

**HEARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 25, 2014 - 6:30 P.M.**

The Heard County Board of Commissioners held a Commissioners Meeting on September 25, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the courtroom of the Heard County Courthouse.

In attendance at the meeting were Chairman Lee Boone, District 1 Commissioner Larry Hooks, District 2 Commissioner Jacob Cammon, District 3 Commissioner Gwen Caldwell, District 4 Commissioner Frank Crook, District 5 Commissioner Sandi Allen, and County Attorney Jerry Ann Conner. Chairman Boone called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present. Chairman Boone gave the invocation.

Agenda Item #3 – Presentation of Service Award – Mr. Phillip Spradlin - Chairman Boone and the Board presented a service award plaque to Mr. Phillip Spradlin for 30 years of service to Heard County and Heard County EMA. The entire Board thanked Mr. Spradlin for his loyal and dedicated service to Heard County.

Agenda Item # 4 – Approval of Minutes - On motion (Allen) and second (Hooks), the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from August 28, 2014 as presented.

Agenda Item # 5 - Amend Agenda – Chairman Boone asked for an amendment to New Business to include item; h – Discuss Bid on Heard County Health Department Roof and to include item; i – Discuss Purchase of Mobile Fire Training Unit – Chief Steve Wirth. On motion (Caldwell) and second (Allen), the Board unanimously approved this request.

Agenda Item # 6 – New Business – a. Request from Wireless Hometown Internet Service, LaGrange, Georgia – Mr. Bill Gregory with Wireless Hometown asked the Board “to allow Wireless Hometown to locate equipment on the tower owned by Heard County to act as the distribution area for a high speed broadband system which will

provide a better answer to Heard County citizens and businesses for access to the internet and other broadband needs.” Mr. Gregory stated that his company has been in business for over 8 years servicing parts of Troup, Meriwether and Harris counties. He also stated that Wireless Hometown would like to provide high speed broadband service to up to five Heard County government locations in exchange for them using the County’s tower. After further discussion, on motion (Allen) and second (Caldwell), the Board unanimously approved this request contingent on County Attorney Jerry Ann Conner reviewing the contract between Wireless Hometown and Heard County and that the contract is a one year contract.

b. Discuss Prosecution Services Contract – Chairman Boone presented a contract between Heard County and Attorney, Michael Arrington and explained that the Heard County probate judge, magistrate judge and clerk of court were all in agreement to enter into this contract to provide prosecution services for their courts. He stated these services would be provided by Mr. Arrington in the amount of \$2,700.00 per month beginning with September 20, 2014 and to continue through June 30, 2015. On motion (Caldwell) and second (Hooks), the Board approved this request and authorized Chairman Boone to sign this contract on behalf of Heard County. The motion passed on a 4 to 1 vote with Commissioner Crook abstaining. On motion (Allen) and second (Caldwell), the Board voted 4 to 1, with Commissioner Crook abstaining, for Chairman Boone to sign a resolution appointing Mr. Arrington as the prosecutor for Heard County probate court, magistrate court and juvenile court, effective September 1, 2014.

c. Discuss Expansion of Natural Gas Lines – Commissioner Caldwell – Commissioner Caldwell asked the Board if the Board would support Georgia Natural Gas

possibly expanding their natural gas lines into northern Heard County towards Bowdon. He stated that they would need a letter of support from Chairman Boone if the Board agrees to this. On motion (Caldwell) and second (Allen), the Board unanimously approved this request.

d. Discuss Declaring County Property Surplus – Chairman Boone asked the Board to declare several County items as surplus so the County may put these items up for sale. He stated that the first five items on the Public Works department list would be sold at an auction in Carroll County with no fees to the auction. (see attached list for items). The other items will be sold by Heard County. On motion (Hooks) and second (Cammon), the Board unanimously approved this request.

e. Request from Heard County Board of Tax Assessors – Chairman Boone stated that the Heard County Board of Assessors voted unanimously to recommend hiring a company to reevaluate all cell towers, cell tower equipment and any accessories attached at the tower locations. The Board of Assessors recommended hiring Communications Site Evaluations, LLC. Mr. Randy Scott with Communications Site Evaluations presented his proposal to the Board and explained how his company would reevaluate all the cell towers in Heard County along with the equipment and accessories at each site. He stated that he has extensive background in this field and has performed over 1500 successful tower and communication equipment evaluations. He stated that he and his company would also assist the Board of Tax Assessors with any appeals if necessary, after their evaluations are done. After further discussion, on motion (Allen) and second (Cammon), the Board unanimously approved this request and asked County Attorney,

Jerry Ann Conner to proceed with preparing a contract between Heard County and Communications Site Evaluations, LLC.

f. Appointment to Heard County Development Authority and Public Facilities

Authority – Chairman Boone stated that he received notice from the Heard County Development Authority that Mr. Grady Woodruff has resigned his position from this board and the Public Facilities Authority Board effective immediately. The Development Authority has recommended Mr. Todd Turner to complete Mr. Woodruff's term which would end on December 31, 2016. The Development Authority did not make a recommendation for the vacancy on the Public Facilities Authority. On motion (Caldwell) and second (Cammon), the Board unanimously voted to appoint Mr. Todd Turner to the resigned position of Mr. Grady Woodruff on the Development Authority and Public Facilities Authority.

g. Discuss Changing Meeting Dates for November and December, 2014 – On motion (Allen) and second (Hooks), the Board unanimously voted to change the November and December commission meeting dates to the third Thursday of November and December, 2014, due to the upcoming holidays. The meetings will resume their normal schedule of the fourth Thursday of each month, in January, 2015.

h. Discuss Bid on Heard County Health Department Roof – Chairman Boone stated that hail damage was recently discovered to the roof of the Heard County Health Department. A request for proposal was issued and one proposal was received by Nutt Roofing & Siding, Inc. in the amount of \$31,375.00. On motion (Hooks) and second (Allen), the Board unanimously approved this proposal and agreed to enter into a contract with Nutt Roofing & Siding, Inc. for this project.

i. Discuss Purchase of Mobile Fire Training Unit – Chief Steve Wirth stated that the existing burn building that has been used for training is in severe disarray and is not safe to use any longer. He stated that he has researched and found a portable burn unit that is available on govdeals.com website. He stated that this unit is a 2006 Pro-Safe Mobile Fire Training Unit that is owned by Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. It was bought new by them in 2006 for \$515,000.00. They are selling this unit for \$45,000.00. He stated that there is money in SPLOST to build a new burn building but that this unit would be an excellent purchase instead of constructing a new one. He stated if purchased, this unit would be set up as a stationary unit. He also stated that Heard County would be able to host trainings for other departments with the purchase of this mobile unit. On motion (Hooks) and second (Allen), the Board unanimously agreed to purchase this unit from SPLOST at the total cost of \$50,625.00 which includes the unit for \$45,000.00 and a buyer's premium fee of \$5,625.00.

Agenda Item # 7 – Old Business – a. Appointment to Heard County Board of Tax Assessors – Chairman Boone stated that due to this appointment being so difficult to fill he would like to suggest to the Board that the Heard County Board of Tax Assessors revert back to it's original three member board. On motion (Hooks) and second (Allen), the Board unanimously approved this request and asked County Attorney, Jerry Ann Conner to prepare a resolution stating such.

Agenda Item # 7 – Pubic Comments – None.

Agenda Item # 8 – Executive Session – Chairman Boone asked for an Executive Session to discuss litigation. On motion (Cammon) and second (Allen), the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session. On motion (Hooks) and second

(Allen), the Board unanimously voted to return to Open Session. Chairman Boone stated that in Executive Session litigation was discussed with no decisions made.

There being no further business, on motion (Caldwell) and second (Cammon), the Board unanimously voted to adjourn.

Affidavit for approved minutes for September 25, 2014

Patty A. Giles
County Clerk

Lee Boone
Chairman

Date: 10-23-14