



**COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2012
4:00 P.M. – CONFERENCE ROOM – STE. 168
M I N U T E S**

- I. Commissioner Jones called the meeting to order.
 - 1. Prayer
 - 2. Pledge of Allegiance
 - 3. Amendments to Agenda – None
- II. Approved Minutes from February 23, 2012 meeting.
- III. Reports from Committees and Departments

Joey Low – Director of Planning & Development – reported that the news has not been good in planning & development but last year was the first year that things got a little bit better and are continuing to get a little better. In looking at the last 12 months we have issued 41 new house permits vs. the prior 12 months there were 25 issued; mobile homes – 32 last 12 months vs. 29 the prior year ; miscellaneous – 162 last year vs. 155 the prior year; commercial – 5 vs. 3. Renewals are down – 59 vs. 78. That is just working thru a lot of the older permits that were still in effect before the economy crashed. 299 vs. 290- Those permits represent the evaluation of 11.2 million dollars of construction in the last 12 months vs. 6.1 million in the previous 12 months. That is a pretty good increase. The bad news is that the revenue coming in their department is still flat. He said there are several reasons for that. A big chunk comes from business license and they are way down Some of the numbers in the building permits were unfortunately due to the tornados in April last year. Commissioner Jones was nice enough to give those people a break on their permits so we didn't collect all the money on that. Outside of the numbers of intangibles, there a lot of people calling who are interested in doing stuff now where the phones were not ringing for a long period of time. He said there are a couple of projects going on right now: a 15,000 sq. ft. warehouse getting ready to go up at the corner of Old Hwy 5 & Old Whitestone Road and Charlie Wright is getting zoning in place for a solar farm. Hopefully things are going to continue to get better.
- IV. Consent Agenda
 - 1. Adopted Resolution to submit a Pre-application for funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for Roper Park Walking Trail.
 - 2. Adopted Resolution Appointing Maurice (Toddy) Hendrix to the Pickens County Planning Commission replacing Phil Anderson who resigned. The term ends December 31, 2012.
 - 3. Adopted Resolution Reappointing John R. Pool to the Joint Development Authority of Bartow and Pickens County, Georgia. The term will end December 2016.
 - 4. Signed Joint Proclamation to Designate April 2012 as The Great American Clean-up / Let's Keep Georgia Beautiful Statewide Cleanup Month in all of Pickens County.

5. Adopted Resolution appointing David Howe to the Pickens County Airport Authority to fill the unexpired term of Calvin Robinson, who resigned. The four year term ends in March 2013.
 6. Signed contract with the Department of Transportation for 5311 rural public transportation.
- V. Old Business
None
- VI. New Business
None
- VII. Guests/Comments
Angela Reinhardt asked if the Land and Water Conservation Fund is state or federal. Norman Pope replied that it is federal but administered by the state. Commissioner Jones stated that we are trying to get some of the money but there is no guarantee that we will get it. He said he wants to increase the walking trails at Roper Park.
- Mr. Bart Connelly asked Commissioner Jones about the courthouse.
Commissioner Jones said four bids were received. The lowest bid was \$9.87 million – high bid - \$10.4 million. The bids are being reviewed. A contractor will be picked from the four.
Commissioner Jones said they were really impressed that the bids were so close and they are surprised in a good way that the bids came in that low.
- VIII. Adjournment
Commissioner Jones adjourned the meeting at 4:16 p.m.

The Commissioner's Meetings are videotaped and may be viewed at www.knowpickens.com