

WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING

HELD MONDAY, AUGUST 29, 2011 AT 4:00 P.M.

The White County Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing on Monday, August 29, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. in the Grand Jury Room of the White County Courthouse. The purpose of the Public Hearing was to receive public comment regarding a proposed resolution requesting the amendment of White County's Enabling Legislation to include the election of district commissioners by an at-large vote. Present at the meeting were: Chairman Travis Turner, Commissioner Terry Goodger, Commissioner Lyn Holcomb, Commissioner Edwin Nix, Commissioner Craig Bryant, County Manager Carol Jackson, and County Clerk Shanda Smallwood.

Chairman Turner called the public hearing to order – stating the purpose of the hearing and that those in support of the proposed resolution, as well as those opposing the resolution, would be given fifteen minutes to provide their comments – with each person being given two minutes to speak after stating their name and address for the record .

Chairman Turner opened the floor for comments from those in support of the proposed resolution requesting the amendment of White County's Enabling Legislation to include the election of district commissioners by an at-large vote.

Mark Johnson, 374 Goat Neck Road Cleveland, GA – Mr. Johnson stated that he felt the general opinion in the County was that the taxpayers would like to like to have the ability to cast a vote for each Commissioner would had a say in the manner in which tax dollars were spent.

Opal Bennett, 251 Bennett's Trail Sautee, GA - Ms. Bennett stated that if all five commissioners' decisions affected her life that she felt she should be able to vote for all five commissioners making the decisions.

Martha Shotts, 1112 Logan's Ridge Cleveland, GA – Ms. Shotts asked for clarification regarding the current enabling legislation. Chairman Turner stated that currently County Commissioners are required to live within the district which they represent and each County resident votes for one district commissioner and the Chairman (at-large vote). Chairman Turner explained that this method of electing commissioners was passed by the White County voters in 2008 when the Board of Commissioners was expanded from three members to five members – which became effective with the 2010 election.

Commissioner Nix read the following ballot language which appeared on the countywide referendum in 2010:

Yes () No () Shall the act be approved which changes the governing authority of White County to a five member Board with the Chairperson elected at-large with the four commissioners elected by the voters in each of four new commissioner districts?

Crawford Skelton, Hwy 129 North Cleveland, GA – Mr. Crawford stated that he felt that the voters of White County should be able to vote for all five Board of Commissioner positions.

With no additional comments in support of the proposed resolution requesting the amendment of White County’s Enabling Legislation to include the election of district commissioners by an at-large vote, Chairman Turner opened the floor for those who were not in favor of the proposed resolution.

Buddy Bellflower, 946 Mountain Meadow Road Cleveland, GA – Mr. Bellflower stated that he was not in favor of the proposed change since the current five member board had only been seated for eight (8) months and the vote to go to the five-member, district commission passed by 57%. He further stated that White County was a very diverse place and the district commission better represented the diversity of White County.

Emmett Shotts, 1112 Logan’s Ridge Cleveland, GA – Dr. Shotts stated that he felt it was too soon to change the manner in which the Board of Commissioners were elected and he thought the current district commission provided the best representation for the individual districts through accessibility and accountability.

With no additional comments against the proposed resolution requesting the amendment of White County’s Enabling Legislation to include the election of district commissioners by an at-large vote, Chairman Turner opened the floor once again for those who were in favor of the proposed resolution.

With there being no additional comments in support of the proposed resolution requesting the amendment of White County’s Enabling Legislation to include the election of district commissioners by an at-large vote, Chairman Turner recessed the public hearing for five minutes.

Chairman Turner called the public hearing to order once again and stated that an additional five minutes for those both in support of and for those not in support of a proposed resolution requesting the amendment of White County’s Enabling Legislation to include the election of district commissioners by an at-large vote.

Chairman Turner opened the floor for any additional comments in support of the proposed resolution.

With no additional comments in support of the proposed resolution, Chairman Turner opened the floor for any comments against the proposed resolution.

Chairman Turner expressed the Board of Commissioners appreciation to those in attendance for their participation.

With no additional comments against the proposed resolution, Chairman Turner adjourned the public hearing.

August 29, 2011 – Public Hearing Minutes (continued)

The minutes of the August 29, 2011 Public Hearing are hereby approved as stated this 26th day of September, 2011.

WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

s/Travis C. Turner
Travis C. Turner, Chairman

s/Terry D. Goodger
Terry D. Goodger, District 1

s/Lyn Holcomb
Lyn Holcomb, District 2

s/Edwin Nix
Edwin Nix, District 3

s/Craig Bryant
Craig Bryant, District 4

Attest: s/Shanda Smallwood
Shanda Smallwood, County Clerk