

**HEARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
July 19, 2022 - 6:30 P.M.**

The Heard County Board of Commissioners held a Commissioners Meeting on July 19, 2022, 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 James Perry, District 3 Commissioner Gwen Caldwell, District 4 Commissioner Larry Hammond, District 5 Commissioner David Walls, and County Attorney Michael Hill.

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

Agenda Item # 3 – Public Hearing – The public hearing was rescheduled.

Agenda Item # 4 – Approval of Minutes – Approval of all meeting minutes from June 21st regular meeting and June 30th called meeting. On motion (Hooks) and second (Perry), the Board unanimously voted to approve all the minutes as written.

Agenda Item # 5 – Amend Agenda – No Amendments.

Agenda Item # 6 – New Business –

a. First Reading of Resolution- Chairman Boone referred this item to County Attorney Michael Hill, who explained the intent of the Resolution was to ensure that the salaries of the Elected Officials and the Commissioners were reflecting the right numbers based on the revision of the 2020 Census. Attorney Hill also stated that because the 2020 Census numbers were delayed in coming out, ACCG disseminated a population estimate tier guide with a higher tier for Heard County, and Elected Officials salaries should be adjusted based on the higher tier estimates effective January 01, 2021. When the Census numbers finally came out in early 2022, it indicated Heard County had lost population, thus

requiring a lower tier estimate. Attorney Hill further stated that the Board felt that it would be unfair to reduce the Elected Officials salaries after so much time had lapsed, and the Law was unclear if it could be done. Therefore, a resolution to classify the salary increases as “Supplements” effective January 01, 2022, until the end of their current term would need to be adopted on the advice of Counsel. The Board would then reset their salaries, which is based on the salary of the Sheriff, and would not take effect until January 01, 2023.

b. **Probate Court Archival System-** Probate Judge Joseph Bledsoe spoke to the Board in a work session regarding the need to digitally archive the records stored in the Probate Court. Judge Bledsoe highlighted the recent tornado that came through Franklin and narrowly missed the Courthouse, raised his concern regarding the preservation and protection of the vital records contained therein. He also indicated that those records and large books could not be shipped out for archival but would have to be scanned on site, which limited the vendors who perform onsite services. The only quote he received for onsite scanning was from Kofile for \$70,574.25. On a motion (Walls) and second (Perry), the Board unanimously approved this request.

Agenda Item # 7- Old Business

a. **Discussion/ Decision – PILT Agreement with Carroll EMC and Sync Global**

Ms. Kathy Knowles with the Heard County Development Authority explained that the Attorneys representing Carroll EMC and Sync Global worked with the Rural Utility Services to change some of the wording they were not in agreement on, and after several months they finally reached an agreement on the Bond Resolution. The Tax Abatement is a one hundred percent abatement of the taxes for a 10-year period. Ms.

Knowles stated, the County would not receive any taxes during this period however, you would not be losing any taxes because it is all new infrastructure, and it will not impact the existing infrastructure of Carroll EMC and Sync Global. This Abatement will allow all Carroll EMC customers to have access to fiber based Broadband Internet. On a motion (Perry) and second (Hooks), the Board unanimously approved the PILT agreement with Sync Global, approving the Chairman to sign on behalf of the County. On a motion (Perry) and second (Walls), the Board unanimously approved the PILT agreement with Carroll EMC, approving the Chairman to sign on behalf of the County. Ms. Knowles thanked the Board for their cooperation with this project.

b. Discussion/Decision- Noise Ordinance

Chairman Boone explained that during the work session prior to the meeting, there was discussion by the Board to amend our current Noise Ordinance to include language to allow local Law Enforcement to enforce certain noise complaints made to them by the public. Commissioner Perry invited Ms. Lisa Dunlap of 1343 Five Notch Rd. to the meeting and asked if she could share with the Board her complaints regarding loud music complaints that have been made by her without resolution from Law Enforcement. After discussion, the Board directed the County Attorney to draft a text amendment to the current ordinance and present it at the next meeting.

Agenda Item # 8- Public Comments

Mr. Lawrence Lipford of 6061 Hwy 27 Franklin, Ga. spoke to the Board about utilizing the Rock Quarry on Hwy 34 west of Franklin as a potential water reservoir for the Water Authority.

Agenda Item # 9 – Executive Session- None

Agenda Item # 10 – Adjourn – There being no further business, on a motion (Caldwell) and second (Perry), the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

County Clerk

Lee Boone
Chairman

Date 08-14-2022

HEARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION
July 19, 2022 – 5:00 P.M.


The Heard County Board of Commissioners held a work session on July 19, 2022, at 5:00 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 James Perry, District 3 Commissioner Gwen Caldwell, District 4 Commissioner Larry Hammond, and District 5 Commissioner David Walls and County Attorney Michael Hill. Chairman Boone had invited all the Elected Officials to the meeting to discuss a Resolution that was on the regular meeting agenda regarding their salaries issues after the 2020 Census results came out in early 2022. Elected Officials in attendance were, Sheriff Ross Henry, Probate Judge Joseph Bledsoe, Superior Court Clerk Tammy Teal, and Tax Commissioner Diane Watson. County Attorney Michael Hill explained the situation regarding the issue with the adjustment of salaries beginning January 2021 using a tier guide estimate disseminated by ACCG due to the delayed Census results. Attorney Hill stated that when the Census results finally came out in early 2022, it showed Heard County lost population and put Heard County in a lower tier than the ACCG guide estimate. Attorney Hill further explained the measures that the Board needed to take to correct the issue by adopting a Resolution to change the salary increase to a local supplement. After much discussion, the Elected Officials thanked the Board for bringing this to their attention and their decision to supplement the increase for the remainder of their term.

Probate Judge Joseph Bledsoe addressed the Board regarding the digital scanning of all his vital records in the Probate Office. He only had one company respond that could scan his records on site, because he could not ship them out to be scanned. A company named Kofile submitted a quote for \$70,574.25 to travel to Franklin and scan all his records on site. After discussion, the Board informally

agreed to approve his request at the regular meeting per agenda item following the work session and did not require Judge Bledsoe to be present.

Chairman Boone opened the discussion regarding the need to update the current noise ordinance. This issue had been discussed in previous meetings however, it had apparently stopped during the transition period from the previous County Attorney to the current County Attorney. Codes Enforcement Officer James McDonald was also present and engaged in the discussion regarding the need for updates to some of the local ordinances. After further discussion on various ordinances, the work session was concluded.

County Clerk



Chairman

Date 08-16-2022