

**GORDON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
AUGUST 2, 2016**

The Gordon County Board of Commissioners held a Work Session Tuesday, August 2, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Administration Building

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

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

Vice Chairman Steward called the meeting to order.

The Board discussed each item on the agenda for the Regular Meeting and made no changes or additions.

Vice Chairman Steward announced that the presentation to two Scouts scheduled to be presented their proclamations are not in attendance. That presentation will be made at the Regular Meeting if they should be in attendance at that time.

Mr. Jonathan Ray with the North Georgia Community Action came before the Board and gave an update and answered questions concerning the services offered by his company under the Section 5311 Van Program for Gordon County.

Commissioner Kevin Cunningham made a motion to open the public hearing for public comments regarding amendment to the ordinance for backyard chickens, for the amendment for the ordinance for grass and weeds, and for the amendment for the ordinance for indoor shooting ranges. Commissioner Sexton seconded the motion and Commissioners Cunningham, Sexton, Gazaway and Steward voted aye.

County Attorney Ledbetter spoke to the Board and advised that there are three people signed to speak at the public hearing. He advised that there are three ordinances that are being considered for amendment and that the Board would like to hear any comments the three people would make regarding restrictions, etc. and address any suggestions made by them. Mrs. Diane Lanier commented that she felt good progress was being made on the ordinance for grass and weeds and the ordinance for backyard chickens, but felt that several areas should be addressed such as downed limbs and also dead trees; open carports with trash; she wants to go to 3 acres instead of 2 acres; asked that fence regulations be clarified and fences for chickens should be in backyards not front yards, some restrictions regarding disposal of droppings and dead chickens should be addressed. Mr. Gary Beisser came before the Board to speak about the indoor shooting ranges ordinance. Mr. Beisser commented that the amendments are really good proposals and hopes that the current shooting range will be grandfathered in, if not, then there is still a problem, especially with odor and does not meet lead standards. Mr. Scott Workman commented on the shooting range ordinance and thanked the county attorney for the work done on that ordinance. His problem with the current shooting range was that the business license was for a retail store not a gun range and he asked that it be grandfathered in to meet the new amendments.

Commissioner Sexton advised that he wanted to make a statement on the ordinance amendments. He stated that he is ok with the 2 acres on the backyard chickens, or it could be left as it is. He felt chickens should be "contained" not just fenced in. He said that regarding the grass and weeds ordinance, curb appeal is most important, a nice yard will bring more dividends to the value of the property than an upgrade inside, and that 12 inch height was sufficient and he wanted the ordinance to protect the home owners' investment in their property, the whole area has an effect on any one property. On the gun range ordinance, his only concern is with the decibel level.

There were no other citizens signed up to speak at the public hearing. Commissioner Gazaway

made a motion to close the public hearing. Commission Cunningham seconded the motion and Commissioners Gazaway, Cunningham, Sexton, and Steward voted aye. Motion passed.

County Attorney Ledbetter advised that the next item to come before the Board is concerning property that is across from the airport, it was platted as a subdivision many years ago. Mr. Ted Corwin came before the Board to discuss several quitclaim deeds that he is requesting the Board execute regarding a plat of a proposed road that was never built. He is requesting that the property platted for a road be quitclaimed to the property owners on the road. County Attorney Ledbetter commented that this road is of no public benefit for use to the citizens of Gordon County and has never been used by the citizens. The quitclaim deed says that Gordon County has no interest in this road that never existed. Mr. Corwin added that from the standpoint of title insurance, by virtue of the fact that it was never used by the public – it is a title issue. There was a consensus to add this item to the Regular Meeting agenda.

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to close the Work Session. Commissioner Gazaway seconded the motion and all voted aye.

There being no further business the Work Session adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Chad Steward, Vice Chairman

Annette Berry, County Clerk

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**GORDON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 2, 2016**

The Gordon County Board of Commissioners held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, August 2, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. in the conference room of the Administration Building.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT**

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

Vice Chairman Steward called the meeting to order.

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Invocation was led by Commissioner Sexton. The pledge of allegiance was led by Vice Chairman Steward.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Vice Chairman Steward read and presented proclamations to two new Eagle Scouts Jacob Murphy and Will Rowell.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION** – Employees with Anniversary Hire Dates in August

Commissioner Gazaway read the list of employees with anniversary hire dates in August. Commissioner Cunningham drew the name of Barry Hice with the Public Works Department as the Employee of the Month.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Vice Chairman Steward asked if there are any additions, omissions, or deletions to the Minutes for the Work Session July 19, 2016, and the Regular Meeting July 19, 2016. Commissioner Cunningham made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Sexton seconded the motion and Commissioners Cunningham, Sexton, Gazaway and Steward 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 Community and Government Affairs joint meeting with Existing Industries and the Library Reception for Reading Appalachia; Commissioner Sexton commented that he attended the Labor Laws at the Depot, the Council of Chief Elected Officials meeting and the Chamber Breakfast; Commissioner Cunningham attended the Chamber Breakfast, the construction meeting and met with the Tax Commissioner; Commissioner Steward attended the Chamber Development Board, the Chamber Breakfast,

meeting with the College and Career Academy, and today had the bio-metric screening offered by Gordon County.

**CONSIDERATION OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS**

Before the Board considered the first item under New Business, County Attorney Ledbetter advised that he would like to request that the Board not add the item to the Agenda discussed in the Work Session for the Quitclaim deeds for the platted road that was never opened until he had a chance to look into the matter further. Board members agreed and thanked Attorney Ledbetter for looking out for Gordon County.

**AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION FOR THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE SECTION 5311 VAN PROGRAM**

The County Attorney had advised the Board in the Work Session that this is an authorizing resolution requested by the Georgia Department of Transportation authorizing Chairman of the Commissioners to execute the contract document required by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Georgia Department of Transportation approving the funding of the Section 5311 Van Program. Vice Chairman Steward asked for a motion to approve the resolution for the 5311 Van Program.

Commissioner Cunningham made a motion to approve authorizing the Chairman to sign the resolution for the Section 5311 Van Program. Commissioner Sexton seconded the motion and Commissioners Sexton, Gazaway, Cunningham, and Steward voted aye. Motion passed.

**PROPOSAL AND SALES CONTRACT WITH SMEAL FIRE APPARATUS COMPANY**

County Administrator King advised that a bid from Smeal was previously approved and a contract has been prepared. County Attorney Ledbetter advised that he has reviewed the contract and it has the right number and amount for three apparatus.

Vice Chairman Steward advised that this is a proposal and sales contract with Smeal Fire Apparatus Company for three Fire Pumper Apparatus in the amount of \$457,507.00 each for a total of \$1,372,521. Vice Chairman Steward asked for a motion to authorize the Chairman to execute the contract.

Commissioner Gazaway made a motion to approve the proposal and authorize the Chairman to execute the contract with Smeal Fire Apparatus Company. Commissioner Cunningham seconded the motion and Commissioners Cunningham, Gazaway, Sexton, and Steward voted aye. Motion passed.

**DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY FOR THE MISCELLANEOUS METAL SAFE DEPOSIT BOXES FROM THE RENOVATION OF THE GORDON COUNTY GOVERNMENT PLAZA BUILDING**

County Administrator King had advised the Board in the Work Session that this is for miscellaneous metal safe deposit boxes that have been removed and discarded from the building next door and this metal scrap needs to be declared surplus so that we can have it removed and disposed of. The intent is to send it for recycling unless the Board has concerns and wishes for a different action.

Vice Chairman Steward asked for a motion on the declaration of surplus property.

Commissioner Sexton made a motion to approve the Declaration of Surplus Property. Commissioner Gazaway seconded the motion and Commissioner Gazaway, Sexton, Cunningham, and Steward voted aye. 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 6:20 p.m.

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Chad Steward, Vice Chairman

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Annette Berry, County Clerk