

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Business Meeting  
7:00 P.M.

February 4, 2014

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PRESENT: Chairman Jeffrey E. Turner, Vice-Chairman Shana M. Rooks, Commissioner Michael Edmondson, Commissioner Sonna Singleton, Commissioner Gail Hambrick, and Clerk Shelby D. Haywood.

1. Chairman Turner called the meeting to order.
2. Invocation was led by Pastor Arthur Powell of Travelers Rest Missionary Baptist Church in Morrow, Georgia. Pledge of allegiance to the flag was led by Chairman Turner.
3. Amended the agenda by deleting item #10 (Resolution 2014-30 – A Resolution requesting the Georgia General Assembly to adopt local legislation increasing Clayton County’s supplemental compensation for the Superior Court Judges of Clayton County; to authorize the Chairman to perform all acts necessary to accomplish the intent of this resolution; to authorize the Chief Financial Officer to amend the budget where necessary to reflect an appropriate revenue source and expense, all as may be required; to provide an effective date of this resolution; and for other purposes) and adding Ordinance 2014-42 – (An Ordinance to amend the Clayton County Civil Service Rules and Regulations, as amended, specifically to delete rule 5.454 “Closing of Government Buildings” and to insert in lieu thereof new language as provided herein; to repeal all conflicting laws, ordinances, resolutions, rules, and regulations; to provide for severability; to provide an effective date of this ordinance; and for other purposes). Clerk Haywood announced that an Executive Session would be held to discuss litigation and personnel matters. The agenda was adopted, as amended, as all commissioners had copies before them. Vote unanimous.
4. Approved the January 21, 2014 Regular Business Meeting minutes. Vote unanimous.
5. PUBLIC COMMENT: Citizens will be given a three (3)-minute maximum time limit to speak before the Board of Commissioners about various topics, issues, and concerns. Following thirty minutes of hearing from the public, the Board of Commissioners will allow the remainder of citizens who have signed up to be heard at the next Tuesday business meeting.
  - 1) Chief Clarence Cox, III greeted the Board on behalf of six thousand (6,000) Clayton County Public School System employees and the two thousand (2,000) children who attend. He expressed that Clayton County Public Schools “got it right” in making the call to close all schools in the county due to the winter weather warning advisory issued last week. He praised and recognized the good decisions

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that County leaders, the Clayton County School Board and Fire Chief Landry Merkison made to keep the children of the County safe at home, instead of being stranded on school buses or in school due to the winter weather. Chief Cox stressed that due to collaboration with Fire Chief Merkison, Clayton County Schools were able to serve the children, employees, and Clayton County citizens safely without complaint. In closing, he thanked Superintendent Luvenia Jackson and School Board Member Charlton Bivins and thanked the Board for appointing Landry Merkison as the County's Fire Chief.

2) Charlton Bivins, expressed gratitude to the Board and concurred with Chief Cox regarding Chief Landry Merkison's leadership and decisions. Mr. Bivins stated he was proud of the County's performance and that children were at home safe during the winter weather. He urged the Board and the School Board to continue to collaborate and have a cooperative spirit during such a crisis. Mr. Bivins finally thanked the Board and County leaders for their great foresight and performance during the snow storm last week.

Vice-Chairman Rooks also concurred with Chief Cox and Mr. Bivins regarding a job well done by Fire Chief Merkison. She affirmed that due to Chairman Turner's absence, she was left in charge. Vice-Chairman Rooks stated that Chief Merkison kept her apprised of the storm and also kept all Directors up-to-date. She stressed that Chief Merkison's information and recommendations made the decision very easy to close county government. Vice-Chairman Rooks applauded Chief Merkison and his staff, the Transportation & Development Department, the Sheriff, and the Police Department for relaying the information to keep County employees and citizens safe. She emphasized that because of Chief Merkison's leadership and up-to-date facts on the weather, Clayton County Public Schools made the appropriate decision to keep the children of the County safe and close all schools.

Chairman Turner confirmed that he was away during the storm, but he was proud of how Clayton County leaders responded during this crisis.

6. PROCLAMATION: "Clayton County Observes Severe Weather Awareness Week, February 3-7, 2014" (presented by Chairman Jeffrey E. Turner). [NOTE: Group photos were taken of the honoree and Board of Commissioners. Clerk Haywood read the proclamation for the benefit of the honoree, Board, and audience.]

Fire Chief Landry Merkison accepted the proclamation on behalf of three hundred sixty-seven (367) dedicated Fire Department staff members. He gave accolades and recognition to Police Chief Greg Porter and his department, Sheriff Victor Hill and his department, T & D Director Jeff Metarko and his department, as well as the Board for its support of the Emergency Management System.

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7. PRESENTATION: "Update on Clayton County's Forensic Audit" (presented by Marc Effron, President of White Elm Group and Aaron Danzig, Attorney-at-Law at Arnall Golden Gregory, LLP).

Mr. Aaron Danzig, Attorney-at-Law of Arnall Golden Gregory, LLP and representative of White Elm Group, greeted the Chairman and commissioners. Mr. Danzig thanked the Board for providing him the opportunity to discuss results of the forensic audit that White Elm Group conducted regarding certain issues related to the Finance Department, contracts and procedures here in Clayton County. He stated that transparency, accountability, clear policies and procedures are the hallmark of good government. They enhance effectiveness, efficiency of county government, and moreover instill confidence in citizens that their leaders are responsibly managing public funds for the benefit of the entire county. Mr. Danzig affirmed that early last year, the Board of Commissioners hired White Elm Group to conduct and review an audit in the Finance Department, and to address certain concerns and issues that had percolated over the past few years. He expressed his sincere thanks to the men and women who worked in the County and spent time meeting with White Elm Group, answering questions and providing documentation and information necessary for the firm to conduct its work. Although this process had been long, he believed it to be an important one for the County and its citizens.

Mr. Danzig alerted the Board that during the period of 2009-2012, the Finance Department and some other county departments lacked policies and procedures in the control of financial management to provide necessary transparency and confidence in County leaders being responsible guardians of county funds. Based on the firms' analysis, the absence of such policies and procedural control left an opportunity and an environment for self-dealing, fraud and abuse. He noted County government has already been working to remediate issues and his firm has seen improvement during the course of its work. He further stated that the firm has also provided the number of recommendations to further the work necessary and provide transparency accountability, policies and procedures necessary for Clayton County growth. Initially, the firm discussed the number of issues and concerns that are vital and consulted with Chairman Turner.

Mr. Danzig stressed that White Elm Group focused on three (3) main areas of the forensic audit: Contracts, SPLOST, and the Fire Fund Report. He acknowledged it undertook a literal process to prepare the report including interviewing dozens of County leaders, reviewing ten thousand documentations, contract hard files, electronic data and analyzing financial documents. Mr. Danzig noted that there were some limitations in getting information because of no subpoena power and requesting people to speak with the firm voluntarily. He affirmed that certain individuals refused an invitation to speak with him, such as the former County Manager and the former Finance Director. Additionally, the County's former auditors (KPMG) refused to respond to multiple requests involved. Mr. Danzig reiterated that with respects to the Finance Department, there appeared to be a lack of policies and procedural control. This limitation failure caused fraud, abuse, and mismanagement and

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further prevented the Finance Department in making a full decision in managing its department. He emphasized that lack of information flow and understanding the Finance operations lead to widespread circumspection, rumors, and inappropriate behavior. There was no inability to dispel those rumors, even at the highest level of County leadership. Mr. Danzig noted it appeared that the former Finance Director exercised total control over the Finance Department, restricted the flow of information to the commissioners, and also directed that action be taken by staff not to investigate accounts.

Per Mr. Danzig, the first area of review was related to Accounts Payable, testing the AP department, analyzing sampling of transactions, determining if contracts were entered into properly, and ascertaining if service contracts were provided and paid appropriately. He acknowledged that the review was hampered by a lack of formal and consistent following of policies and procedures concerning the contracting process and AP which limited the County's ability to monitor contracts. Mr. Danzig stated that the firm did not find written formalized Accounts Payable policies; there was a lack of control structure which prevented AP from playing gatekeeping roles and insuring that invoices and proper business services were actually provided. He affirmed that the Finance Department's former leadership would override Accounts Payable, and invoices would be paid without a consistent approval stamp. There was no control monitor for contracts and the county code allowed for certain departments to have emergency purchases which did not appear to be monitored efficiently. Mr. Danzig further stated neither Central Services nor the Legal Department monitored all professional services contracts. He reported that an outside Financial Statement Auditor reported that contracts were not formally tested as part of the annual financial statement audit, and sampling contracts being reviewed showed multiple contracts had missing exhibit information.

Mr. Danzig stated that the second area of review was related to SPLOST, to determine whether SPLOST funds were distributed appropriately. There was also a lack of sufficient oversight in the planning of SPLOST expenditures. Mr. Danzig specified that the firm reviewed the property of Lake City, Georgia Ingles Supermarket, which was not to be used for a proper SPLOST purpose and originally it was to be used for a library. He reported that this property was paid for with Bond Financing; however, the Bond Financing was canceled just before the closing date and SPLOST funds were used instead. There was a discussion that this property would be used as a recreation center for a SPLOST purpose, but ultimately it was used as a movie studio. In December 2012, two years after the purchase of the property, the decision was made to repay the SPLOST fund out of the General Fund (approximately two million dollars) because the property was not purchased and was used for an inappropriate SPLOST purpose.

Mr. Danzig addressed that the third area of review was related to the Fire Fund. The Fire Department had a \$2.4 million deficit in revenue taxes and was alarmed that budget cuts were necessary. Upon review by the firm, it was noted that the tax distribution was correct. The Fire Department's interaction with the Finance Department seemed indicative at the time as well as the Finance Department's

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interaction with other departments. Apparently, the Finance Department controlled the flow of information and did not provide wholesome information to commissioners and departments needed by those departments to manage their departments. Overall, the firm found that there was dysfunction in the Finance Department, lack of policies, staff abuse, lack of formalized training, autocratic management style, and too much control for the department to perform effectively and appropriately. The information flow to staff departments was insufficient, uninformed decision-making often occurred, technology interface was antiquated, and the software package used by the Finance Department was outdated. Mr. Danzig commented that he did not know if other information were withheld because electronic devices were returned to factory settings and could not be analyzed.

Mr. Danzig concluded his presentation with a number of recommendations to improve County policies and procedures. He believed adoption of these recommendations will restore confidence in Clayton County citizens, County leaders, management and responsible stewards of county funds. Mr. Danzig noted that the level of communications and transparency in the Finance Department has increased with the hiring of Chief Financial Officer Ramona Thurman.

Mr. Danzig proposed to the Board the following recommendations:

- Drafting formal Finance policies and procedures/Accounts Payable
- Maintaining and consolidating a vendor master list
- Providing more information from the Finance Department to the commissioners
- Updating the County Code for emergency purchasing and bypassing pertinent authorization
- Centralizing a system to monitor county contracts
- Finding SPLOST purposes under the SPLOST referendum
- Hiring a SPLOST Manager
- Formalizing an approval process for SPLOST funds

In closing, Mr. Danzig informed Chairman Turner that he would provide him a copy of these recommendations.

Chairman Turner directed Mr. Danzig to provide a copy to these recommendations to the other commissioners as well.

Chairman Turner asked if there were any questions from the Board members.

Commissioner Hambrick questioned what the final cost will be for the Forensic Audit.

Chief Financial Officer Ramona Thurman stated no invoice has been received as of yet.

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Mr. Danzig replied the cost is \$500,000.00. He stated that additional work was done; the audit examined 10,000 pages of public documents and a lot of time was spent on analysis.

8. Theodis Locke, Director of Central Services/Risk Management, presented two (2) items that resulted in the following Board actions.

(NOTE: The entire Purchasing Ordinance for Clayton County, Georgia can be viewed on the MuniCode website. Citizens can access this website via the following website address: <http://library.municode.com/index.aspx?clientId=10562>.)

1) Approved a **Request to Sell County Surplus Items, utilizing GovDeals.com**, as requested by Central Services.

The list of items is as follows:

- Lot 233 4 Continental Tires
- Lot 234 4 Pirelli Tires
- Lot 235 4 Continental Tires
- Lot 236 3 Continental Tires
- Lot 237 1 Continental Tire
- Lot 238 1 Pirelli Tire
- Lot 240 Pallet of Assorted Air Filters
- Lot 241 Box of Bucket Teeth, & Blades
- Lot 242 Boxes of Cleaners, Flushes, Oil & Lubes
- Lot 243 Safety Triangle Flare Kit & Scanner Kit
- Lot 244 Motorcraft Fuel Pump
- Lot 245 Airtex Fuel Pump
- Lot 246 Ford ABS Module
- Lot 247 Pallet of Lights, Lens, Bulbs & Covers
- Lot 248 Pallet of Oil & Fuel Filters
- Lot 249 Motorcraft Alternator
- Lot 250 6 Pitman Arms & 1 Arm Shaft
- Lot 251 Radiator, Manifold, Heater, AC Hoses & Power Steering Lines
- Lot 252 Pallet of Mirror Covers, Wiper Blades, Headlight Assemblies, Turn Signals, Window Regulators, Etc.
- Lot 253 Pallet of Spark Plugs, ABS Sensors, Seals, Wiper Motors, Starters, Etc.
- Lot 254 Pallet of Brake Hardware, Bearings, Disc Pads, & Brake Shoes
- Lot 255 Ford Hands Free Module

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- Lot 258 Pallets of Rotors & Drums
- Lot 259 11 Alamo V-Belts
- Lot 260 Motorcraft A/C Compressor Kit
- Lot 261 Motorcraft Fuel Pump
- Lot 262 Ford Master Cylinder
- Lot 263 Master Quality Starter
- Lot 264 2 Ford Oil Coolers
- Lot 265 Assortment of Ford Parts
- Lot 266 1985 International Single Axle Tractor with Tandem Axle Low Boy Trailer
- Lot 267 2008 Ford Crown Victoria – County Vehicle #9110
- Lot 268 2003 Ford Crown Victoria – County Vehicle #678
- Lot 269 2001 Ford Crown Victoria – County Vehicle #725
- Lot 270 1994 Ford E150 Van – County Vehicle #359
- Lot 271 1994 Ford Crown Victoria – County Vehicle #157
- Lot 272 1992 Chevy 2500 Pickup Truck – County Vehicle #812
- Lot 273 1994 Chevrolet Caprice LS – No County Vehicle
- Lot 274 2001 Chevy Impala – County Vehicle #578
- Lot 275 2004 Ford Crown Victoria – County Vehicle #912
- Lot 276 2001 Ford Crown Victoria – County Vehicle #938
- Lot 277 5 Lawn Mowers, 6 Golf Carts, Seed Distributor, Water Tank with Trailer
- Lot 278 Single Axle Box Trailer – County Vehicle #7232
- Lot 279 Fruehauf Box Trailer – County Vehicle #7233
- Lot 280 2008 Ford Crown Victoria – County Vehicle #9139
- Lot 281 Iveco Bus – County Vehicle #241
- Lot 282 1984 Oldsmobile Cutlass – County Vehicle #247
- Lot 283 1994 Ford F700 Truck w/lawn mower truck bed – County Vehicle #202
- Lot 284 2011 Ford Crown Victoria - County Vehicle #9233
- Lot 285 2005 Ford Crown Victoria – County Vehicle #9023
- Lot 286 1986 Core Drill - County Vehicle #246

Vote unanimous.

Commissioner Edmondson asked Clayton County Staff Attorney Christie Barnes if the Board needed to indicate that a list is attached to the Lot items.

Ms. Barnes answered no. For the record, the Board had the list of items before them.

Commissioner Edmondson commented that the Board has had to bring back items in the past that were

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not read into the minutes.

Ms. Barnes replied that would only apply when contracts are read into the minutes. In this case, items are just being sold.

2) Approved a **Request to renew the County's Crime Policy along with the Public Official Position Schedule Bond for the period March 1, 2014 through March 1, 2015 and to grant approval to the Chief Financial Officer to amend the budget as necessary**, as requested by Central Services/Risk Management Department. Vote unanimous.

The crime policy protects the County from losses due to employee theft, employee dishonesty, robbery, computer fraud, forgery or alteration, funds transfers, and other criminal acts. The Public Official Position Schedule Bond provides coverage for all County Public Officials required to carry a surety bond.

Clayton County's current carrier, National Union Fire Insurance Company of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, has provided a \$2,200,000.00 crime limit for a total premium of \$12,072.00; a 3% increase from last year's premium of \$11,698.00. This is indicative of the market trend. Western Surety Company has provided a \$3,350,000.00 surety limit for the Public Officials Bond for a total premium of \$13,687.50.

9. Ramona Thurman, Chief Financial Officer, presented (2) budget amendments and one (1) Request for Refund which resulted in the following Board actions.

1) Approved Budget Amendment #2-32 – Other General Government/FYE 6-30-14, in the amount of \$70,000.00, to replace two (2) Police vehicles where repair costs exceed the value of the vehicle. Vote unanimous.

2) Approved Budget Amendment #4-47 – Fund 307 Reimposition SPLOST/FYE 6-30-14, in the amount of \$102,752.00, to purchase spare subscriber radio unit batteries for 24-hour Public Safety use with the Public Safety Digital Network (PSDN) Project. Vote unanimous.

3) Approved a Request for Refund Check/Alcohol License Fee, in the amount of \$2,000.00, to Amin Punjani (Raaas Ventures, LLC) in College Park, Georgia. Vote unanimous.

10. Approved Resolution 2014-31, a Resolution authorizing Clayton County to enter into an agreement with Six Flags Over Georgia on behalf of the Clayton County Human Resources Department providing for the terms and conditions under which Six Flags Over Georgia Park admission tickets will be provided to the County on a consignment basis; to authorize the Chairman to execute the agreement on behalf of

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the County and otherwise to perform all other acts necessary to accomplish the intent of the resolution; to provide an effective date of this resolution; and for other purposes. Vote unanimous.

11. Approved Resolution 2014-32, a Resolution authorizing Clayton County to amend a Subrecipient Agreement with the Jonesboro Housing Authority for services to be rendered in connection with certain Community Development Block Grants; to authorize the Chairman to execute the amendment and otherwise to perform all other acts necessary to accomplish the intent of this resolution; to authorize the Chief Financial Officer to amend the budget where necessary to reflect an appropriate revenue source and expense, all as may be required; to provide an effective date of this resolution; and for other purposes. Vote unanimous.

12. Approved Resolution 2014-33, a Resolution authorizing Clayton County to enter into a Grant Award Agreement on behalf of the Clayton County District Attorney's Office with the State of Georgia Department of Human Resources and, in accordance therewith, accept grant funds (\$683,873.58, with a local match of \$13,243.24) to be used in connection with Child Support recovery efforts associated with the District Attorney's Office; to authorize the Chairman to execute any necessary documents and otherwise to perform all other acts necessary to accomplish the intent of the resolution; to authorize the Chief Financial Officer to amend the budget where necessary to reflect an appropriate revenue source and expense, and to transfer any required match of local funds, all as may be required under the terms of the grant agreement; to provide an effective date of this resolution; and for other purposes. Vote unanimous.

13. Approved Resolution 2014-34, a Resolution to allow Utopian Academy for the Arts to host community meetings at the Virginia Burton Gray Recreation Center; to authorize the Chairman and the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department to perform all acts necessary to accomplish the intent of this resolution; to provide an effective date of this resolution; and for other purposes. Vote unanimous.

14. Approved Resolution 2014-35, a Resolution authorizing Clayton County to accept forfeited vehicles (one {1} 2001 Lincoln Town Car and one {1} 2007 Ford Five Hundred S) from Clayton County Police Department drug investigations; to authorize the sale of such property in a manner as will be in the best interest of the County; to provide for the disbursal of sale proceeds; to authorize the Chief Financial Officer to amend the budget where necessary to reflect an appropriate revenue source and expense; to provide an effective date of this resolution; and for other purposes. Vote unanimous.

15. Approved Resolution 2014-36, a Resolution by Clayton County, Georgia authorizing the execution of a Recertification Application on behalf of the Transportation and Development Department for Local Administered Projects (LAP); to authorize the Chairman to execute all required documents and to otherwise perform all other acts necessary to accomplish the intent of the resolution; to provide an effective date of this resolution; and for other purposes. Vote unanimous.

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16. Approved Resolution 2014-37, a Resolution authorizing Clayton County to enter into a Utility Relocation Agreement with Georgia Power for the relocation of utilities associated with the Godby Road Widening Project; to authorize the Chairman to execute the agreement on behalf of the County and otherwise to perform all other acts of the resolution; to authorize the Chief Financial Officer to amend the budget where necessary to reflect an appropriate revenue source and expense, all as may be required under the terms of the agreement; to provide an effective date of this resolution; and for other purposes. Vote unanimous.

17. Approved Resolution 2014-38, a Resolution authorizing Clayton County to exercise its powers of Eminent Domain in accordance with provisions of Georgia laws for the purpose of acquiring certain properties for use by the Clayton County Department of Transportation and Development for the Godby Road Widening Improvement Project; to authorize the Chairman to execute any documents relating thereto, and to otherwise perform all acts necessary to accomplish the intent of this resolution; to authorize the Chief Financial Officer to amend the budget where necessary to reflect an appropriate revenue source and expense; to provide an effective date of this resolution; and for other purposes. Vote unanimous.

18. Approved Resolution 2014-39, a Resolution authorizing Clayton County to exercise its powers of Eminent Domain in accordance with provisions of Georgia laws for the purpose of acquiring a certain property for use by the Clayton County Department of Transportation and Development for the Flint River Road Widening Improvement Project; to authorize the Chairman to execute any documents relating thereto, and to otherwise perform all acts necessary to accomplish the intent of this resolution; to authorize the Chief Financial Officer to amend the budget where necessary to reflect an appropriate revenue source and expense; to provide an effective date of this resolution; and for other purposes. Vote unanimous.

19. Approved Resolution 2014-40, a Resolution authorizing Clayton County to exercise its powers of Eminent Domain in accordance with provisions of Georgia laws for the purpose of acquiring certain properties for use by the Clayton County Department of Transportation and Development for the C.W. Grant Separation Improvement Project; to authorize the Chairman to execute any documents relating thereto, and to otherwise perform all acts necessary to accomplish the intent of this resolution; to authorize the Chief Financial Officer to amend the budget where necessary to reflect an appropriate revenue source and expense; to provide an effective date of this resolution; and for other purposes. Vote unanimous.

20. Approved Resolution 2014-41, a Resolution by the Clayton County Board of Commissioners identifying certain State legislative matters to be addressed during the 2014 Legislative Session of the Georgia General Assembly; to authorize the Chairman to perform all acts necessary to accomplish the

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intent of this resolution; to provide an effective date of this resolution; and for other purposes. Vote unanimous.

21. Approved Ordinance 2014-42, an Ordinance to amend the Clayton County Civil Service Rules and Regulations, as amended, specifically to delete rule 5.454 “Closing of Government Buildings” and to insert in lieu thereof new language as provided herein; to repeal and all conflicting laws, ordinances, resolutions, rules, and regulations; to provide for severability; to provide an effective date of this ordinance; and for other purposes. Vote unanimous.

For clarification, Vice-Chairman Rooks asked if the section in Ordinance 2014-42, “5.454 **Closing of Government Buildings** which reads, **Employees required to work will receive regular pay for the hours worked plus annual leave for hours worked**” should include “where applicable,” because probationary employees would receive pay but not annual leave.

Ms. Barnes said she understood that probationary employees were not covered by Civil Service Rules.

Human Resources Director Renee Bright stated that an employee cannot use Annual Leave until it is accrued.

22. DISCUSSION ITEM:

1) BOC and the County’s lobbyists to discuss various state legislative matters for the 2014 Legislative Session.

Chairman Turner called Mr. Glenn Baker (former representative in the Georgia General Assembly) to the podium to speak. Chairman Turner told the Board that it will now discuss various legal matters for Twelve Oaks, LLC to represent the Board at the Capitol.

Commissioner Hambrick interjected that she thought the County had more than one lobbyist or company.

Chairman Turner stated Mr. Baker is working with House Bill 399.

Vice-Chairman Rooks stated that Resolution 2014-41 needed to be corrected, because it is directed to Georgia Public Affairs.”

Ms. Barnes confirmed that Resolution 2014-41 states “to enter into professional services agreements with Twelve Oaks, LLC, Searles Consulting, Inc., and Georgia Public Affairs.”

Commissioner Hambrick asked if there were three (3) companies or if one (1) of them had two names.

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Ms. Barnes replied there are three, but Twelve Oaks, LLC and Searles Consulting, Inc. are together.

Vice-Chairman Rooks rebutted that the Board only hired Twelve Oaks to combat House Bill 399. She stressed that Resolution 2014-41 should be directed to Georgia Public Affairs, specifically to do the legislative push.

Commissioner Edmondson also said the Resolution should state Georgia Public Affairs only.

Ms. Barnes confirmed that Georgia Public Affairs is the sole firm.

Vice-Chairman Rooks affirmed that this was what the prior Resolution stated.

Vice-Chairman Rooks alerted Chairman Turner that she had a discussion item. She stated that during the January 18, 2014 commission retreat, Budget Manager Dennis Johnson pointed out a reduction in E-911 fees. More people are moving from landline to cell phones; therefore, the County is receiving fewer monies from E-911 cell phones than from E-911 landlines. Vice-Chairman Rooks expressed that the Board needs to push legislation in general terms that would effectuate the County receiving more monies (even with people using cell phones for E-911 services).

Mr. Baker responded that a discussion on trying to capture E-911 calls was brought up about two (2) years ago by the Utilities Communications Board, and he had not served on that Board then.

Vice-Chairman Rooks replied that her request was to push toward capturing E-911 calls. She then made a motion that one of the legislative items should be to capture E-911 fees from all sources applicable.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rooks, second by Commissioner Edmondson, to capture E-911 fees from all sources applicable. Vote unanimous.

Commissioner Hambrick questioned how that would work since this is the end of the first term for the Georgia General Assembly.

Mr. Baker replied that this item will just have to get out on the floor.

Commissioner Hambrick then inquired about the function of a committee to handle this item.

Mr. Baker responded that it would go from First Read, Second Read, Committee, Finance and back on the floor.

Commissioner Hambrick wanted to know how many more days were left in session.

Mr. Baker responded that there were over thirty days left, but he did not know the exact number.

Chairman Turner stated there may be legislation already written in reference to this item.

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Mr. Baker replied there could be some legislation written back a few years ago which could be out there now, but he really was unsure.

Chairman Turner requested that Mr. Baker follow-up on the matter and report back to the Board.

Commissioner Edmondson stated that the idea of public transportation in Clayton County was something that might have some legislative considerations. He has asked Georgia Public Affairs to pursue any initiatives that would benefit public transportation within Clayton County.

Mr. Baker replied that he was aware that Mr. John Clayton, of Georgia Public Affairs, had discussed this item with Commissioner Edmondson and was reviewing all possibilities.

Commissioner Singleton asked Mr. Baker if the item he had referenced were Senate Bill 287, introduced by Senator Valencia Seay.

Mr. Baker answered yes.

Commissioner Hambrick informed Mr. Baker that there will be a meeting held for discussion on Thursday, February 6, 2014. She asked him if the Board would be represented at this meeting.

Mr. Baker replied yes.

Motion by Commissioner Edmondson, second by Vice-Chairman Rooks, to pursue any initiatives that would benefit public transportation within Clayton County. Vote unanimous.

Commissioner Edmondson stated he would also be interested in seeing Mr. Baker pursue sales tax revenue opportunities that may exist legislatively for the County's benefit.

Motion by Commissioner Edmondson, second by Vice-Chairman Rooks, to pursue sales tax revenue opportunities for the benefit of the County. Vote unanimous.

Commissioner Hambrick asked Commissioner Edmondson to expound on these sales tax revenue opportunities.

Commissioner Edmondson stated he was interested in sales tax revenue from anywhere, such as liquor sales. He was speaking broadly because people will drive across the county line to buy liquor. Commissioner Edmondson acknowledged that he did not know if Clayton County would desire such a revenue.

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Mr. Baker responded that House Bill 303, which specifically addresses this matter, has been dropped and eliminates the commissioners from having to get a petition of thirty-five percent and gives the Board the power to bring this forth to Clayton County citizens.

Commissioner Edmondson expressed the reason he was saying “broad.” He stated whether or not that legislation gives Clayton County voters the opportunity to vote up or down on a referendum, there may be other bills that can potentially generate sales tax opportunities.

Commissioner Singleton admitted that her discussion items had already been addressed by Commissioners Hambrick and Edmondson.

Commissioner Hambrick stated she had been sent an email about House Bill 399 being approved and waiting on the Governor’s signature.

Chairman Turner expressed that his main concern was to revive mass transit in the county.

Vice-Chairman Edmondson suggested that the Board authorize the lobbyist to review issues that may positively or negatively impact Clayton County.

Mr. Baker replied that this action is done daily.

Chairman Turner told Mr. Baker that his job is to protect the County’s interest.

Mr. Baker responded that he wanted the Board to feel free to call him concerning rumors that may affect the County, and he would do the same thing.

Motion by Commissioner Edmondson, second by Chairman Turner, to adopt a legislative item to address all issues that may affect Clayton County. Vote unanimous.

Commissioner Edmondson recalled that during the commission retreat, there was a discussion about the Emergency and Fire Public Safety Committee working with the lobbyist to look at issues such as streamlining antiquated healthcare laws and making healthcare and transportation more efficient. Commissioner Edmondson stated he was unsure if this were something that needed to be added to the legislative agenda.

Chief Merkison responded as a result of the retreat, he had begun the process of scheduling meetings to discuss a change to the current EMS model in Clayton County. The initial meetings will be with the County’s Medical Director to determine what can legally be done without changing any State laws or rules, and then he will prepare a report from the meetings. Chief Merkison concluded that once he has

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made this determination, there may be a need to have a lobbyist assist the department and local delegation in changing some of the laws regarding the provision of EMS care and transports.

Chairman Turner replied that the Board will be waiting on the report from Chief Merkison.

Chairman Turner asked the Board if there were a motion for Resolution 2014-41.

These motions then ensued:

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rooks, second by Commissioner Edmondson, to amend Resolution 2014-41 and strike Twelve Oaks, LLC and Searles Consulting, Inc. where listed. Vote unanimous.

Motion by Commissioner Edmondson, second by Vice-Chairman Rooks, to approve amendments and the four items voted on in the discussion. Vote unanimous.

Motion by Commissioner Edmondson, second by Chairman Turner, to go into Executive Session in the Commissioners' Conference Room at 8:05 p.m. to discuss litigation and personnel matters. Vote unanimous.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rooks, second by Commissioner Edmondson, to go out of Executive Session at 8:43 p.m. Vote unanimous.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Rooks, second by Commissioner Edmondson, to reconvene the Regular Business Meeting in the Commissioners' Boardroom at 8:45 p.m. Vote unanimous.

There being no further business to discuss, motion by Vice-Chairman Rooks, second by Commissioner Edmondson, to adjourn the Regular Business Meeting of February 4, 2014 at 8:45 p.m. Vote unanimous.