

**HEARD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
OCTOBER 25, 2011 – 6:30 P.M.**

The Heard County Board of Commissioners held a Commissioners Meeting on October 25, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. in the courtroom of the Heard County Courthouse. In attendance at the meeting were Commission Chair June Jackson, District 1 Commissioner Karen Isenhower, District 2 Commissioner Jacob Cammon, District 3 Commissioner Gwen Caldwell, District 4 Commissioner Frank Crook, District 5 Commissioner Sandi Allen, and County Attorney Jerry Ann Conner. Commission Chair Jackson called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present. Mr. Jimmy Knight gave the invocation.

Agenda Item # 3 – Approval of Minutes – On motion (Allen) and second (Cammon), the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes from September 23, 2011 and September 27, 2011 as presented.

Agenda Item # 4 – Amend Agenda - Commission Chair Jackson asked for an amendment to New Business to add “g” – Discuss Heard County Water Authority. On motion (Allen) and second (Caldwell), the Board unanimously voted to approve this request. Commissioner Isenhower asked for an amendment to New Business to add “h” – Discuss Yellow Dirt Issue. On motion (Isenhower) and second (Caldwell), the Board unanimously voted to approve this request.

Agenda Item # 5 – Public Comments – Commission Chair Jackson opened public comments and reviewed the public meeting rules and regulations, regarding public comments. There were no public comments.

Agenda Item # 6 – Old Business – None.

Agenda Item # 7 – New Business – a. Discuss Feasibility Study for Courthouse –

Commission Chair Jackson stated that for several years the Grand Jury presentments specifically mention the condition of the courthouse. She stated that since this has been repetitive, she has asked Mr. Randy Smith, an architect with Gardner, Spencer, Smith, Tench & Jarbeau, to present to the Board a proposal for a feasibility study on the courthouse and/or a new courthouse or annex. She asked Mr. Randy Smith to come forward and explain his proposal. Mr. Smith stated that the objective is to first evaluate the existing Courthouse and to determine the existing allocation of space within it; to meet with the appropriate personnel within the existing departments to determine space and functional needs in the renovated facility. He presented his proposal to the Board for these services in the amount of \$16,500.00. Mr. Kevin Hamby explained that he would be working with Mr. Smith on this project. Mr. Hamby stated that there is a lot to be considered in a possible renovation. He stated the plan would include changing the plumbing, wiring, electrical, the removal of any mold, if found inside the building and any changes to courthouse security if needed. Commission Isenhower stated that she would like to see the removal of mold, if any is found in the courthouse, handled immediately. Commissioner Caldwell stated he knew the building did need a new roof. Commissioner Cammon stated that he did not feel comfortable spending the \$16,500.00 until after the SPLOST election. After further discussion, the Board agreed to postpone this until after the SPLOST election on November 8, 2011.

b. Discuss Appointments to Heard County Public Facilities Authority –

Commission Chair Jackson stated that Mr. Chuck Stephens' appointment to the Heard County Facilities Authority has ended and the Development Authority has asked that he be

reappointed for another three-year term. On motion (Caldwell) and second (Cammon), the Board unanimously voted to reappoint Mr. Stephens.

c. Discuss Revisions to Hunting & Camping Ordinance – County Attorney, Jerry Ann Conner presented revisions to the ordinance titled Article III - Campsites and Camping. She explained the changes to the ordinance include; no permit shall be issued for a period longer than twelve months at one time; no permanent place of residence allowable; and utility service has been clarified. She stated she would bring back the formal ordinance at the next meeting with a preamble for the Board to sign.

d. Approve FTA Regulated Changes to Transit Drug & Alcohol Policy –

Commission Chair Jackson stated that Samantha McKinney, Transit Director has asked that the Board approve FTA regulated changes to the Transit Drug & Alcohol policy. She stated the additions and/or changes are as follows: Article # 5 Prescriptions and Over the Counter Medications added; # 7 Employee Protections added; # 9 Employee Training added; and # 10 Pre-employment Drug and Alcohol Background Check Requirements amended. On motion (Allen) and second (Isenhower), the Board unanimously approved these changes and accepted the policy.

e. Discuss Appointment to Heard County Planning Commission – Commission Chair Jackson stated that Mr. Cameron Sheppard's term has ended on the Heard County Planning Commission. Mr. Sheppard has agreed to serve another five year term on this Board. On motion (Cammon) and second (Caldwell), the Board unanimously approved this request.

f. Discuss Christmas Holidays – Commission Chair Jackson recommended giving the employees two days off; the Friday before Christmas and the Monday after Christmas as

Christmas holidays since Christmas is on a Sunday this year. On motion (Crook) and second (Allen), the Board unanimously approved this request.

g. Discuss Water Authority – Mr. Jimmy Knight, Executive Director, Heard County Water Authority wanted to clarify remarks made in a newspaper article recently. This article stated that the Water Authority was upset about the County bush hogs cutting down fire hydrants throughout the County. He stated that the Water Authority and the County have a great working relationship and he and the Water Authority Board wanted to clarify that they did not feel that the County was in anyway doing this on purpose.

h. Discuss Yellowdirt Cemetery – Commission Chair Jackson stated that she recently talked with a Georgia Power representative regarding the situation with the Yellowdirt Cemetery. She stated that Georgia Power is in the process of investigating who owns the cemetery. She stated she felt that she could trust this representative she spoke with and he gave her his assurance that Georgia Power would do the right thing when it comes to this issue. Commission Isenhower expressed her concerns about this situation and suggested that the Board of Commissioners meet with the families of the deceased in the cemetery to discuss this issue. County Attorney, Jerry Ann Conner stated this cemetery is not on County property and therefore there is no action for the County to take. After further discussion, Commissioner Caldwell and Commissioner Allen both stated that if Georgia Power is investigating this matter that they should be allowed the time to research who the owners are and therefore handle the situation themselves.

Agenda Item # 8 – Executive Session – None.

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