

**HEARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**  
**November 21, 2023 - 6:30 P.M.**

The Heard County Board of Commissioners held a regular Commissioners Meeting on November 21, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the Commission Chamber of the Heard County Administration Building. In attendance at the meeting were Chairman Lee Boone, District 2 Commissioner James Perry, District 3 Commissioner Iris Harris, District 4 Commissioner Larry Hammond, and District 5 Commissioner David Walls. District 1 Commissioner Larry Hooks was unable to attend. County Attorney Michael Hill was present via phone.

**Agenda Item # 2 - Welcome, Invocation, and Pledge to the American Flag**

Chairman Lee Boone called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone present, and gave the invocation.

**Agenda Item # 3 – Public Hearings**

Chairman Boone went over the rules for public comments and asked that each person speak directly into the microphone.

**a) Application to Rezone 33 Huff Road, Circle T Ranch and Rentals**

Chairman Boone opened the public hearing. Jerry Thomaston, representative of Circle T Ranch and Rentals, addressed the Board regarding his application to rezone two acres of land located at 33 Huff Road from rural development to commercial. Mr. Thomaston stated to the Board that he would like the 2-acre property to be rezoned to commercial property so he may lease the property to Treadwell LP Gas, where they would install a propane storage tank. Steve Patterson, a representative of Treadwell LP Gas, addressed the Board in favor of rezoning the property. He provided each Board member with a proposal plan for the propane storage tank that would be located on the property.

Commissioner Hammond inquired about the proposed chain-link fence that would be

built around the property if approved. Mr. Patterson explained that the fence would be six feet high with three rows of barbed wire on the top. He went on to state that they would also add a barrier of cypress trees on the south and westside borders for surrounding properties. Scott Treadwell, of Treadwell LP Gas, introduced himself to the Board. Lisa Fowlkes, of Happy Hollow Road, spoke in opposition on behalf of her father, Ray Smith. Mr. Smith is an adjacent property owner; they are concerned about the potential for increased traffic as well as the impact on the environment. Cheryl Caldwell, of U.S. Highway 27, spoke in opposition of the rezone. Commissioner Harris asked Mr. Treadwell how many trucks would service the area, to which he answered one truck and a one-ton flatbed truck. The Planning Commission gave a recommendation to the Board to deny the application. Attorney Hill stated that there were setback issues with the property. If approved, the applicant would have to go back before the Planning and Zoning Board to request a variance on the setbacks. On a motion (Perry) and second (Hammond), the Board voted unanimously to close the public hearing.

**b) Application for Special Use Permit, 600 Hwy 100, Marsha Hunt**

Chairman Boone stated the applicant was requesting a Special Use Permit to create a multi-use event center for the property located at 600 Highway 100. The Planning Commission gave a recommendation to the Board to deny the application. Chairman Boone opened the public hearing. The applicant, Marsha Hunt, was a no-show for the Public Hearing. There were no comments for or against the Special Use Permit. On a motion (Perry) and second (Hammond), the Board voted unanimously to close the public hearing.

**Agenda Item # 4 – Amend Agenda**

Chairman Boone asked for an amendment to add Invited Guest, Amy Weaver immediately after the amendments to the agenda and before the Approval Of Minutes. Chairman Boone also requested that item “f” – Approve Contract- Two Spencer Commercial Pumpers be added to New Business. On a motion (Perry) and second (Walls), the Board voted unanimously to approve the amendment of the agenda to add Amy Weaver, from GA Forestry, as Invited Guest. On a motion (Perry) and second (Walls), the Board voted unanimously to amend the agenda to add item “f” – Discussion/Approval of the Contract between Spencer and Heard County Fire Department for the purchase of two firetrucks under New Business.

**Agenda Item # 5 – Invited Guest, Amy Weaver from GA Forestry**

Chairman Boone invited Amy Weaver, from GA Forestry, to come to the podium. Ms. Weaver gave each member of the Board the yearly annual report. She stated that she could come to the next meeting or be contacted by phone if anyone had questions after they reviewed the report. Chairman Boone inquired about how things were going for the forestry. Ms. Weaver responded by saying that they had not been called to any fires in Heard County and only a few in Troup County. The Chairman thanked her for attending.

**Agenda Item # 6 – Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the October 17, 2023, Commissioner’s meeting were presented to the Board for approval. On a motion (Perry) and second (Hammond), the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the October 17, 2023, regular Commissioner’s meeting as written.

**Agenda Item # 7 – New Business**

**a. Decision - Application to Rezone 33 Huff Road, Circle T Ranch and Rentals**

On a motion (Perry) and second (Hammond), the Board voted unanimously to deny the application.

**b. Decision - Application for Special Use Permit, 600 Hwy 100, Marsha Hunt**

On a motion (Walls) and second (Hammond), the Board voted unanimously to deny the application.

**c. Adopt - Mental Health Resolution**

Chairman Boone read the Mental Health Resolution into the record. On a motion (Hammond) and a second (Harris), the Board unanimously voted to adopt the Mental Health Resolution and allow the Chairman and Clerk permission to sign the Resolution on behalf of the County.

**d. Renew - Contract with Chattahoochee Outdoors**

Chairman Boone welcomed Raven Neil, owner of Chattahoochee Outdoors. Mrs. Neil had a one-year concession agreement with the County to operate kayak rentals, tubing, shuttle, and camping services at Bush Head Shoals. The agreement expired on October 31, 2023. Mrs. Neil requested that the agreement be renewed for the 2024 season with the same terms. On a motion (Hammond) and a second (Walls), the Board unanimously voted to renew the concession agreement with Chattahoochee Outdoors with no change to the terms of the agreement.

**e. Adopt - Resolution to set Qualifying Fees for 2024**

Chairman Boone read the Resolution By The Heard County Board Of Commissioners Setting Qualifying Fees For The 2024 Election into the record.

On a motion (Hammond) and a second (Harris), the Board unanimously voted to approve the Resolution By The Heard County Board Of Commissioners Setting Qualifying Fees For The 2024 Election.

**f. Discuss/Approve – 2 Spencer Commercial Pumpers**

Chairman Boone addressed the audience to explain that there is currently a two year wait when ordering new fire trucks. He went on to further explain that Chief Short received a phone call from a company that had two new trucks available. Commissioner Perry stated that there are also issues with finding parts to fix the existing trucks. For example, the Atlanta Fire Department has twelve trucks out of service due to not having parts available for repairs. On a motion (Perry) and a second (Harris), the Board unanimously voted to approve the Contract between Spencer and Heard County Fire Department for the purchase and acquisition of two commercial pumpers in the amount of \$898,000 from SPLOST proceeds and give the Chairman permission to sign the contract.

**Agenda Item # 8 – Old Business**

**a. Decision - Application from Viridi RE Development LLC**

Commissioner Hammond commended Viridi RE Development for the time they put into the presentation and their professionalism. On a motion (Hammond) and second (Perry), the Board voted unanimously to deny the application.

**Agenda Item # 9 – Public Comments**

There were no Public Comments

**Item # 10 – Executive Session**

There was no executive session.

**Item # 11 – Adjourn**

There being no further business, on a motion (Harris) and second (Perry), the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Adjourned 7:33 p.m.

Katrina Billingsley

County Clerk

Lee Boone

Chairman

Date 12-19-2023