

**HEARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
AUGUST 25, 2015 – 6:30 P.M.**

The Heard County Board of Commissioners held a Commissioners Meeting on August 25, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the courtroom of the Heard County Courthouse.

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 and welcomed everyone present. Commissioner Hooks gave the invocation.

**Agenda Item # 3 – Approval of Minutes** - On motion (Denney) and second (Hooks), the Board unanimously approved the minutes from July 28, 2015 as presented.

**Agenda Item # 4 – Amend Agenda** – None.

**Agenda Item # 5 – New Business – a. Discuss Concerns Regarding Shooting Range -**

Commissioner Boone opened the discussion on this item with a brief overview of the events involving the shooting range over the last three years. (see statement attached). Chairman Boone reminded everyone that this is not a public hearing but anyone who wishes to speak will be allowed to and asked them to address the Board with their name and address first. The following residents spoke regarding this issue:

Mr. Talmadge Phillips, 3089 Franklin Parkway, Franklin, Georgia; Mr. Danny Headley, 3087 Franklin Parkway, Franklin, Georgia; Mr. Bob Krach, 24 Stephens Circle, Franklin, Georgia; Mr. Greg Holcombe, 11480 Ga. Hwy. 100N, Franklin, Georgia; Ms. Donna Waugh, 11350 Ga. Hwy. 100N, Franklin, Georgia; Mr. Handley Hughey, 3065 Franklin Parkway, Franklin, Georgia; Mr. Vernon Judy, 911 Judy Road, Franklin, Georgia; Wanda Rich, 11540 Ga. Hwy.

100N, Franklin, Georgia. Sgt. Dan Boswell and Sheriff Ross Henry with the Heard County Sheriff's office also spoke regarding the shooting range incidents that the Sheriff's office was called on. Sgt. Boswell and Sheriff Henry both expressed their concerns that someone was going to get hurt at this range if there were not some precautions put in place. Mr. James Peterson, 317 Park Avenue, LaGrange, Georgia who is the operations manager and business partner to majority owner of Advantage Tactical Keith Tompkins, spoke in defense of the range. After much discussion, from all parties and the Board, on motion (Denney) and second (Caldwell), the Board unanimously voted to suspend operations at the range until it is evaluated by an unbiased third party professional to include Sgt. Boswell and Sheriff Henry and the results are reported back to the Board by the next meeting on September 22, 2015. Mr. Peterson also agreed to this condition.

**b. Confirm Purchase of Codes Enforcement Truck** – Chairman Boone explained that the codes enforcement truck was recently involved in an accident and was totaled. A new truck was recently purchased to replace the totaled one. He explained that Robert Nelms, Codes Enforcement Officer made several inquiries for a truck and found a very limited selection of trucks available. After several attempts, a 2016 Ford F-250 Super Duty 4x4 was located at Mike Fitzpatrick Ford in Newnan, Georgia for a purchase price of \$34,439.38. On motion (Hooks) and second (Adams), the Board unanimously approved this purchase.

**c. Confirm Change Order on Heard County Arena Barn** – Chairman Boone stated following the Development Authority's agreement to pay for the project at the arena, it was suggested that a concrete aisle be added down the center of the barn at the cost of \$14,412.00. He also stated that an addition of a 16 foot shed on each side of the arena barn would be added for an additional cost of \$20,143.00. Commissioner Adams asked if the Development

Authority is going to be paying for this entire project. Chairman Boone stated yes, the Development Authority would be paying for this project in full. On motion (Denney) and second (Hooks), the Board unanimously approved the change order.

**d. Approve Resolution for Joint Development Authority** - On motion (Denney) and second (Adams), the Board unanimously voted to amend the resolution to allow Coweta County into the Joint Development Authority.

**e. Approve Resolution to Amend and Restate Heard County's Defined Benefit**

**Retirement Plan** – County Clerk, Patty Jiles explained that over the past several years, the federal government, the Supreme Court and the State of Georgia have made a number of changes to laws that affect governmental retirement plans. Therefore, the IRS requires that all qualified retirement plans be amended and restated every five years to incorporate new laws, as well as any employer-specific amendments. Even though the Heard County retirement plan specifics are not changing, the plan must be restated. She asked for Board approval on the resolution to amend and restate Heard County's defined benefit retirement plan. On motion (Hooks) and second (Adams), the Board unanimously approved this resolution.

**Agenda Item # 6 – Old Business** – None.

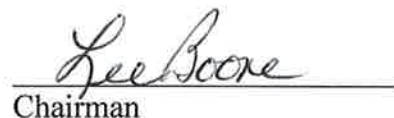
**Agenda Item # 7 – Public Comments** – Mr. Jerry Nixon, a Heard County resident spoke regarding the shooting range.

**Agenda Item # 8 – Executive Session** – None.

There being no further business, on motion (Caldwell) and second (Adams), the

Board unanimously voted to adjourn.

  
County Clerk

  
Chairman

Date 9/25/15

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**Advantage Tactical was issued a business license on August 31, 2012. I took office on January 01, 2013. In April 2013, an ad in the local paper advertised an event that included the gun range at Advantage Tactical. I was questioned about the range at a Commission meeting and had no knowledge about the existence and/or location. A couple of days later, Commissioner Larry Hooks and I drove to the location and met Mr. Peterson for the first time. He showed us the range and explained what types of classes they were going to offer. The zoning ordinances were reviewed and confirmed the lack of an ordinance regulating gun ranges. It was also determined that the proper procedure was not followed before the business license was issued. Mr. Peterson was advised to suspend any events involving firearms, until an ordinance was drafted and approved, and he would have to go through the proper zoning procedure. Notices were mailed to adjacent property owners, and a final public hearing was held at a regular Commissioner's meeting. No individual spoke at the hearing that was not in favor of the range being approved to continue operating at its current location. Several months later the Wounded Warrior Foundation held a charity event at the range, and a special custom designed "Monster Parade Truck" was going to be there. I was notified and invited as Chairman to attend on a Saturday. I am a supporter of the Foundation and wanted to see the truck in person, so I went over to the range. I was asked to be in a group picture by the man representing the Foundation, and he wanted everybody in the picture to hold their weapons. I did not bring a weapon and was loaned an unloaded AR-15 to hold for the group picture. I bought a tee shirt from the Foundation representative with the Wounded Warrior Logo on it, and left the range after a 30 minute visit. The picture was subsequently posted on the Advantage Tactical Website sometime afterwards. Apparently after the picture was posted, I later learned from personal sources that I allegedly became an investor, a member and regular participant in activities and events. For the record, I would like to disclose that I have no financial interest in the company, nor am I a member, and I have never fired a shot at that range.**

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**I was notified on the morning of August 17, 2015 that two Heard County Deputies responded to a complaint call from the residence of Talmadge Phillips on August 16, 2015 at approximately 2:13 pm. (see incident report). I called Mr. Peterson and advised him of the incident and he agreed to meet myself and Commissioner Larry Hammond at the range. That visit to the range was my third since it has opened. Mr. Peterson agreed to suspend any activities and/or events with regard to the discharge of any firearms, until this matter was investigated and brought to the attention and meeting of the Board of Commissioners on August 25, 2015, to determine the appropriate course of action that needs to be taken.**



**Lee Boone, Chairman  
Heard County Commission**