

HEARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
October 27, 2020 - 6:30 P.M.

The Heard County Board of Commissioners held a Commissioners Meeting on October 27, 2020 at 6:32 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 Jerry Ann Conner.

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

Agenda Item #3- Invited Guest- Jonathan Parker- Chattahoochee Old Towne and Native American Trails- Mr. Parker provided handouts to the Board (see attached) titled “Upper Paths” that discussed the Native American trails and the history of the trails in Heard County. Mr. Parker discussed the map (see attached) and stated that the map covers the period of 1685-1827. Mr. Parker discussed that only 25 of these maps had been created and that this map was being donated to the county.

Agenda Item #4- Approval of Minutes – On motion (Hooks) and second (Hammond), the Board unanimously approved the minutes from September 22, 2020.

Agenda Item #5- Amend Agenda- Chairman Boone asked for an amendment to new business to add item “c” – Discuss subdivision Regulations. On motion (Walls) and a second (Perry), the Board unanimously approved to amend the agenda to add item “c” under new business.

Agenda Item #6- New Business- a. Discussion- Abandoned Properties, Commissioner James Perry- Chairman Boone turned the floor over to Commissioner Perry to address blighted properties in the county. Commissioner Perry stated there was a great need to address

blighted/abandoned properties in the county. Commissioner Perry told the Board two weeks ago, three girls went into a house near Commissioner Perry's home and the girls said there was a homeless man living on the floor on an air mattress. Commissioner Perry stated in Chapter 8 in the ordinance addresses uncleanliness and siting property owners, also, properties in this condition effects property values and it is unsafe. Commissioner Perry discussed with the Board that Carrollton adopted a blighted property ordinance, it cost about \$700.00 per house, and it helps the community, the property itself, and property owner. County Attorney Jerry Ann Conner stated it was something the county can do. The Board does have this authority whether through the state or otherwise. Commissioner Hammond thinks it would be a great idea. Commissioner Perry stated that he has lived next door to above mentioned property for 20 plus years and the property has looked the same. Ms. Conner stated she would investigate this and come back at the next meeting with a report.

New Business- b. Discussion- FY 2022 GDOT Grant Application Authorizing Resolution- Chairman Boone discussed with the Board the GDOT Grant Application Resolution and requested authorization to sign, approve, and adopt the resolution on behalf of the Board. On motion (Hooks) and a second (Hammond), the Board unanimously approved Chairman Boone signing the FY 2022 GDOT Grant Application Authorizing Resolution.

New Business- c. Subdivision Regulations- County Attorney Jerry Ann Conner stated at the last planning commission meeting there was some conflict regarding the subdivision regulations. In 2016 there were changes in the definition in the subdivision. County Attorney Conner stated plans normally come to the Planning Commission, Darold Wiggins, public works, and Public Health and when everything is done, it comes back to the Board of Commissioners. County Attorney Conner stated that definition changes were coming to the Board at the next meeting.

Commissioner Hooks and Commissioner Walls stated they would like to see plans for subdivisions prior to the final decision. After much discussion, County Attorney Conner stated she would send the information out and it will come back before the Board in November.

Agenda Item #7- Old Business- None

Agenda Item # 8- Public Comments- Mike Robinson of 5100 Five Notch Road spoke about the need for the Board and public to have input in subdivision and land splits. Mr. Robinson stated that he does not want our county to change and turn into the surrounding counties with all the crime and everything that is going on. Mr. Robinson wants the Board to save what we have and make smart decisions on what is to come.

Commissioner Caldwell stated that he has received two telephone calls about the “patch” sinking on Joe Stephens Road, and the blacktop has a small hump on one end. Commissioner Hooks indicated the pipe is not sinking, and where they put the culvert in there is a little “bump”. After the road evens out, there bump will go away.

Commissioner Hooks announced there would be a kick-off meeting for the Community Development Block Grant at 11:00 on November 17, 2020 and a public hearing following at 12:00. Commissioner Hooks also wanted to invite the Board and the public to attend the meeting.

Chairman Boone addressed Mr. Robinson’s concerns about the county growing and stated that the county needed new revenue sources if the residents wanted the current services we provide to continue. Chairman Boone stated that if the Board were to increase the millage rate, that would cause an uproar, and that the only other thing the county could do is increase sales tax. Chairman Boone stated he would like to see a T-SPLOST, which is money that can only be used for roads and bridges. Chairman Boone also wanted to make the public aware that only 40% of total

SPLOST can be used for road and bridge projects. Chairman Boone stated that the county is in good financial shape and is maintaining right now, but something had to give, because health insurance premiums are rising and this is costing the county the substantially each year.

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

Adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Hope Cole

County Clerk

Date 11/17/2020

Lee Boone

Chairman