

Clay County Commissioners

Regular Meeting

Thursday, April 6, 2017

Chairman Logan called to order the regular scheduled meeting at 7:00PM. Those present were: Clay Logan, Chairman, Robert Cline Penland, Commissioner, Ed Roach, Commissioner, Randy Nichols, Commissioner, Dr. Rob Peck, Commissioner, Paul Leek, County Manager, Merinda Woody, County Attorney and the press and general public.

Chairman Logan opened up the meeting for public Comment. Mr. Max Evans stated that before the last election he informed the Commissioners that the sales tax would not pass because of the ball fields. Mr. Evans asked if the county was going to go on with the ball fields or are they going to address the other priorities in the county. Mr. Evans then stated that he would like for the county to get a plan in place for the growth of the county.

Next, Ms. Sandy Nicollete invited the Board of Commissioners to the Cherokee exhibit and walk the Quanassee path with the school kids.

Next, Ms. Sandy Zimmerman informed all that the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) which is a federal Commission has been proposed to be eliminated in this years budget. Ms. Zimmerman stated that the ARC provides grants to our region for infrastructure and it would be a big loss if it did get eliminated. Ms. Zimmerman asked the Commissioners to support not eliminating the ARC.

Chairman Logan then requested a motion to approve the minutes from the February meeting. Commissioner Penland made a motion to approve, Commissioner Peck seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Next, Chairman Logan requested a motion to approve the budget amendments, Commissioner Nichols made a motion, Commissioner Penland seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Next, Ms. Janice Patterson, Health Director informed all that every 3 years the county Health department has to do a county assessment. Ms. Patterson then reviewed the State of the County Health Report for 2016. (See Attached)

Next, Ms. Sandy Zimmerman gave a report on the activity for Small Town Main Street program and the conference they attended in March. (See Attached)

Next, Chairman Logan read a Resolution supporting special legislation that would permit Tri-County Community College to charge in-state tuition to students from out-of-state counties that border the Tri-County Community College Service area. (See Attached) Chairman Logan requested a motion to adopted the Resolution, Commissioner Penland made a motion, Commissioner Nichols seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Next, Chairman Logan informed all that every year the county has to approve the Title VI Program Plan meeting the requirements of the Title VI compliance in order to receive transportation grant money. Chairman Logan requested a motion to approve, Commissioner Penland made a motion, Commissioner Roach seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Next, Chairman Logan requested a motion to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with BRMEMC to replace all the parking lights with new LED lights. Chairman Logan stated that this will save the county \$795.00 a month. Commissioner Peck made a motion, Commissioner Nichols seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Next, Chairman Logan stated that the Transfer Station employees have requested the Commissioners to consider changing the hours of operation, instead of closing on Wednesdays they would be closed on Mondays giving them a two-day weekend. Commissioner Nichols stated that he has some concerns about doing this, that when the Commissioners decided to close on Wednesdays people got upset with them, and also that it has been stated that Wednesdays and Thursdays are the slow days at the transfer station. Commissioner Nichols made a motion to table this until next month so the Commissioners would have more time to study it, Commissioner Penland seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Next, Chairman Logan requested a motion to appoint Mr. John Mazza to the Town of Hayesville Board of Adjustment and to appoint Ms. Betty Schoop as an alternate. Commissioner Penland made a motion, Commissioner Nichols seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Next, Chairman Logan requested the Commissioners to appoint Mr. Steve Hindsman to the Clay County Rural Authority Board, Commissioner Peck made a motion, Commissioner Nichols seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Next, Chairman Logan informed all that there is a need to form a committee for Broad Band to help work on a regional assessment. Commissioner Peck stated that Broad Band is a very important part of the county's infrastructure especially in public education and economic development and that it would open up opportunities for all of our citizens. Commissioner Peck then stated that he does not think we need a committee to tell him that Broad Band is important. Commissioner Peck then stated that Broad Band is important for economic development and that he thinks that Tri-County should be the one forming the Committee not the county, especially since we are paying them to represent us in economic development. Chairman Logan requested a motion to form a Broad Band Committee, Commissioner Penland made a motion, Commissioner Roach seconded and the motion passed three to two, with Commissioner Peck and Commissioner Nichols voting no.

Next, Chairman Logan stated that the TVA has recommended that the county form a committee to investigate the uses of the TVA property. Commissioner Nichols stated that he doesn't think we need a board to look at how to spend tax payers' dollars when we were elected to make those decisions. Commissioner Nichols then stated that we are looking at a long term easement with TVA and trying to develop property when we have needs elsewhere for our tax dollars to be spent. Chairman Logan stated that the committee will not make decisions but they will just bring options for the Board to consider. Commissioner Peck stated that he thinks the Board needs to invest and upgrade our current facilities before we try to develop more. Commissioner Peck then stated that he would be in favor of having a workshop for the citizens to tell the Board what they would to see done. Chairman Logan requested a motion to form this committee, Commissioner Roach made a motion, Commissioner Penland seconded and the

motion passed three for and two against. Commissioner Peck and Commissioner Nichols voted against.

Next, Chairman Logan requested a motion to approve the tax refunds, Commissioner Nichols made a motion, Commissioner Peck seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Next, Chairman Logan opened the meeting up for old business. Chairman Logan stated that in the executive session last Friday's Board Meeting, the Board, discussed the need for an interim county manager to be appointed until the vacancy of the county manager could be filled. Chairman Logan stated that Mr. Jackie Seller's name surfaced during the discussion but no decision was made at that time. At this time, he would entertain a motion to appoint Mr. Jackie Sellers as the interim county manager. Commissioner Nichols made a motion, Commissioner Peck seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Next, Commissioner Nichols requested the Commissioners go into Closed Session to discuss personnel, Commissioner Peck seconded and the Board exited the regular session and entered Closed Session at 8:25 pm.

Commissioner Penland moved to re-open the regular session at 8:45 pm. Commissioner Nichols seconded; Motion carried.

There being no actions to report from the Closed Session, Commissioner Penland moved to adjourn the regular session, Commissioner Peck seconded, and motion carried, with the regular session adjourning at 8:45 pm.

Chairman, Clay Logan

Commissioner, Robert Cline Penland

Commissioner, Ed Roach

Commissioner, Randy Nichols

Commissioner, Dr. Rob Peck

Attested: Clerk to Board