

**GREENE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
APRIL 2022**

**APRIL 12, 2022 MEETING:**

Chairman Usry led the Pledge of Allegiance and invocation.

**Call to Order:** Chairman Usry called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Commissioners Filice, Lindsey, Deering, Smith and Chairman Usry were present. Also present was County Manager Byron Lombard.

**Minutes:** The Chairman inquired with the Commissioners to determine if any corrections were necessary for the minutes under consideration for approval. Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the Minutes from the March 2022 Regular Monthly Meeting. Commissioner Lindsey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Zoning & Subdivision Items:**

**Consideration of a Final Plat Request – Pulte Home Company, LLC, Del Webb at Lake Oconee, Phase II – Unit VI, Parcel 17:** The Board reviewed a request seeking Final Plat Approval to create 38 single-family residential lots from 17.36 acres zoned PUD. Commissioner Filice motioned to approve the Final Plat Request submitted by Pulte Company, LLC, for Del Webb at Lake Oconee, Phase II, Unit VI, Parcel 17 creating 38 single-family residential lots from 17.36 acres. Commissioner Lindsey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of a Final Plat Request – Oconee Land Development Company, LLC, Horseshoe Bend, Section 1:** The Board reviewed a request seeking Final Plat Approval to create 10 single-family residential lots from 42.25 acres of property zoned PUD and located in the Reynolds Lake Oconee development. Commissioner Filice motioned to approve the Final Plat Request submitted by Oconee Land Development Company, LLC, for Horseshoe Bend, Section I, creating 10 single-family residential lots. Commissioner Deering seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of a Preliminary & Final Plat Request – Oconee Land Development Company, LLC, The Homesteads – Gathering House Lane & Gathering House:** The Board reviewed a request seeking Preliminary and Final Plat Approval to create a subdivided parcel for the development of a private community center site totaling 29.04 acres of property zoned PUD and located in the Homesteads Development. Commissioner Deering motioned to approve the Preliminary and Final Plat requests submitted by Oconee Land Development Company, LLC, for The Homesteads, Gathering House Lane and Gathering House, creating a subdivided parcel totaling 29.04 acres. Commissioner Filice seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Business Items:**

**Consideration of an Appointment to the Library Board:** The Board received background information that the Library Board submitted a letter seeking to have Pat LaBarre appointed to the Board of Trustees. Commissioner Smith motioned to appoint Pat LaBarre to serve as a District 2 designee on the Greene County Library Board of Trustees for a term ending June 30, 2028. Commissioner Deering seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of an Appointments to the Northeast Georgia Region 10 EMS Council:** The Board received background information that, due to personnel changes, the County needs to update the appointees serving on the Northeast Georgia Region 10 Emergency Medical Services Council on behalf of Greene County. Commissioner Filice

motioned to appoint Anna Sheridan and Byron Lombard to the Northeast Georgia Region 10 Emergency Medical Services Council to represent Greene County. Commissioner Lindsey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of a Request to Abandon a Road – Thompson Town Road:** The Board received background information that there should be consideration given to the County abandoning Thompson Town Road, with County Manager Lombard noting that the road is not considered a road that serves a substantial public purpose. He added that the County owns no right-of-way along the road and that most property owners along the road favor abandonment. Commissioner Smith motioned to move forward with the legal steps necessary to solicit input on the possibility of abandoning Thompson Town Road. Commissioner Lindsey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of a GDOT Grant Contract for Airport Funding:** The Board received background information that the Georgia Department of Transportation was preparing contracts for Airport projects and that said contracts would need to be executed quickly upon receipt. Commissioner Lindsey motioned to authorize execution of the contract or contracts with the Georgia Department of Transportation for improvements at the Greene County Airport to include remarking of the runway, reimbursement of land acquisition costs, design services for taxiway safety improvements and apron expansion, and the new AWOS with funding of the local match for the AWOS coming from SPLOST VII. Commissioner Deering seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Littering and Illegal Dumping:** The Board received background information that litter and illegal dumpsites continue to be expensive nuisances. A Resolution was prepared to encourage the County's law enforcement partners, prosecuting personnel, and the Courts that hefty fines and punishment should be levied against individuals found guilty of littering. Commissioner Deering motioned to adopt Resolution Number 2022.4.12 enacting a Zero Tolerance Policy for littering and illegal dumping, and to waive the reading of the Resolution. Commissioner Lindsey seconded. General discussion noted how citizens report concerns over litter and that there was hope the Resolution will have a positive impact. Commissioner Lindsey encouraged people to bag their trash before placing it in the carts, noting that loose trash blowing out of trash trucks was a big part of the problem. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of a Resolution to Rescind Article II, Section 26-22 of Greene County Code:** The Board received background information that the excise tax on car rentals had never been levied or collected and for various reasons it was desired to rescind the County Code provisions levying the tax. Commissioner Lindsey motioned to rescind Article II, Section 26-22 of the Greene County Code of Ordinances to repeal the excise tax for rental of motor vehicles. Commissioner Filice seconded. Commissioner Smith asked why the County would rescind the tax, and County Manager Lombard advised that the excise tax was automatically imposed years ago and to levy it now would be more cumbersome and administratively expensive than the anticipated revenues that would be derived from the tax. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of a Budget Adjustment – Tax Assessors:** The Board received background information about a budget request from the Board of Assessors to reallocate funding from salaries to contract labor. A field appraiser was separated from the County last month, so the Assessors prefer to utilize a contractor to complete required field work to measure and value new construction as recruiting a replacement appraiser will be difficult, and not timely for completion of the 2022 Tax Digest. Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the necessary budget adjustments to reallocate budgeted personnel funding in the Tax Assessors FY2022 Budget to retain McCormick Solutions to perform appraisal services through the end of the current fiscal year. Commissioner Deering seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consideration of the Greene County Arena Facility Rental Policy:** The Board received background information regarding the need to adopt a policy to manage rental use of the Greene County Arena facility. Commissioner Deering expressed that she

believed more discussion of the item was needed and she had various questions and concerns. Chairman Usry noted no one signed up to speak on the agenda item, but Charles Crumbley announced from the audience that he intended to sign up to speak on this item. Chairman Usry did open the floor for comment. Charles Crumbley spoke about the use of the Arena, community partnerships among the users, what other Counties charge for agricultural facilities, and other concerns. Commissioner Deering said she understands a policy is needed but that she thought more things need to be worked on and the policy tabled. Commissioner Lindsey concurred. Commissioner Smith motioned to table the item, and Commissioner Lindsey seconded the motion. During discussion, Chairman Usry said the County Attorney advised that the County should have a policy and the fee should be reasonable and adequate to overcome the gratuities provision of the Georgia Constitution and questioned whether not going forward with the Policy would go against legal advice. Commissioner Deering commented that she would have preferred the policy come up for consideration a month before or that a called meeting be held. Chairman Usry responded that the Arena Board was formed in 2019 and charged to review and come back with a Policy for the Commissioners' consideration. Additional discussion ensued concerning the commercial rate as compared to other facilities, how other facilities compare to Greene County's, recollections of conversations with legal counsel, the need to adopt a policy before the upcoming Rodeo, community versus commercial rates, cost of the Arena relative to income from its use, and other issues. Concerning the motion to table, the Commissioners discussed adopting a different policy, adopting the current one, and revising the rates and adopting a policy knowing that it could be revisited at a later date. County Manager Lombard advised how the motion to table should be handled procedurally and what action could be taken, adding that the Board can set the rate but advised that the rate should be mindful of similar facilities' rates. Commissioner Smith withdrew his motion to table and motioned to approve the adoption of the Greene County Arena Facility Rental Policy based on a \$200 rental rate plus electricity, making the Policy effective upon adoption. After further discussion, Commissioner Smith added to his motion to accept the insurance as already submitted for the Pro Rodeo. Commissioner Lindsey seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Executive Session:** None

**Commissioner's Report:**

District Three Commissioner Lindsey reported that he attended the Health Department quarterly meeting and that it was very informative.

Chairman Usry reported that the parking lot has been paved at the Greene County Public Service Campus and that it looks very good.

**Adjournment:** Chairman Usry adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Sylvia V. Hill, County Clerk

The above minutes were adopted and approved this day 10<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2022.

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Gary Usry, Chairman

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Jeffery L. Smith, Vice-Chairman

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Angela Walker Deering, Commissioner

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Dee Lindsey, Commissioner

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Ernie Filice, Commissioner