

TO: COUNCIL, THREE RIVERS REGIONAL COMMISSION

FROM: MS. FAYE PERDUE, SECRETARY, THREE RIVERS REGIONAL COUNCIL

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MARCH 5, 2015

The Regional Council of the Three Rivers Regional Commission held its meeting at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 5, 2015 at the Turin Town Hall in Turin, Georgia.

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Chairman Hays Arnold called the meeting to order and asked Mr. Bennie Horton to give the invocation; afterwards Chairman Arnold led the members in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Regional Council Members in Attendance

Mr. Roger McDaniel, Chairman, Butts County
Ms. Kay Pippin, Mayor, City of Jackson
Ms. Clair Jones, Non-Public Member, Butts County
Ms. Shirley Marchman, Council Member, City of Villa Rica
Mr. Steve Stripling, Non-Public Member, Coweta County
Mr. Lee Boone, Chairman, Heard County
Ms. Kathy Knowles, Non-Public Member, Heard County
Mr. Bennie Horton, Commissioner, Lamar County
Mr. Peter Banks, Mayor, City of Barnesville
Mr. Irvin Trice, Non-Public Member, Lamar County
Ms. Beth Hadley, Chairperson, Meriwether County
Ms. Faye Perdue, Non-Public Member, Meriwether County
Mr. Mike Beres, Mayor, City of Zebulon
Mr. Fred Roney, Non-Public Member, Pike County
Mr. Douglas Hollberg, Council Member, City of Griffin
Mr. Charles Jones, Non-Public Member, Spalding County
Mr. Bobby Frazier, Non-Public Member, Troup County
Mr. Hays Arnold, Mayor, City of Thomaston
Mr. Steve Hudson, Commissioner, Upson County
Ms. Laurie Holmes, Non-Public Member, Upson County
Ms. Maggie Shook, Governor's Appointee

Regional Council Members Absent

Ms. Donna Armstrong-Lackey, Non-Public Member, Carroll County
Mr. Tim Lassetter, Commissioner, Coweta County
Mr. Clayton Hicks, Council Member, City of Newnan
Mr. Denney Rogers, Mayor, City of Ephesus
Mr. James Bray, Mayor, City of Greenville
Mr. Briar Johnson, Chairman, Pike County
Mr. Raymond Ray, Commissioner, Spalding County
Mr. Richard English, Jr., Commissioner, Troup County
Mr. Jim Thornton, Mayor, City of LaGrange
Mr. John Edwards, Governor's Appointee
Mr. Ed Bledsoe, Governor's Appointee
Mr. John Rainwater, Lt. Governor's Appointee

Guests Present

Mr. Charles Glass, Chairman, Lamar County Board of Commissioners
Mr. Whit Long, County Manager, Meriwether County
Mr. Tim Blaydes, Director of Georgia Engineering
Ms. Sarah Faye Campbell, Reporter with Newnan Times-Herald

Staff Present

Mr. Lanier Boatwright, Executive Director
Ms. Peggi Tingle, Administrative Services Director
Ms. Amanda Turner, Senior Accounting Tech
Mr. Robert Hiatt, Governmental Services Director
Ms. Jeannie Brantley, Director of Planning
Mr. James Abraham, Planner
Ms. Joy Shirley, AAA Director
Ms. Beth East, Program Manager
Ms. Belinda Jones, *GeorgiaCares* Coordinator
Ms. Jan Perez, Secretary

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Chairman Arnold introduced Mr. Glass, Mr. Long, Mr. Blaydes and Ms. Campbell and thanked them for attending the meeting.

Three (3) new council members were in attendance; Ms. Laurie Holmes, Ms. Clair Jones and Ms. Beth Hadley were introduced to the council members and welcomed by Chairman Arnold.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held December 11, 2014 were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Mike Beres to approve the minutes as presented; the motion was seconded by Mr. Charles Jones and carried unanimously

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Arnold did not have anything to report under this portion of the agenda.

AGING PROGRAM UPDATE

Ms. Joy Shirley presented this portion of the agenda. Ms. Shirley has kept the members informed concerning the various budgetary measures that the state wants to incorporate into the Aging Programs. She mentioned that there are three (3) changes that the state wants to see in effect. The first has to do with sustainability in order for the Aging program to survive with less government funding. A senior center redesign is another measure that would affect the required size of the centers and could possibly combine smaller centers into one. The state also wants to standardize the case management program so that each Area Agency on Aging program would be operating under the same system.

Approval of the Annual Plan for the Aging Program

Ms. Beth East, Program Manager, presented this portion of the agenda. Ms. East advised the members that there are not a lot of changes to the annual plan. The plan does include the midyear report as well as the minor update information that was briefly mentioned earlier. She advised the members that the Aging Program is on target with its projected service levels; the waiting list does reflect a slight increase but this is due to growth in the aging population and to current funding levels. Overall, the waiting list numbers remain steady when compared to the same time frame as last year. The budget remains steady, but Ms. East did note a total budget allocation decrease of \$25, 766; \$20,000 of this decrease is attributed to the discontinuation of services for the Community Care Services program.

Mr. Lanier Boatwright advised the council that the Aging Advisory Council had reviewed the information and recommended that the contract be entered into for the coming fiscal year. Ms. East asked the council for their consideration in adopting the resolution to enter into the contract for the coming fiscal year. Mr. Peter Banks made the motion that we enter into the contract for the Area Agency on Aging services; Mr. Irvin Trice seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF THE TRRC DRI GUIDELINES

Mr. James Abraham presented this portion of the agenda. He advised the members that internal guidelines were presented in December 2014. It has been proposed that training sessions with all local governments be instituted so that all entities are aware of their responsibilities concerning the Developments of Regional Impact (DRI) process. Mr. Abraham would like to

establish a preconference meeting on any new DRI projects and has asked the members to request that their local areas contact TRRC about these projects. It was reiterated that the TRRC staff is not trying to impede DRI projects or make decisions for any of the local governments; all local governments must go through the DRI process if the project meets the DRI threshold. It was also noted that the DRI process was to assist in determining if a project met local governments' standards. Several members questioned why TRRC was in the middle of this process and were assured that TRRC was there to facilitate the process. The law is on the books, but it gives flexibility to the local areas to tailor the process to what works for them. One member noted that they needed something in writing and was advised that the information was on the Department of Community Affairs' (DCA) website as well as being posted on TRRC's website (www.threeriversrc.org). After several minutes of additional discussion, Chairman Arnold advised the members that the review process was approved in December; he thanked Mr. Abraham for his presentation and thanked everyone for their comments. He advised Mr. Abraham that he had "the blessings of the board to continue doing what you're doing and to try and have a speedy process."

THREE RIVERS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION

Mr. Robert Hiatt presented this portion of the agenda. He advised the council that House Bill 348 (HB 348) was filed and that it would overhaul the governance of the Workforce Program. The state Workforce Board wants to be able to issue administrative rules and guidance to our area Workforce board on how to carry out the program without having to go back to the General Assembly and getting them involved in the process. Mr. Hiatt acknowledged that "it is simply an administrative move on their part, but we will need to see what the impact will be."

Mr. Hiatt reported that the Workforce Program is doing well. The Workforce staff has been working on outreach services and information awareness of the program. He mentioned that the staff will be reviewing governance issues to make the program more responsive to the local governments and business community.

TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Resolutions

Mr. Hiatt presented this portion of the agenda. He explained that TRRC was preparing to apply for a 5311 Rural Transportation Program grant for fiscal year 2016. The council must authorize the resolution in order for Mr. Boatwright to sign the grant application package. Mr. Hiatt advised the members that this is a grant that is applied for yearly and that Meriwether County will be included in the grant application information since they will join the regional transportation program on July 1, 2015. The other resolution is related to the Department of Human Services (DHS) contract; it was noted that this contract is a renewal that is done on a yearly basis. The council questioned whether one motion would be acceptable for both resolutions or should each resolution have a motion. Mr. Peter Banks reasoned that since there were two (2) resolutions, there should be separate motions. Mr. Douglas Hollberg made the motion that the council approve the resolution to contract for transportation services; it was seconded by Mr. Irvin Trice and carried unanimously. Mr. Banks made the motion that council

authorize the resolution to apply for the public transportation grant; it was seconded by Mr. Fred Roney and carried unanimously.

TIGER Grant

Chairman Arnold invited Mr. Tim Blaydes (Director of Georgia Engineering) to comment on the TIGER Grant. Mr. Blaydes advised that Mr. Jim Teel previously met with Mr. Howard Hill of the Department of Transportation. Mr. Hill reviewed our TIGER grant application and remarked to Mr. Teel that it “was a very good job putting the grant application together and it was the best one” that he’s seen even though it was not approved. One comment is that the time line is a bit too long; they (DOT) expect to see a “payback” in one (1) to two (2) years; another observation is to have a better relationship between the project and the economic development for the region or how the project will improve the economic development for the area. It was noted that \$500 million in funding will be available during the next fiscal year for projects.

Mr. Boatwright reiterated that the TIGER grant was for the Export-Import Highway; he asked the chairman for his authorization to resubmit the TIGER grant application and to make the needed application adjustments that Mr. Blaydes reported. There were several general comments made concerning the time line, economic development aspects, no match (of funding) to put forth due to it being a rural project. Chairman Arnold recommended to the council that the TIGER grant (for the \$1.5 million study) be resubmitted. Mr. Mike Beres made the motion for resubmittal of the TIGER grant; it was seconded by Mr. Bobby Frazier and carried unanimously.

House Bill 433 (HB 433)

Carroll and Coweta state representatives filed a piece of legislation concerning the Atlanta Metropolitan planning issue. Mr. Hiatt reported that Carroll and Coweta counties have each approved resolutions concerning this legislation. Several of our counties (parts of Butts, Spalding, as well as Carroll, Coweta, etc.) are in the Atlanta Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO); our cities and counties are pitted against larger communities such as Cobb and Gwinnett Counties. The local representatives have created legislation to allow local communities to form their own MPOs. This legislation is in committee as of now with the crossover day of March 13th.

House Bill 170 (HB 170)

House Bill 170 (HB 170) is being sent back to Rules in order for the tax collection to be lowered from twenty nine (29) to twenty four (24) cents; Mr. Hiatt reported that the latest estimate on collections is \$450 million. Ms. Kay Pippin remarked that this legislation piece”is on the floor and being closely watched.” Both Ms. Pippin and Mr. Roger McDaniel remarked that HB 170 “is killing our area ...our county.”

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Discussion of the *GeorgiaCares* Program

Mr. Boatwright presented this portion of the agenda. The Three Rivers Area Agency on Aging's (TRAAA) *GeorgiaCares* program is one of the top in the state; this program offers assistance to senior citizens with Medicare, insurance concerns, etc. Northwest Georgia RC (NWGRC) has had difficulty in getting their program started. NWGRC has asked TRRC for assistance with their *GeorgiaCares* program for a four (4) month period; TRRC will be paid \$30,000 for this period. Concurrence is needed from both NWGRC and TRRC councils before any assistance can be given. The NWGRC board has also passed a resolution which requests TRRC's assistance for this program. Ms. Belinda Jones, *GeorgiaCares* Coordinator, remarked that "NWGRC is losing the program due to low performance." This is a critical program to help senior citizens. Ms. Jones and Mr. Boatwright assured the members that \$30,000 will cover the expenses and that TRRC will not put any money into this program; it was also noted that part-time employees will be utilized to handle the program and the incoming calls to NWGRC will be transferred to TRAAA. The goal is to get the program up to speed and turn it back over to NWGRC at the end of the allotted four (4) month period. Chairman Arnold asked for a motion that TRRC will enter into a contract with NWGRC for the purpose of administering the *GeorgiaCares* program for four (4) months. Mr. Banks made the motion; it was seconded by Mr. Bobby Frazier. After a few additional questions and assurances that this was for a specified time frame and that TRRC would not put additional funds towards this program, Chairman Arnold called for the vote. The motion was carried unanimously.

Personnel Policy Amendment

TRRC personnel policy notes that all new employees will begin to accrue sick leave after ninety (90) days. Mr. Boatwright is concerned that new employees (such as single parents) could be penalized if their children are sick (within the first ninety days of the parent's employment) and they need to stay home and forfeit a day of pay. He is proposing that new employees be credited with thirty (30) hours of sick leave at the time of employment; the fourth (4th) month after employment, additional sick leave would accrue at the rate of ten (10) hours per each month of service. This proposal prompted much discussion among the members. Mr. Boatwright reiterated that this was strictly for sick leave; an employee can only earn fifteen (15) days. It was also noted that this was standard with cities and counties, but not the state. Chairman Arnold asked for a motion to support Mr. Boatwright's recommendation to change the sick leave accrual. Mr. Banks made the motion; it was seconded by Ms. Maggie Shook. Several members shared concerns about the proposal and another discussion ensued. Mr. McDaniel asked to move to table the motion. Chairman Arnold asked if Mr. Banks would withdraw his motion; Mr. Banks' wish was to stay with his motion. The chairman called for a vote; the majority of the members opposed the motion and it failed. Mr. McDaniel made the motion to table the proposal until everyone can better understand the total benefits package and make a more informed decision; this was seconded by Mr. Frazier. Chairman Arnold called for the vote; the item was tabled with opposing votes issued by Mr. Banks, Mr. Beres and Mr. Roney.

Auditor's Contract

Mr. Boatwright asked for the council's permission to renew the auditors' (Metcalf Davis) contract for this year's audit; he explained that this was not a new contract but an extension of the existing contract. The chairman asked about costs; the cost does remain the same. Mr. Beres remarked that their audit was very thorough and fair and he made the motion that the contact be renewed; it was seconded by Mr. Roney and carried unanimously.

Bill to Eliminate Economic Development Administration (EDA)

Mr. Boatwright advised the members that Congressman Lynn Westmoreland has co-sponsored a bill (H.R. 661) that calls for the elimination of the Economic Development Administration. The EDA funds fifty (50) to sixty (60) percent of infrastructure projects and our area has had several projects funded through EDA.

OTHER BUSINESS

Nothing was presented under this portion of the agenda

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Chairman Arnold noted that Mr. Steve Hudson recently underwent surgery and welcomed him back.

Mr. Boatwright mentioned that Mr. Richard English underwent cataract surgery yesterday.

Mr. Beres mentioned that the City of Zebulon would host their first annual "Steak Out" on April 11th and invited everyone to attend.

DATE AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on April 23, 2015. The meeting location will be the Turin Town Hall and the meeting time is scheduled for 2:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Arnold adjourned the meeting after receiving a motion from Mr. Horton.

Faye Perdue, Secretary