



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Work Session

Minutes

January 7, 2016

10:00 a.m.

Commission Conference Room – Ste. 168

Chairman Jones called the Work Session to order at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Becky Denney and Commissioner Jerry Barnes were present.

1. BOC meeting schedule for 2016

Chairman Jones stated that the BOC meeting schedule will remain the same as previous. The Board will vote to approve the schedule in the January 21, 2016 meeting.

2. Airport

Chairman Jones advised the Board that David Howe of the Airport Authority will be giving an update regarding hangars, etc. at the Airport in the near future. He was not in attendance at the Work Session.

3. Water Monitoring - CCR

Planning & Development Director Richard Osborne stated that Items 3 – 7 lump together. The Lake Allatoona/Upper Etowah River Watershed (LAUE) is located in several counties north of Atlanta. In 2005, the partnership sponsors (including Pickens) signed an agreement with the State EPD to undertake the three component LAUE Watershed Study. Based on years of initial monitoring, the Watershed Protection Plan was completed in 2013. Part of the approved plan includes long-term annual water quality monitoring of Long Swamp Creek at Reavis Mountain Road and Sharp Mountain Creek at Dowda Mill Road. The Planning & Development staff has received a proposal from CCR Environmental of Atlanta to complete water quality monitoring at these sites. The total annual proposal for monitoring two sites by CCR Environmental is \$16,490. Advanced Environmental charged \$10,181.20 for monitoring the Long Swamp Creek site in 2015. There may be a cost savings in switching to CCR Environmental. He provided the Commissioners with a watershed map; plan implementation responsibilities for Pickens; and proposal documents from CCR Environmental. Planning & Development staff recommend approval. This item will be on the January 21, 2016 BOC agenda.

4. Mr. Osborne addressed the Board regarding the retirement of Jan Stephens from

Environmental Health – State employee effective January 29, 2016. A replacement hasn't been hired. There is ordinarily two employees in that office but now there is only one (Jan Stephens) who is retiring. He explained that with no one in that position to do perk tests, inspections, etc. no building permits can be issued. Of course no one wants this to happen. Development has just picked up and Chairman Jones said we do not want to have to do a moratorium on building permits. Commissioner Denney asked if Jan might stay on a little longer till they could get a replacement. Chairman Jones said that is not in the Board's purview. Jan is a State employee. Chairman Jones stated that he would be contacting Ms. Stephen's supervisor.

5. Commissioner Denney stated that she wants to talk about Tatum Farms. There was a lot of discussion. Planning & Development Director Richard Osborne said that a lot of citizens have spoken to him saying 50 is too small a number to require a permit because a lot of families have reunions and parties which would have more attendees than that. Most people say they don't feel like they should have to get a permit. They don't want it at all. Also, if it is a non-profit event the fee for the permit would take money from the charity. Chairman Jones said that whatever the Board does affects the whole County. County Attorney Phil Landrum said the issues associated with this kind of venue that the concerns are mostly loud noises late at night; Section 42-2 of the Pickens County Code of Ordinances – Item #6 addresses that problem; Item # 18 – you can call the Sheriff. Chairman Jones said this ordinance pretty well would cover it.

Mr. Landrum stated they could talk about the rezone – conditional use request from Tatum Farms. He advised the Board they have three options: 1) deny the request; 2) grant the request as it was presented to them from the Planning Commission (with conditions); but he says that would be difficult to enforce; or they can approve without the conditions.

Commissioner Denney asked if they could vote on the rezone in the January 21st meeting and then the Ordinance would cover the noise.

Mr. Osborne told the Board that the text amendment by Staff can be withdrawn. The Rezone Request for Tatum Farms will be on the January 21, 2016 agenda.

6. Commissioner Barnes asked about the storm damage. Chairman Jones said the damage is a little over \$50,000. John Nicholson stated that they are starting Monday on Price Creek and Sutton Road. Chairman Jones said they have had a problem getting pipe. There were 11 roads involved. They have replaced pipe to a larger size. Mr. Nicholson said Dean Mill should be open this afternoon. He also mentioned that Director Butterworth said there might be some money from the government. \$14 million is the breaking point for the State. Mr. Nicholson said there is slim hope for federal money. Talking Rock had \$300,000 damage.

Chief Tax Appraiser Roy Dobbs said it is tough for everybody. The ground is so saturated you can't get on property. He also asked where tires (that have been found in creeks) can be carried. Chairman Jones told him they could be carried to Recycling. The charge is normally \$2.00 each.

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

These Minutes were approved at the January 21, 2016 BOC Meeting.

Commission Meetings are videotaped and may be viewed at www.knowpickens.com.