

## **WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

### **MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING HELD**

**APRIL 7, 2008, AT 4:30 P.M.**

The White County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session at 4:30 P.M. in the Grand Jury Room of the White County Courthouse, Cleveland, Georgia. Present were: Chairman Chris R. Nonnemaker, Post 1 Commissioner Joe R. Campbell, Post 2 Commissioner Craig Bryant, County Manager Alton Brown, Chief Financial Officer Vickie Neikirk, and County Clerk Jean Welborn.

Chairman Nonnemaker called the meeting to order. After the pledge to the flag, Commissioner Campbell brought the invocation.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, the minutes from the Regular Meeting held March 3, 2008 were unanimously adopted.

The Board of Commissioners:

- 1) Declared the week of April 13-19, 2008 as "Telecommunicators Week" in White County;
- 2) Declared April, 2008 as "Confederate History Month;" and
- 3) Declared the week beginning April 27, 2008 as "Special Olympics Week" in White County.

The Board of Commissioners heard the variance request filed by Sherry Ivie on property located at 451 Cathey Creek Drive. Upon motion made by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Bryant, it was voted (Commissioner Campbell and Commissioner Bryant voting for and Chairman Nonnemaker abstaining from the vote because he had not had a chance to review the situation) to allow Sherry Ivie to replace the existing structure with a stick-built structure within the original footprint. It was reiterated that no additional footprint could be used for the replacement structure.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Bryant, seconded by Commissioner Campbell, the following Consent Agenda Items were unanimously approved:

- 1) Authorized the purchase of a used Mini Pumper Fire Truck for the sum of \$25,000, with the purchase to be paid from the fire fund;
- 2) Designated the proceeds from the sale or exchange of property or vehicles in the Fire Department to be used in the Fire Department;
- 3) Authorized the commitment from White County for the designation of a Work Ready Community;
- 4) Authorized the paving of a 500-foot section of May White Road at the same time Ricky West Road is paved;
- 5) Authorized Public Works Director, Doug Dockery, to bid \$15,000 for a used Leeboy Asphalt Paver.

Vickie Neikirk, Chief Financial Officer, presented the monthly financial report (see copy attached).

Maria Jurado-Flynn gave an update on Cleveland Better Hometown.

Judy Lovell and Shirley McDonald of the Historical Preservation Committee of Cleveland Better Hometown addressed the Board of Commissioners concerning the possibility of receiving the \$3,000 (formerly given to Cleveland Better Hometown for the

Minutes from Regular Meeting Held April 7, 2008, Continued

Sesquicentennial Celebration and to be reimbursed to White County) as seed money for revitalization of historic cemeteries.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Bryant, it was unanimously voted to appropriate the \$3,000 back to the Historic Preservation Committee to be used for revitalization of historic cemeteries.

Cathy Blandon of Sautee Nacoochee Community Association addressed the Board of Commissioners concerning a possible partnership with the County to create a pocket nature preserve on property donated to the Sautee Nacoochee Community Association several years ago by Lillian Everhart. The property consists of approximately 2 acres and is situated on the south side of Highway 17 in Nacoochee Valley. It was stated that this is the same property whereon is situated the slave cabin. Ms. Blandon stated that the Association was going to move the slave cabin to the Sautee Nacoochee main campus to become part of a larger historic display. It was stated by Commissioner Bryant that the County had been asked to pave the driveway into the present location of the slave cabin and that the County did, in fact, contract to have the paving completed.

Teresa Stansel asked if any of the Board of Commissioners now served on the Board of the Sautee Nacoochee Community Association. Chairman Nonnemaker stated that they did not.

Peggy Rutter, Gary Hopkins, Susan Krudzlo, Bev Minor, Angela Nickolas, Debbie Davis, and Marvine Brand expressed their concerns with the deplorable conditions surrounding the LHR Farm area and expressed their opinions that the County was not doing enough to get cooperation from John Hulsey of LHR Farms. Gary Hopkins asked if any of the Board of Commissioners had a conflict of interest or any business association with Mr. Hulsey. Commissioner Bryant stated that he did not; that he knew Mr. Hulsey and that Mr. Hulsey had been a customer at the car wash formerly owned by him; however, he stated that there was no conflict of interest and that he had no interest in Mr. Hulsey's enterprise. Commissioner Campbell stated that he did not have a conflict of interest and that Alton Brown did not either.

Teresa Stansel stated that the County could exercise its police powers under common law to stop Mr. Hulsey's operation, which was hazardous to the public's health. Chairman Nonnemaker stated that they would have the County Attorney, David Syfan, look into this.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Bryant, it was unanimously voted to authorize the execution of Terms of Engagement Agreement with the firm of Powell Goldstein LLP to review the proposed agreement with LHR Farms.

Chairman Nonnemaker announced the following meetings:

- 1) Work Session of Monday, April 28, 2008, at 9:00 A.M.; and
- 2) Regular Meeting of Monday, May 5, 2008, at 4:30 P.M.

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Upon motion made by Commissioner Campbell, seconded by Commissioner Bryant, the meeting was adjourned.

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Chris R. Nonnemaker, Chairman

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Joe R. Campbell, Post 1

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Craig Bryant, Post 2

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Jean Welborn, County Clerk