

**HEARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
JUNE 26, 2018 - 6:30 P.M.**

The Heard County Board of Commissioners held a Commissioners Meeting on June 26, 2018 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 Joe Adams and County Attorney Jerry Ann Conner. Chairman Boone called the meeting to order, gave the invocation and welcomed everyone present.

**Agenda Item # 3 – Service Award Presentation – Ms. Rosa Moreland** – Chairman Boone and the Board presented a service award/retirement plaque to Ms. Rosa Moreland for 20 years of continuous service to Heard County. The entire Board thanked Ms. Moreland for her loyal and dedicated service to Heard County and wished her a happy retirement.

**Agenda Item # 4 - Public Hearing – a. Rezoning Requested by Mr. Robert Payne, (Property located at corner of Pea Ridge Road and Franklin Parkway)** - Chairman Boone opened the public hearing. County Attorney Conner asked the Board to continue this public hearing until the next meeting on July 24, 2018. She stated that the Planning Commission has continued the hearing until their next meeting on July 9, 2018 and therefore have not made a recommendation yet. On motion (Hooks) and second (Denney), the Board unanimously agreed to continue this public hearing.

**Agenda Item # 5 – Approval of Minutes** – On motion (Hammond) and second (Hooks), the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes from May 22, 2018. On motion (Caldwell) and second (Denney), the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes from June 12, 2018.

**Agenda Item # 6 – Amend Agenda** – Commissioner Denney asked to amend New Business item B to include a discussion of the recent request from the Heard County Water Authority to begin drawing

the SPLOST IV proceeds. On motion (Denney) and second (Adams), the Board unanimously approved this amendment.

**Agenda Item # 7 – New Business – a. Approve 2018-2019 Budget** – Chairman Boone read the Heard County 2018-2019 budget resolution into the minutes. On motion (Hooks) and second (Hammond), the Board unanimously approved the 2018-2019 budget.

**b. Discuss GEFA Loan for Heard County Water Authority – Laurie Cook, Executive Director** – Ms. Cook asked the Board for a standard support letter from the County in order for the Water Authority to apply for a GEFA loan in the amount of \$3.5 million dollars. Chad Sipe, Principal Engineer with Carter & Sloope engineering firm explained to the Board this is a routine letter required by GEFA for all loans. After much discussion, Commissioner Adams made a motion to send a letter of commitment that supports the Heard County Water Authority for a \$3.5 million-dollar loan with GEFA. Commission Denney seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the motion.

**c. Discuss Heard County Fire and Emergency Services Agreement – Deputy Chief, Jim Short** – Chief Jim Short presented an agreement to the Board that would allow Heard County to seek reimbursement from an EMA employee, for the costs incurred in connection with his/her employment, hiring, training in the event the employee is separated from his/her employment with the County for any reason other than involuntary termination within twenty-four (24) months of the certification date of their training. Commissioner Hooks asked Mr. Short to clarify the differences in involuntary termination and termination for cause. Chief Short explained that involuntary would be if the person is unable to do their job for some reason. After further discussion, on motion (Hooks) and second (Denney), the Board unanimously approved this agreement.

**d. Approve Changes to the Heard County Personnel Management System – County Clerk, Patty**

**Jiles** – Ms. Jiles reviewed each change and/or addition in the personnel policy with the Board.

Commissioner Denney asked a question about Para 3.120 – Training Requirements – item c.

She stated she spoke with other elected officials who would like to be able to discuss this amendment. Chairman Boone explained that the wording in the amendment does not prohibit mandatory training. However, for continuing education elected officials should consider the cost associated with the trip when classes are being offered at Savannah, Jekyll Island and St. Simons Island. The costs for these trips are substantial and have increased considerably each year. After some discussion, Commissioner Adams made a motion to eliminate this amendment and approve the rest of the policy. Commissioner Denney seconded. Commissioner Denney and

Commissioner Adams voted for the motion and Commissioner Caldwell, Commissioner Hooks and Commissioner Hammond voted against the motion. The motion failed to pass on a vote of 2-3. Ms. Conner explained to the Board that the policy needs to be approved in some form in order

for the staff to proceed with enforcement of the new hands free law that is effective July 1 and the agreement for Heard County to seek reimbursement from an EMA employee, for the costs incurred in connection with his/her employment, hiring, and/or training. After further discussion,

Commissioner Hammond made a motion to adopt the amended Heard County Personnel Management System policy as presented. Commissioner Hooks seconded. Commissioner Denney and Commissioner Adams voted against the motion. Commissioner Hooks, Commissioner

Hammond and Commissioner Caldwell voted for the motion. The motion passed on a vote of 3-2.

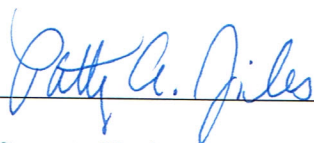
**Agenda Item # 8 – Old Business** – None.

**Agenda Item # 9 – Public Comments** – None.

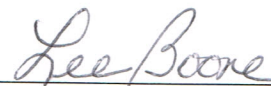
**Agenda Item # 10 – Executive Session** – Chairman Boone asked for an Executive Session to discuss potential litigation. On motion (Hooks) and second (Hammond), the Board unanimously voted to enter into executive session. On motion (Hammond) and second (Denney), the Board unanimously voted to return to open session. In Executive Session potential litigation was discussed. On motion (Hooks) and second (Adams), the Board unanimously voted to enter into opioid litigation and to authorize Chairman Boone to execute an engagement letter to engage the legal counsel of Friedman, Dazzio, Zulamas and Bowling, PC.

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

Adjourned at 9:17 p.m.



County Clerk



Chairman

Date

