



**PICKENS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2017
5:30 P.M. – CONFERENCE ROOM – STE. 168**

- I. Call to order**
Chairman Jones called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
Commissioner Jerry Barnes was present. Commissioner Becky Denney was absent due to sickness.
- II. Prayer - Richard Osborne**
Pledge of Allegiance – Led by Hannah Ballard and Caity Shoffer
- III. Amendments to Agenda**
 - A. Resolution to Authorize The Tax Commissioner to Waive Penalties and Interest on Unpaid Ad Valorem Taxes Under Certain Conditions – Item K under Action Items**
 - B. Authorization for Tax Commissioner Darrin Satterfield to accept checks for all taxes, fees, and licenses due their respective office – Item L under Action Items**
 - C. Resolution adopting and amending Chapter 58 of the Code of Ordinances of Pickens County, Georgia – Item M under Action Items**
- IV. Approval of Agenda**
Commissioner Barnes made motion to approve agenda with amendments; Chairman Jones seconded; all voted aye.
- V. Employee Recognition – Commissioner Barnes presented years of service award to Rodney Buckingham for 20 years of service in Planning & Development.**
- VI. Finance Report – CFO Faye Harvey reported that the February 2017 Financial Report reflects the first two months of the 2017 fiscal year. Expenditure budgets should not exceed 16.7%. General Fund revenue collections for the period ending February 28, 2017 total \$2,443,685 or 9.58% of the amount budgeted. General Fund expenditures through February 28, 2017 are \$3,261,916 or 12.79% of**

budgeted amounts. Overall, expenditures are 3.9% under the budgeted amount. Line item budget reports were distributed to department heads and elected officials on March 10, 2017. Mrs. Harvey said the Audit is coming along well. They will be doing field work here next Monday – Thursday and should be finishing up. We should have a draft by the 1st of May.

VII. Consent Agenda

- A. Signed Social Work Month Proclamation**
- B. Signed Great American Cleanup Proclamation**
- C. Signed Pickens FERST Week Proclamation**

VIII. Old Business - None

IX. New Business - None

X. Action Items

A. Approve Minutes

- 1) Regular Board Meeting – February 16, 2017**
- 2) Work Session – March 2, 2017**

Commissioner Barnes made motion to approve the February 16 and the March 2 minutes; Chairman Jones seconded; all voted aye.

B. Rezone Request

- 1) Conditional Use – SUSE-2-17-1219 David & Robin Higginbotham**

**201 Vineyard Road, Jasper
Events & Wedding Venues
Agricultural (AG) 10 Acres
Parcel 008-063-001) –
Amendment 116**

The Planning Commission voted on March 13 to unanimously recommend approval of this conditional use application.

Commissioner Barnes made motion to approve the conditional use on Parcel 008-063-001; Chairman Jones seconded; all voted aye.

C. Landfill Grant Application Authorization – Advanced

Environmental Management will submit the application on behalf of Pickens County. If no reimbursement funds are granted, there would be no cost to the county. If funds are granted, Advanced Environmental would take an administrative fee not to exceed one percent (1%) of the funds received.

Commissioner Barnes made motion to authorize Chairman Jones to sign on behalf of Pickens County; Chairman Jones seconded; all voted aye.

D. Text Amendment – Re-adoption of Chapter 67 Land Use Intensity Districts and Map – Only two minor changes: 1) 67-4. Definitions – Add the definition of Campground from Chapter 338 Land Development Regulations since none currently exists in Chapter 67: A parcel of land used or intended to be used, let, or rented for

occupancy by campers or for occupancy by camping trailers, tents, or movable or temporary dwellings, rooms or sleeping quarters of any kind. 2) Revise the definition of Church based on legal implications of the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act of 2000, which limits restrictions on religious property use. A building or structure, or groups of buildings or structures that by design and construction is primarily intended for conducting organized religious services. Associated accessory uses include, but are not limited to schools/kindergartens, meeting halls, indoor/outdoor recreational facilities, day care, cemeteries (see size requirements in the permitted use table), and counseling. Commissioner Barnes made motion to adopt the Resolution Adopting and Amending Chapter 67 of the Code of Ordinances of Pickens County, Georgia; Chairman Jones seconded; all voted aye.

E. Lead Edge Design Group Contract (Airport)

Commissioner Barnes made motion to authorize Chairman Jones to sign the contract; Chairman Jones seconded; all voted aye.

F. Appointment of Juvenile Court Public Defender – County

Attorney Phil Landrum said the position needs filled as soon as possible. A committee made up of attorneys from the three counties (Fannin, Gilmer, and Pickens) will make recommendations. Mr. Landrum asked that the Board delegate to the Chairman authority to hire this person upon recommendation of the committee.

Commissioner Barnes made motion to authorize Chairman Jones to hire upon recommendation of the committee; Chairman Jones seconded; all voted aye.

G. Policy on Administrative Office Building Meeting Rooms

Due to the escalating requests for use of the Pickens County Administrative Office meeting rooms and the fact that the building doesn't have security; the Board wishes to implement a policy ending all non-governmental meetings effective April 1, 2017. Chairman Jones stated that the Community Center has several meeting rooms at a charge of \$20/hr. and they are open until 9:00 p.m.

Commissioner Barnes made motion to approve the recommendation; Chairman Jones seconded; all voted aye.

H. Approval of 2017 Tax Anticipation Note Bid

CFO Faye Harvey stated that she sent out for interest rate bids on February 1st. They were due in to her office on March 3rd. She received 3 bids: Community Bank of Pickens County – 1.99 Line of Credit; United Community – 2.07 Fully Funded at closing; BB&T – Government Finance – 1.46 Fully funded at closing. Community Bank offers an interest rate of 1.99% on a line of credit to be drawn as needed. BB&T's rate was lower on a note

fully funded at closing, but with the drawdown as needed option and the ability to repay the line of credit early, the County will pay less interest on the line of credit. (\$4.8 million TAN)

Commissioner Barnes made motion to award the bid for the Pickens County 2017 TAN to Community Bank of Pickens County; Chairman Jones seconded; all voted aye.

I. Continuation of Accountability Court Grants

Angela Norris, Judicial Program Coordinator, Appalachian Judicial Circuit, addressed the Board regarding the continuation of four grants – Drug court, Mental Health court, Veterans’ Court and Family court. Contributions required from the counties (Fannin, Gilmer, Pickens) are budgeted for.

Chairman Jones made motion to approve continuation; Commissioner Barnes seconded; all voted aye.

J. Resolution Appointing Gerry Nechvatal as Pickens County member to the Gilmer / Pickens Development Authority to fill a position which has become vacant. The term will end December 31, 2017.

Chairman Jones made motion to adopt the Resolution appointing Mr. Nechvatal; Commissioner Barnes seconded; all voted aye.

K. Resolution to Authorize the Tax Commissioner to Waive Penalties and Interest on Unpaid Ad Valorem Taxes Under Certain Conditions

Commissioner Barnes made motion to adopt the Resolution; Chairman Jones seconded; all voted aye.

L. Authorization for the Tax Commissioner Darrin Satterfield to accept checks for all taxes, fees, and licenses due their respective office

Commissioner Barnes made motion to approve authorization; Chairman Jones seconded; all voted aye.

M. Resolution Adopting and Amending Chapter 58 (Solid Waste) of the Code of Ordinances of Pickens County, Georgia

Chairman Jones made motion to table this item until the April 20th meeting; Commissioner Barnes seconded; all voted aye.

Chairman Jones recognized four members of Youth Leadership Pickens who were in attendance: Hannah Ballard, Caity Shoffer, Olivia Moore, and Madeline Pool.

XI. Guests/Comments

Chief Magistrate Judge Allen Wigington addressed the Board saying that now is the time for real county planning. He has met with Commissioner Denney and Gerry Nechvatal and hopefully they will have a proposal for the planning process to present at the next work session which will be April 6th. Judge Wigington said that planning ahead for 3-5 years will give us a strategy map to look at and help us plan better for the future of Pickens County. All elected officials,

businesses, folks from the community, economic development, etc. would have input. Gerry Nechvatal and Judge Wigington both agree it takes vision and leadership to accomplish this. Chairman Jones asked how much it would cost for a facilitator and between \$13,000 and \$52,000. When asked about a timeline – Judge Wigington said he and Commissioner Denney want to get started on it and it will take months to have something developed.

XII. Adjourn

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

These Minutes were approved in the April 20, 2017 BOC meeting.

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