THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE
CRAWFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, 01 APRIL 2014

THE MEETING OF THE CRAWFORD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:04 P.M.

The following members were present: Mr. Dean Fripp (Chairman), Mr. Paul Chapman (Vice-Chairman), Mr. Frank Hollis, Mr. Bobby Blasingame, and Mr. John Thomas.

INVOCATION GIVEN BY MR. PAUL CHAPMAN

AGENDA APPROVAL

Mr. Fripp asked for a motion to amend the agenda. He asked that “Rezoning – Charlie Frank Willis” be added under “Public Hearing”. Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve the agenda. Motion was seconded by Mr. Hollis. Motion carried 5-0.

FIRST ON THE AGENDA

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Fripp asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Regularly Scheduled Meeting of 18 March 2014. Mr. Hollis made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Mr. Blasingame. Motion carried 5-0.

SECOND ON THE AGENDA

Public Hearing: Rezoning – Charlie Frank Willis

Mr. Willis requested the Board consider rezoning a parcel of property located at 39 Horne Road, Roberta from R-CD to C-2.

Mr. Kelly stated the Planning and Zoning Board had recommended denying the request because the rezoning would be incompatible with the surrounding neighborhood.

Mr. Willis stated he wished to sell the property and felt he would receive more inquiries if the zoning was changed. He went on to say that across the street was a parcel zoned C-1 and his request was not unreasonable.
Mr. Chapman was concerned as to the type of business that could occupy the parcel if the request was approved. He stated the surrounding property owners lived in a residential area and a C-2 zoned lot may bring unwanted or less desirable business endeavors.

There was much discussion as to what would become of the property if rezoned and the impact on the adjoining property owners.

Mr. Chapman made a motion to affirm the Planning and Zoning Board’s recommendation to deny the request. Mr. Thomas seconded. The motion failed 2-3.

Mr. Mincey explained that the rezoning request would be sent back to the Planning and Zoning Board for reconsideration.

THIRD ON THE AGENDA

Appearances: Mr. Stewart – Tax Assessors Entering Private Property

Mr. Stewart was not in attendance.

Mr. Fripp stated he would speak to the issue. He stated there was a concern that employees from the Tax Assessors office could be accidently injured by property owners that were not provided adequate notice as to tax assessment inspections.

Ms. D’Lyn Jones (Chief Appraiser) stated the employees attempt to contact the property owner prior to inspection by knocking at the door. If there was no answer they would leave door knob hangers stating that they had been on the property and it listed contact information. She went on to say that the inspectors wore identification badges and the County vehicle had County markings. She stated her office had previously run a weekly notice in the Georgia Post but that was not cost effective.

After some discussion the Board recommended that the Assessor’s office provide employees with reflective vests that identified them as Tax Assessors, place signage in the County Rights of way indicating Tax Assessors were in the area, and add additional badging to the County field vehicle.

The Board stated if there were departmental budget concerns due to the recommendations the Board would address those issues and amend the budget if necessary.

FOURTH ON THE AGENDA

Old Business: Community Center Building – Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Mincey stated that he had not completed the research on the deed to the property to determine if the County owned the building and if there were any stipulations if the property were to be sold. He stated that in 1947 the Health Department owned the building.

Mr. Mincey stated he should have the requested information at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

**FIFTH ON THE AGENDA**

**New Business:** Discussion – Logging and County Roads

Mr. Kelly presented the Board with information in regards to timber harvesting and the effect on county roads which included:

1. Report of timber sales required by the purchaser of timber
2. Notice of timber harvesting activity required by the County
3. Verification process for Tax Collections
4. Timber Tax History
5. Logging rules and requirements
6. Damage recovery and bond demand
7. Road Improvement decision process
8. Cost per mile analysis based on weight limits

Representative Dickey and Mr. Larry Spillers (Jordan Forest Products) were in attendance and added to the conversation of the various topics.

The effect of the log trucks and their impact to the County roadways was discussed at length. Mr. Spillers and the Board members discussed the nuances associated with the responsibility the harvester had in regards to the roads and the limits that the County had in collecting funds for damages to roadways.

The Board members discussed in length the impact of the Forest Land Protection Act was having on the tax base with Mr. Dickey. They relayed there concerns that the large timber owners and farmers were receiving the benefits of reduced taxes due to that covenant while the average county citizen was being asked to subsidize that benefit.

Mr. Fripp stated that between the tax benefit of the covenants as well as tax exempt status on fuel and equipment, combined with the lack of liability the harvesters had in regards to the County roadways, it was not fair to the citizens of the County that would ultimately have to foot the cost of those exemptions. He requested that Mr. Dickey consider that the next time he voted for an exemption or tax break for the farmers and timber owners.

Mr. Dickey stated he supported the bill because the timber industry had a global economic impact as to Georgia’s overall economic health.
Mr. Spillers stated the timber industry is a 36 billion dollar economic engine that was critical in Georgia’s overall budget.

The discussion was lively at times as all participating parties expressed concerns and ideas on how to address the various issues.

Mr. Fripp thanked Representative Dickey and Mr. Spillers for their attendance and looked forward to working with them through the various issues of discussion.

**New Business:** Crawford County Logging Ordinance

Mr. Kelly presented the Board with an updated Crawford County Logging Ordinance that addressed some of the concerns that were discussed early. He requested the Board consider adopting the ordinance at its next regularly scheduled meeting after they have had time to review the document. The Board agreed.

**Adjourn:**

There being no further business, Mr. Fripp asked for a motion to adjourn the 01 April 2014 meeting of the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Chapman made the motion, seconded by Mr. Thomas. Motion carried 5-0 and the Board adjourned at 8:15 p.m.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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Mr. Dean Frap - Chairman

Mr. Paul Chapman – Vice Chairman

Mr. Frank Hollis

Mr. Bobby Blasingame

Mr. John Thomas

Attest – County Manager