

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Pre-meeting work session Minutes from NOVEMBER 17, 2009 3:00 p.m. Cherokee Hall

Chairman Ahrens dispensed with the reading and asked Misti Martin to start the Work Session at 3:05 p.m. All members were present.

1. Misti Martin will give a quarterly update on the Development Authority activities

Misti said that they had actually worked 56 total prospects so far this year and over 28,000+ had viewed the web site. There have been two companies participate in the existing industry program, with a \$5 million dollar investment for 2009. There is a new company locating to the Canton-Cherokee Industrial Park from Smyrna, the name of the company is Pro-Comm and they are going from a 25,000 square foot building to an 84,000 square foot building with plans to expand the employee base from 25 to up to 70 or more. Misti then thanked the board for their support in the signage at the Airport and also with the 53 acre purchase on Hwy. 92 East. She said they had some interest in the site.

2. Discuss re-name of development authority for marketing communications

On this topic, Misti said that it was being worked on to have a name that is more reflective of their efforts and to give a clear understanding of what the Development Authority is and does.

Chairman Ahrens said that he wanted to bring up a topic and put it on the agenda as an Announcement as well regarding the joint initiative of the Development Authority and Chamber of Commerce called a "Global Entrepreneurship Week" which happens to be running this week, beginning on November 16 and going thru the 22nd.

3. Recognition of Staff/Programming of the Recreation & Parks Agency (Michael Brantley-Georgia Recreation and Park Association (GRPA) District 5 Distinguished Professional Award) and <Georgia Recreation and Park Association (GRPA) "**Lineman Challenge**" State Athletic Section Innovative Program Award for 2009>

Chairman Ahrens asked Keith Hammond to come up and then the Chairman presented the award to Michael Brantley for the District 5 Distinguished Professional which he had been awarded at the prior week's convention.

Then Mr. Hammond spoke about the award received for the State Athletic Section Innovative Program for 2009 called the "Lineman Challenge" which was geared towards the linemen on a football team with teams competing from 17 teams from 9 different high schools all over the State which was created by Sean Schumacher of the Parks agency. Commissioner Good noted that his son's team from Etowah High had won the challenge.

4. Amy Davis will present October, 2009 financials

When Mrs. Davis was questioned by the Chairman as to the \$7 million positive swing from the end of October this year and last year, she answered that when she originally put the projection together she was looking at historical trends and historically, the bulk of expenditures have come in the last two months of the year. However, because of the purchase order cutoff being moved up and the budget cuts, she believed that, at least this year, those capital purchases were made in September.

The Chairman thanked Mrs. Davis after her presentation and then said that he would like to ask the other board members to consider the dates of January 21 and 22nd as possible dates for a retreat and have tentatively booked the Barnsley Gardens center. He asked that they contact Christy if there are any conflicts.

5. Discussion of Regular Agenda items

When the Chairman mentioned the Conservation Use Valuation Assessment to Commissioner Hubbard and the public hearing tonight, Commissioner Hubbard said that he wanted to let Commissioner Johnston know that this is for families and family corporations, not for commercial enterprises. This answer was in response to a question Commissioner Johnston had posed to him earlier. Mrs. Angie Davis spoke up and said that in the statute if there is 10 acres or less, there is a heightened proof requirement when applying for this assessment. After much discussion concerning how much taxes would go up for those under 10 acres, if that was the minimum set, and exactly what the state law requires to qualify for the conservation valuation assessment; it was decided to see what the public hearing brought as to comments or suggestions.

Chairman Ahrens asked Commissioner Johnston about his nomination for the Airport Authority Board; Commissioner Johnston said Mr. Erwin Haynes had asked for his name to be withdrawn as he had decided to take the job in San Diego; and Commissioner Johnston said he was fully supportive of the appointment of Dave Davis.

Mr. Cooper came forward and reviewed the Consent Agenda before going on to his portion.

On item 6, there was considerable discussion regarding taking over the roads and completing paving the streets in the subdivisions noted because of the low amount that the surety, that holds the maintenance and performance bond, had finally agreed to pay for this since the developer had gone into bankruptcy and where the funds to pay the balance of the cost were coming from (another project that did not cost as much as budgeted for). A suggestion was made that perhaps it was time to review and make amendments to the policy governing maintenance and performance bonds.

On item #11, after Commissioner Johnston ascertained that the purchase price would be coming out of SPLOST funds that are specifically earmarked for capital purchase by the Sheriff's Office, Mr. Cooper said that since Sheriff Garrison was present he was sure he would be happy to give his assessment for this purchase. Sheriff Garrison said that what they hoped to accomplish long term was to create a Type 1 or Level 1 SWAT team which has the capability of entering into a hot zone, chemical zone or biohazard zone and this purchase is an important part of achieving this goal. This fully armored vehicle could be used for deployment and/or extraction of hostages. Sheriff Garrison went on saying that the urgency in this purchase was to get 2009 prices, and since the vehicle has to be built from the ground up, delivery would not take place until approximately 6 months down the road and therefore this would be a 2010 acquisition. Afterwards, Sheriff Garrison said he would try to give an update on where the department was with the 287G application process, saying that they have made application and it has been forwarded to Washington, however, the Atlanta office says that the program is running out of funding. He also said of the four counties who have been approved for the program and have it in place, they have about 2,000 beds in their detention facilities as well as approximately 1, 000 beds in their correctional facilities which are separate and apart from the detention facilities.

On item #12, there was some discussion about City of Holly Springs not being happy with the County purchasing the property on Hwy. 5 and that the price to be paid was about half of what the Chattin Drive property that had been considered previously. Mr. Cooper pointed out that this property is centrally located and is the best property for this purpose.

When the Chairman asked Mrs. Angie Davis about the item under her portion, she said that Mrs. Vicki Taylor Lee would be handling this show cause hearing. Vicki explained the reasoning behind the home occupation licensing of this business and then said that she had only run the first sheet of complaints that had been made against Mr. Sanders that were most recent going back to 2007 and there were many before then. Mr. Sanders does not meet the criteria for a home occupation license and does not meet the 200 foot setback requirement for a kennel. Vicki said that when the home occupation license was issued, she made sure that he signed the sheet stating the limitations of a home occupation license and understood the requirements. The dogs that he raises are for attack or guard dogs. And there are more than 8, as stated in the home occupation criteria, which, according to the neighbors are constantly barking and disturbing their peace and tranquility and frightening the adults and children alike with their size.

Chief Ray Waters said that Mr. Sanders and the neighbors had joined into a Consent Agreement that he would have the dogs moved by October 1, this was the 2nd time there had been a consent agreement between them and no movement had been made by Mr. Sanders as yet. Chief Waters said that the Solicitor's Office is in the process of reinstating the charges that were the result of the hearing earlier this year when the Consent Order was placed. Mrs. Davis said that it might be prudent to move this item to behind the Public Hearing; the Chairman said they would take that under advisement.

Chairman Ahrens talked briefly about the meeting he had attended with the Pension Board directed to the employees, then reminded all that the Garland Mountain Trails would be having the soft opening this Saturday. The Chairman also asked the board members if they had an objection to Mr. Cooper including the \$10,000 for the Transportation Implementation Board, in the budget process, rather than bring it back as an agenda item; to which they all agreed that was fine.

With no other business, Commissioner Hubbard made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session at 5:11 p.m. to discuss personnel issues, pending litigation and Property acquisition; Commissioner Bosch seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

These Work Session Minutes were approved at the regular meeting on December 1, 2009.