

**HEARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION**  
**April 16, 2024 – 2:00 P.M.**

The Heard County Board of Commissioners held a work session on April 16, 2024, at 2:00 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, District 5 Commissioner David Walls. District 1 Commissioner Larry Hooks was absent due to an illness. Chairman Boone stated that this work session was to discuss changes to the ordinance and other matters. The Director of Public Works, Darold Wiggins, addressed the Board to say that E.R. Snell had the lowest bid of \$2,488,476 that would cover 16-17 miles of paving and overlay. He stated that prices had inflated tremendously, he projected that he would need an additional \$500,000 in the budget to complete the project. Mr. Wiggins explained that he uses software that chooses the roads that need to be repaired each year based on data. He thanked the Board for allowing the process to continue. Mr. Wiggins stated that he would be retiring this year, he recommended Greg Harris to be his replacement. SPLOST Project Manager, Kevin Hamby, was present to discuss the Fire Training bid. He stated that the contractor had reduced the price to \$450,000, with a start date at the end of May. He also reminded the Board that the bids for building Fire Station #5 would be closing the next day, (April 17, 2024).

The Board reviewed and discussed the need for several changes to be made to the solar ordinance. A rough draft of proposed changes will be submitted to the county attorney for review and further advisement.

Members of the Heard County Development Authority were in attendance. Director Kathy Knowles addressed the Board regarding potential projects from the Strategic Planning Committee that are eligible for grant money. Some of the proposed projects are as follows:

- widening the boat ramp at Glover Road park
- replace picnic tables, trash cans, and benches at Glover Road park
- add an additional gazebo and relocate existing gazebo at Glover Road park
- build a pavilion at Glover Road park
- update bathrooms at Brush Creek Park
- resurface roads at Brush Creek Park
- clean silt from ramp at Brush Creek Park
- add more primitive camp sites to Brush Creek Park
- dredge the ramp at Snake Creek Park
- general clean up and repairs at Snake Creek Park
- add equestrian trails to Snake Creek Park

Heard County Development Authority Board member, Tim Grizzard, addressed the Board to say Loy Howard expressed interest in building a medical facility within the county. Kathy Knowles asked the Board if they were still interested in building an amphitheater on the embankment behind Del Rio. The project would be eligible for the Active Regional Communities grants. The Board contended that they are interested, Ms. Knowles is going to open the project to accept bids. Ms. Knowles reminded the Board that Heard County is one (1) of only seven (7) counties in Georgia that has not passed the Freeport Tax Exemption. She stated that the Board would have to take the initiative to have it added to the ballot.

The work session ended with no official action being taken.

End time 6:00 p.m.

Katrina Billingsley

County Clerk

Date 05/21/24



Lee Boone

Chairman