

**HEARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
FEBRUARY 26, 2019 - 6:30 P.M.**

The Heard County Board of Commissioners held a Commissioners Meeting on February 26, 2019 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 1 Commissioner Larry Hooks, District 2 Commissioner Keri Denney, District 3 Commissioner Gwen Caldwell, District 4 Commissioner Larry Hammond, District 5 Commissioner David Walls and County Attorney Jerry Ann Conner.

Agenda Item # 2 - Welcome, Invocation, and Pledge to the American Flag - Chairman Boone called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone present and gave the invocation.

Agenda Item # 3 – Public Hearing – 1) Application for a Special Use Application for a Private Family Cemetery – Richard Brice, Sr., 6945 Charlie B. Johnston Road, Hogansville (Heard County; Corinth community) – Chairman Boone opened the public hearing. He stated that Mr. Richard Brice has applied for a special use application to allow for a private family cemetery on ½ acre at 5945 Charlie B. Johnston Road. The Heard County Planning Commission has recommended approving this application. Mr. Richard Brice, Jr. spoke on behalf of his father, Mr. Richard Brice. Mr. Brice stated that his mother passed away approximately 3 months ago and her request was to be buried on her family’s property. He asked the Board to allow him to have a private family cemetery on the family property on Charlie B. Johnston Road. There being no further comments from the Board or the public, on motion (Hooks) and second (Denney), the Board unanimously voted to close the public hearing.

2) Revocation of an Approved Special Use Application for a Communication Tower for Norma Golden, 6943 Georgia Highway 34, Franklin, GA – Chairman Boone opened the public hearing. He stated that in April of 2011, SBA Towers received approval to build a tower

on Mrs. Norma Golden's property located at 6943 Ga. Hwy. 34W, Franklin. SBA did construct a tower but there is no cell service on this tower. Mrs. Golden is receiving compensation from SBA for tower rental. Mrs. Golden's daughter, Mrs. Kathy Golden spoke regarding the tower and the property surrounding it. She read a letter from her mother that was sent to the Zoning Administrator, Stacie Morris. The letter stated that the property is being maintained by SBA and is not an eyesore and that her mother is receiving compensation from SBA and would like to continue to. County Attorney Conner read a response to the Board that was received today from SBA stating they would like to continue operation at the site. SBA also stated there is currently no active tenant on the tower, however they are working with their customers to see if there is a need for them to be located in the area. They asked the Board to not revoke this special use. There being no further comments from the Board or the public, on motion (Hammond) and second (Walls), the Board unanimously voted to close the public hearing.

3) Revocation of an Approved Special Use Application for a Communication Tower for Dianne Knight, 2575 Glenn Road, Franklin, GA, Approved May, 2011 - Chairman Boone opened the public hearing. He stated that in May of 2011, SBA Towers received approval to build a tower on Mrs. Dianne Knight's property located at 2575 Glenn Road, Franklin. SBA Tower has not constructed a tower on this property and Mrs. Knight is not receiving any compensation. County Attorney Conner read a response to the Board that was received today from SBA stating they cannot find any information on this application. The email stated they would continue to research this application. Commissioner Walls stated that the original applicant for this tower was Range Towers. Zoning Administrator, Stacie Morris stated she did reach out to Range Towers who were bought by SBA and the mail was returned to her with no

response. There being no further comments from the Board or the public, on motion (Walls) and second (Hammond), the Board unanimously voted to close the public hearing.

Agenda Item # 6 – Approval of Minutes – On motion (Hooks) and second (Caldwell), the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes from January 22, 2019.

Agenda Item # 7 – Amend Agenda – None.

Agenda Item # 8 – New Business – a. Discuss Public Hearing – Special Use Application for a Private Family Cemetery – On motion (Hooks) and second (Denney), the Board unanimously approved this special use application.

b. Discuss Public Hearing – Revocation of Communication Tower located at 6943 Georgia Highway 34, Franklin – Commissioner Walls made a motion to not revoke this application and to leave it in place at this time. Commissioner Hooks seconded the motion. The Board unanimously voted to approve this motion. Commissioner Walls and Commissioner Denney suggested that the County Attorney send a letter to SBA to clarify with them that Heard County needs service in this area and would like to encourage SBA to find a vendor for service for this tower. All agreed.

c. Discuss Public Hearing – Revocation of Communication Tower located at 2575 Glenn Road, Franklin – On motion (Walls) and second (Denney), the Board unanimously voted to revoke this application.

d. Discuss Purchase of Replacement Fire Truck – Chief Steve Wirth – Chief Wirth presented a quote from FireLine, Inc. in the amount of \$257,867.00 to replace the 2007 Freightliner M2106 fire truck that was involved in a single vehicle accident while responding to a call in December, 2018. He explained that the damage to the fire truck would cost more to repair than the truck was valued at. The insurance company valued the truck at \$87,991.43. We received a check for \$82,441.43. This amount reflects our deductible and us retaining the vehicle for salvage. Chief Wirth also stated that the truck

he wishes to purchase is a demo and will be available for us to take delivery immediately. On motion (Caldwell) and second (Hooks), the Board unanimously voted to purchase the new firetruck from Fireline at the purchase price of \$257,867.00 less the insurance payment of \$82,441.43 for the total cost of \$175,425.57 to be paid from SPLOST funds.

e. Discuss Request from Town of Centralhatchee and City of Ephesus Regarding City Elections

– Elections Supervisor, Tonnie Adams – Elections Supervisor, Tonnie Adams stated he had been approached by the Town of Centralhatchee and the City of Ephesus about possibly holding their city elections for them this year. Mr. Adams stated that the cities would do their own qualifying and maintain the ethics paperwork required. He asked the Board for permission to proceed with a memorandum of understanding between the County and the cities for the Board of Elections to handle elections for each of them. On motion (Hammond) and second (Denney), the Board unanimously approved this request.

f. Discuss Appointments to Heard County Planning Commission – Chairman Boone stated he recently received a request for the Heard County Planning Commission asking the Board to reappoint two members to the Planning Commission. Mr. Chad Wood is up for reappointment in February, 2019 and Mr. Josh Parmer is up for reappointment in March, 2019. On motion (Hooks) and second (Denney), the Board unanimously approved this request.

g. Discuss Senate Bill 371 Regarding Sales Tax Information – Chairman Boone stated that in May of 2018 Senate Bill 371 was approved and signed into law. SB 371 allows a city and/or county to designate one representative by resolution, to be able to make a request to the Georgia Department of Revenue for any information about who filed a sales tax return within your city and/or county. Chairman Boone recommended appointing Finance Director, Felicia Adams as the designated

representative for Heard County. On motion (Hammond) and second (Denney), the Board unanimously approved this request.

Agenda Item # 9 – Old Business – None.

Agenda Item # 10 – Public Comments – Mr. Randy Chesnut, resident on Eley Road, Franklin thanked the fire department for their quick response time to a recent house fire on Eley Road. He stated they did a great job.

Mr. Richard Brown, 221 S. River Circle, Franklin asked Commissioner Hooks if there were any updates on S. River Circle? Commissioner Hooks stated he was making progress on this issue. Commissioner Denney introduced the new Heard County Chamber President, Mrs. Melinda Brown. The Board welcomed her to the Chamber.

Agenda Item # 11 – Executive Session – None.

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

Adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Patty A. Giles

County Clerk

Lee Boone

Chairman

Date

3/27/19

