



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Work Session

MINUTES

October 6, 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 Barnes were present.

Items Discussed:

- 1) Liquor Sales in Pickens County - Colonel Wayne Crawford, wine writer for Big Canoe addressed questions to the Board regarding the Pickens County Ordinances regarding Liquor sales. He said he has done research and that in the unincorporated area of Pickens County we are missing an opportunity for sales and excise tax revenue from liquor sales. He said that people in the Eastern part of the county have to drive all the way into Jasper or into Dawson County to purchase liquor. He asked what would have to be done to get this changed. Chairman Jones said that to change the law it would have to be placed on the ballot and voted on by the citizens of Pickens County. Colonel Crawford stated that with our county's population approximately 4,000 adults would use liquor stores in the County and that would generate approximately \$144,000 in Georgia tax and about \$18,000 in excise tax. Chairman Jones asked if he had any statistics on DUIs in counties that have done this. He did not at this time, but in his research he found that people leave a dry county to buy liquor in a county and drink on the way back. Chairman Jones said that more discussion needs to take place regarding this item before it could be considered to be placed on a future ballot.**
- 2) Animal Shelter – Paul Poore, founder of Bark in the Park in Jasper, Susan Horton of Horton's Pet Supply and Jenny Aaronson from Be-Paws We Care addressed the Commissioners about ordinances and procedures related to pets and pet adoption. Mr. Poore stated that they want to help improve the shelter. He said we all can be proud of the high adoption and low euthanization rate of the animal shelter. He suggested in regard to bully breed dogs that a special temperament test be performed by a trainer that is specialized in the bully breeds. Mr. Poore said the fine schedule for aggressive dogs that bite people is too low. Ms. Horton said Pickens County should adopt and enforce a county wide leash law with penalties or fines. This will ensure the safety of citizens from dog bites and other health issues. Chairman Jones said that not many counties our size even have an animal shelter. He asked who would enforce a leash law – stating that he only has one Marshal.**

The group suggested appointing an animal care advisory board could be created, comprised of citizens of Pickens County that are not related to any employees of the shelter or employed by the county, to listen to complaints and suggestions from citizens and employees of the shelter to advise the BOC of recommendations and new policies that are needed. They would work with other non-profits on education programs on responsible pet ownership. The shelter employees would still answer to the Board. Ms. Erinson said that the Pickens Animal shelter could merge with a Humane Society in the future to help with funding and operation of the shelter, as other counties have done. Commissioner Denney asked for them to email information to the Board.

- 3) Budget Transfer Policy Revision – CFO Faye Harvey stated that other counties have initiated this policy. At this time the CFO can approve transfers from one budget line item to the other. She said we don't have a policy now about changing from salary accounts. The BOC will take another look at this item. Mrs. Harvey announced that the 2017 Budget meetings with the Department Heads and Elected officials will begin October 17th at 9:00 a.m. and will last through the 19th and that the 2017 Proposed Budget Books are available in her department.

Rick Sjolholm, development representative for the Northgate Shopping Center on Steve Tate Hwy., stated that they will be interested later on in the law changing regarding liquor sales in the unincorporated areas.

There being no further discussion the work session was adjourned.

These Minutes were approved at the October 20, 2016 BOC meeting.

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