



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Work Session

MINUTES

August 4, 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.

Items Discussed:

- 1) Smoking ban at Roper Park – Parks and Recreation Director Brian Jones stated that he had presented this item to the Board in the June meeting and wanted to discuss it further. He said that a No Smoking Policy or strengthening distancing area from the current policy of 25' from playing field to 50' from playing field with appropriate signage. He stated that he has looked at other organizations. Gordon County has a No Smoking policy. They had some trials and tribulations but getting started a couple of months ahead of basketball will help. The Recreation Board recommends a ban. Designated smoking areas were also discussed. Holding baseball tournaments was also discussed. Assistant Director Seth Boyd explained that we only have 2 lighted fields and we would need 4 lighted fields – a clover leaf – for it to be profitable. Also would have to have an employee on the property and that would run into overtime. The travel ball tournaments can last all day until midnight. Director Brian Jones stated that he would recommend saving money and putting a cloverleaf somewhere else. He says they are making some revenue now renting fields to ball teams. The smoking ban will be placed on the August 18 BOC meeting agenda.**
- 2) Pickens County Water and Sewer Board – The Board members received a letter from Tim Jordan, Chairman of the Water & Sewer Board stating that at the April 18, 2016 meeting the Pickens County Water and Sewer Board voted to ask the Commissioners to raise their meeting allowance from \$30 to \$50, saying that they have been compensated at the \$30 amount for years and would like to see it increased. Eventually, he said they would like to see the county and water board come to a consensus on the buyout of the water department debt to be ran independently by the water board. Commissioner Denney said she has no problem with increasing the per diem but she asked about the last sentence. Chairman Jones explained that the goal has been for the water department to become an independent entity instead of county. He also said that everything would have to be purchased from the county – which would be a lot of money. They have been in the black about 3 years now. CFO Faye Harvey says there is a 20 year payoff on water**

debt at this time. The Board will look at the per diems for all of the boards and they will look at this during budget meetings.

- 3) **Whispering Creek Water Issues – County Attorney Phil Landrum said that the county water system can provide water service to the property below 1,560’ elevation, but can’t provide water service within the Platted Property where the highest point of said structure exceeds an elevation of 1,560 MSL feet, To be able to service the higher elevation, they would have to install a tank and booster pump and this would then have to be approved by Pickens County. The Amendment to Certification of Approval of Water System will be placed on the August 18 BOC meeting agenda.**
- 4) **Alcohol special events text amendment – Director of Planning and Development Richard Osborne stated that Foothills IGA owner Jeff Downing has requested that, based on the popularity of alcohol special events at his store, the Beer and Wine Board and Board of Commissioners consider allowing more events per year. The Code of Ordinances currently allows each event to last no longer than one day and there may be no more than six events per calendar year. Mr. Downing has requested that each event be able to last no more than two days at a time, and would like to be able to have no more than twelve events per year. The Beer and Wine Board members discussed this matter during regular and called meetings. Consensus was reached among the members that this request may be reasonable for current license holders. Board members also stated that non-license holders could obtain up to three special events licenses per calendar year. The Beer and Wine Board members stated that special events licenses should not be issued for a Sunday event. On August 2, they voted to unanimously recommend approval of the proposed revision. This item will be placed on the August 18 BOC agenda.**
- 5) **Property for fire station - Chairman Jones said they are looking at property in the Salacoa area for a fire station. The ISO rating in the Salacoa area is high – 10. It has been difficult finding property that the owners are willing to sell, but he believes that the property they are looking at now looks promising.**
- 6) **Price Creek Road Bridge – Chairman Jones said the bridge has got to be fixed. Rodney Buckingham has sent pictures and other paperwork to Carla Hamm in the Cartersville D.O.T. office.**
- 7) **Recreation in east and west side of county – Commissioner Denney spoke regarding the need for ball field and playground equipment in the eastern part of the county. Sheriff Donnie Craig said he has spoken with Commissioner Denney and he feels that the Sheriff’s Foundation could partner with the county to revive the ball field on the East side of the county. The church owns property that adjoins the county’s and Commissioner Denney has spoken with a deacon and the church could lease it to the county for \$1.00 per year.
Park & Recreation Director Brian Jones said that it has potential but the cost would probably run around \$50,000 – for fencing, etc. He said it would need to be done right, not halfway. It is a 300’ field and you have to have parking and space for children’s’ playground equipment. Sheriff Craig said they need to put a plan together and then try and work out finances. He has contacts that might help. Chairman Jones said we need to get a survey done first. Commissioner Denney will speak again with the deacons about the property. This item will be discussed later.**

Also, in the western part of the county – the county has a playground in Hinton and there is already playground equipment there. Commissioner Barnes said there is a tree down and trees that need cut. Chairman Jones said it is hard to get Georgia Power to cut them. Sheriff Craig said the the work-force could clean it up – with an agreement with the county. Commissioner Barnes said he has a resident that he might get to supply free labor for a small ball field. Chairman Jones said they need to get the survey on that property straightened out. Commissioner Denney said she appreciates Sheriff Craig’s interest in this.

There being no further discussion the work session adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

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

These Minutes were approved at the August 18, 2016 BOC meeting.