady millage rate, even reduced a little this year.

Revenues have been steady. County will have new revenue off Pilot Agreements this fiscal year.

The County got an award from the Government Finance Association to Finance Director Al Leonard again this year.

Everyone is happy that we are purchasing the BB&T Bldg; no negative comments have been received.

Next budget meeting will be the public hearing on June 2nd. Adoption of the budget on the following meeting on June 16th.

Highlights of the proposed budget: No new full time positions, no colas, no pay increases, 2.5% increase in health insurance costs, some replacement vehicles. Road Dept budget will increase due to increase in miles of roads to receive work on. Non departmental was increased due to repairs to the BB&T building.

New on the Budget – County Attorney budget, first quarter will be funded under contract labor; afterward will be funded under county personnel. Probate court will have part time clerk and a new fingerprint machine. Superior Court clerk has gotten a new function as court administrator and a raise of \$3,800 and new XP desktop computer. Magistrate court a new vehicle. District attorney got a part time legal secretary. IT Dept. got replacements of firewalls, etc. and pay grade of previous intern, also new phone system. Tax Commissioner wants to replace a retiring employee but keep her part time for training of a new state duty because she is a knowledgeable employee. Tax Assessor office has had to bring on a lot of new people due to people retiring or moving on, also some new computers. . Animal Control – new vehicle and vet budget increased, travel and training added. Public Works will pave more miles. Public Defenders budget has increased. Senior Center needs to replace computers. Resaca Battlefield Park – two part-time staffers for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Salacoa Park needs new mower. Parks and Recreation needs to renovate tennis courts. Georgia State Patrol needs new radar units. Contracted increase for City of Calhoun. Library budget increased. Prevent Child Abuse Gordon County – wants an increase in their budget. 5311 Transportation Program increase due to state requirements. E-911 needs new phone system and this has been added to their budget.

2012 SPLOST funds – Begin planning for construction of the health Dept.

BB&T BUILDING

We can roll into the loan the cost of renovation.

FREERPORT

Freeport will go from 40% to 60% this year and this will affect our next year's budget.

LEGAL

Mental health contract –county attorney is looking at the contract.

Landfill – at a standstill, they have not responded to our letter. We may have to reach out to an environmental attorney for help at some point.

Pilot Agreement – Mohawk\$ 100 to \$200 thousand in revenue due to the county.

BB&T – studies are to be done before July 14, have to notify them our decision, if we don't the closing is 30 days after that. No negative comments from anyone to Board members.

Only one piece of litigation, inmate swallowed drugs and died after being released by the Hospital back to the jail. No depositions have taken place yet.

Ranger – the Mayor may petition State to uncharter as a city.

Chris Frix stacked cars on Lover's Lane – 1st of June he will probably get a citation.

Chicken House Ordinance –County Attorney Ledbetter handed out a paper with his recommendations for amending the ordinance.

Saturday May 23 Special Meeting convened at 8:00 am

Attendees: Chairman Becky Hood, Vice Chairman Chad Steward, Commissioners Kevin Cuning, Jeff Gazaway, County Administrator John King, County Attorney Jim Ledbetter, County Clerk Annette Berry, Facilitator Langford Holbrook.

PERSONNEL ISSUES

John made a proposal and asked for a part time person for an information officer. The Board had discussion about making it temporary as a trial to see how it works. John asked to realign

a person from another department to help with social media. Board did not agree with the Administrator's request.

Fire Protection – The county has a new fire chief, and a new training officer, and 12 new volunteers.

EMA & E911- John advised that he has been working with these two departments to make improvements. He advised that he has been getting positive feedback regarding E-911. The Board discussed considering putting EMA under the fire department as a separate department. There was a consensus of the Board to not allow Emergency Management to fill the vacant position, and to move Emergency Management within the Fire Department as a separate department. This would give Emergency Management backup help.

VISION AND MISSION

Recreation and more activities for kids.

Vision: Needs of the BOC

Manage resources efficiently, make policy, and plan for the future.

Role of the BOC: Values of Gordon County – Give citizens opportunities, effective government; represent a community value, maintaining property values.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Development Authorities can fund projects, land, buildings, structures, and infrastructure. They are a tool of what the BOC wants out of economic development. Funds by revenue bonds. They are a tool to fund things. Bond issue – revenue bonds – they are loans on projects. Revenue bonds are not the responsibility of the county, it's the bond holder.

Attract Projects - work with the City and the Chamber.

SPLOST

Identify projects – roads, sheriff cars (up from last) , fire hydrants, recreation, walking trails, splash pad at recreation dept, airport improvements, industrial parks, joint projects w/city, community meeting center.

City and County to sit down together and talk about projects for SPLOST 2017 and develop a list.

IDENTIFY GOALS AND ACTION STRATEGIES

Courthouse Renovation – purchase BBT, upgrade, move people, plan from POB

Comp Plan – Start with Regional Commission

Complete Redbud Fire station

Planning for New Health Department

Employee COLA next year

Adjourn meeting, there being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Becky Hood, Chairman

Annette Berry, Clerk

**GORDON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION MINUTES
JUNE 2, 2015**

The Gordon County Board of Commissioners held a Work Session Tuesday, June 2, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. in the main courtroom of the Gordon County Courthouse.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

**JOHN KING, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
JIM LEDBETTER, COUNTY ATTORNEY
ANNETTE BERRY, COUNTY CLERK
MEDIA
APPROXIMATELY 25 GUESTS**

Chairman Hood called the meeting to order.

The Board discussed each item on the agenda for the Regular Meeting and made no changes; one item was added to the agenda later in the meeting.

The Board had a budget workshop in which county departments could come before the Board regarding their budget as shown in the proposed budget previously presented to the Board. The County Attorney advised that anyone wishing to speak to the Board should add their name to the sign-up sheet. County Attorney Ledbetter called Mr. Chris Paul with Public Defense as the only person signed up to speak. Mr. Paul asked for additional funds in the Public Defense budget to pay two staff members a supplement that amounted to a total of \$11,000. No one else signed up to speak to the Board regarding the proposed budget.

Ms. Joni Harbin came before the Board representing the Calhoun/Gordon Council for a Literate Community. Ms. Harbin requested support from the Board of Commissioners in the amount of \$3,300 to help fund a \$10,000 purchase of laptop computers for use at the public library.

Mayor Harry Pierce, Fairmount mayor, came before the Board to request the Board to renegotiate HB489 for several different areas such as senior center, recreation, etc.

County Attorney Ledbetter presented a draft to Board members with proposed changes to the unified land development code concerning standards for commercial livestock, swine and poultry operations. Attorney Ledbetter advised that the timetable shows that upon reaching a Board consensus of the amendment, the planning commission will have a hearing and the soonest date for that hearing, in order to advertise, would be July 13. Then on Tuesday, July 21 the Board of Commissioners would have the public hearing and then could have the adoption of the ordinance. Attorney Ledbetter went over the major changes to the ordinance and spoke about attempting to define rules for buffers. He asked for comments from the Board about the proposed changes. Commissioner Cunningham said he had no problem with the setbacks and the buffer where it's next to a residence; a 150 ft. buffer is a lot of land. Commissioner Sexton agreed with Commissioner Cunningham. Commissioner Gazaway stated he liked the reciprocal part where if the poultry farmer is already there and someone comes and builds a house, the same rules apply. Commissioner Steward reminded the other members that the Board could still grant variances. Attorney Ledbetter stated that he plans to start work on the ordinance and hopes to get the ordinance into the form that it needs to be to present to the Planning Commission to meet the dates mentioned.

Major Pat Bedford with the Sheriff's office spoke to the Board regarding the item on the agenda for a bid award for inmate food service. Major Bedford explained why the Sheriff's office wanted to obtain bids for the inmate food service and how the committee arrived at their recommendation to select ABL Management Inc. as the new provider.

Chairman Hood brought up the Airport Authority appointments. There was a consensus of the Board to add these two appointments to the agenda for tonight's Regular Meeting.

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 5:50 p.m.

Annette Berry, County Clerk

Becky Hood, Chairman

**GORDON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 2, 2015**

The Gordon County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, June 2, 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
APPROXIMATELY 25 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.

PUBLIC MEETING FOR 2015/2016 PROPOSED BUDGET

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to go into the public hearing for the proposed budget. Commissioner Gazaway seconded the motion and Commissioners Sexton, Gazaway, Steward, and Cunningham voted aye.

County Attorney Ledbetter advised the audience of the rules of procedure for the public hearing and called the first person signed up to speak. Ms. Diane McClara came before the Board to voice her concerns and ask for a cut in the Sheriff's budget in order to have funds to hire a full time ordinance officer. She is having problems with her neighbors having chickens running loose and allowing them to run in her yard, she said she couldn't even have a garden because the chickens would destroy it. Mr. John Pettit advised the Board that he could save the county \$200,000 out of the budget if they would do away with the code enforcement office because if he was not going to enforce the rules then he could be cut from the budget. He complained that others in the county are carrying on the same business that he does without a permit and correct zoning. Ms. Diane Lanier commented that the Sheriff's budget should be cut and the Board should re-establish the code enforcement position under the County Administrator.

There being no one else signed to speak, Chairman Hood asked for a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Sexton made a motion to close the public hearing, Commissioner Cunningham seconded the motion and Commissioners Sexton, Gazaway, Steward and Cunningham voted aye.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Commissioner Gazaway read the list of employees with anniversary hire dates in June. Commissioner Steward drew the name of Mike Hughes with the Road Department as Employee of the Month.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Hood asked if there are any additions, omissions, or deletions to the Minutes for the Work Session May 19, 2015, and the Regular Meeting May 19, 2015. Commissioner Cunningham made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioners Sexton seconded the

motion and Commissioners Cunningham, Sexton, Steward, and Gazaway voted aye. Motion approved

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

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

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT

Commissioner Gazaway reported that he attended the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission meeting and the Strategic Planning meeting with the other commissioners. Sexton reported that he had attended the CEO meeting at North West Regional Council.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ZONING

Chairman Hood asked for a motion to open the public hearing for zoning. Commissioner Cunningham made a motion to open the public hearing for zoning. Commissioner Gazaway seconded the motion and Commissioners Cunningham, Gazaway, Sexton, and Steward voted aye. Motion passed.

County Attorney Ledbetter advised the audience of the rules of the public hearing.

APPLICATION #Z15-02, TINA NGUYEN'S REQUEST TO REZONE FROM R-6 TO A-1

County Attorney Ledbetter read application #Z15-02, Tina Nguyen's request to rezone from R-6 to A-1. This comes to the Board of Commissioners from the Planning Commission with their recommendations for approval with the stipulation that a buffer tree line be planted the length of the property and that the new poultry houses be constructed as deep on the property as possible. Attorney Ledbetter reminded the Board that this application was previously tabled until a site plan was submitted. That site plan is on file and attached to the Board's agenda package with this zoning paperwork. Mr. Giles Jones, representing the applicant, came before the Board to explain the rezoning request and to advise that the stipulation recommended by the Planning Commission and the recommendations from the Road Department regarding the driveway would be followed. No one signed to speak in opposition to the rezoning request.

Attorney Ledbetter advised that the application for a permit will be subject to the moratorium at this point, but the application for rezoning was submitted before the moratorium, and whatever is decided on for the rezoning, would stand.

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

Chairman Hood asked for a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Gazaway made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Sexton seconded the motion and Commissioners Cunningham, Sexton, Gazaway, and Steward voted aye. Public hearing closed.

CONSIDERATION OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS**BID AWARD FOR INMATE FOOD SERVICE**

Chairman Hood advised that this is the bid award for inmate food services, and advised that at the Work Session the Board heard from Major Pat Bedford with the Sheriff's Office, and from Martin Vaughn's memo with their recommendation to select ABL Management, Inc. as the new provider of inmate food services.

Commissioner Steward made a motion to approve the recommendation and award the bid to ABL Management, Inc. to provide the inmate food service to the jail. Commission Cunningham seconded the motion and Commissioners Steward, Cunningham, Gazaway, and Sexton voted aye. Motion passed.

LEASE AGREEMENT WITH WILLIAM WORLEY FOR THE RESACA COMPACTOR SITE

County Attorney advised the Board that this is an extension of the lease that the County has with Mr. Worley for the compactor site. The period of the lease is two years and will begin August 1st 2015; the rate is \$270 per month.

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

DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY TO ADD TO THE AUCTION BEING HELD ON JUNE 6, 2015

County Administrator King advised that this is a list of some copiers and ice machines, and desks that the county would like to have declared surplus so that the items can be sold at auction.

Commissioner Cunningham made a motion to approve declaring the property surplus and selling at auction. Commissioner Gazaway seconded the motion and Commissioners Cunningham, Sexton, Steward, and Gazaway voted aye. Motion passed.

APPOINTMENTS TO THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY FOR TWO APPOINTEES TO FILL ONE UNEXPIRED TERM ENDING 6/30/16 AND ONE THREE-YEAR TERM ENDING 6/30/18

Chairman advised that the Board added an item to the agenda for appointments to the Airport Authority. The Board has received resignation letters on two positions at the Airport Authority. One position is to fill an unexpired term ending June 30, 2016 and one position to fill a three-year term ending June 30, 2018.

Commissioner Steward made the motion to approve the appointment of Ron Dobbs to fill the unexpired term ending June 30, 2016, and to approve the appointment of Tommy Palmer to fill

the three-year term ending June 30, 2018. Commissioner Cunningham seconded the motion and Commissioners Steward, Cunningham, Gazaway, and Sexton voted aye. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Gazaway seconded the motion and all voted aye. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Annette Berry, County Clerk

Becky Hood, Chairman