

Gilmer County Board of Assessors
Meeting Minutes
JUNE 18, 2020
Gilmer County Courthouse
1 Broad Street, Suite 104, Ellijay, Georgia

Members attending: Gary Engel, Bill Logan, Tom Porter, John Williamson.

Staff attending: Theresa Gooch, Chief Appraiser, Lacy Ryan, Deputy Chief Appraiser, Donna Walker, Secretary

David Clark: County Attorney

1. CALL TO ORDER: Gary Engel called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 21, 2020: Upon motion of Tom Porter, second by Bill Logan, to accept the minutes as presented. Vote: Yes- Engel/Logan/Porter/Williamson.
3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Ms. Gooch amended the agenda to add items 5b, 9 and 10 and to move item 11a to be heard after item 4. Upon motion of Tom Porter, second by Bill Logan, to approve the agenda as amended. Vote: Yes- Engel/Logan/Porter/Williamson.
4. OLD BUSINESS:
 - a. Superior Court Appeal – 3082J 016 – To be discussed in Executive Session.
 - b. HB 1383 Update – No update.
 - c. Personal Property Audits – Upon motion of Bill Logan, second by Tom Porter to approve the values as presented. Vote: Yes- Engel/Logan/Porter/Williamson.
- 11a. Exempt Property Application – 3009 003 & 3023 016 – Make a Difference Ministries - Applicant attended the meeting and discussed the application. The Board questioned whether the usage of the property was there on January 1st. Applicant stated he could produce records showing the usage was there. Upon motion of Bill Logan, second by Tom Porter to deny the exemption. Vote: Yes – Logan. No – Engel/Porter/Williamson. Upon motion of Tom Porter, second by John Williamson to table the item until next month to give applicant time to produce records. Vote: Yes – Engel/Porter/Williamson. No – Logan.
5. NEW BUSINESS:
 - a. Expenditure Report May 2020- should be at 42%. The office is at 38% and the Board is at 21%.
 - b. Chrome Book Quotes – Ms. Gooch stated Charlie Paris stated the county will fund the chrome book purchase out of capital outlay for 2020. Ms. Gooch presented to quotes. Upon motion of Bill Logan, second by Tom Porter to approve the quote from ETC in the amount of \$2475. Vote: Yes- Engel/Logan/Porter/Williamson.
6. CONSERVATION USE:
 - a. New/Renew/Continuation/Release/Change of Use – Upon motion of Tom Porter, second by Bill Logan to approve the list as presented. Vote: Yes- Engel/Logan/Porter/Williamson.


- b. 3151A 015 – Possible Breach w/ Penalty – Upon motion of Tom Porter, second by Bill Logan to send possible breach letter. Vote: Yes- Engel/Logan/Porter/Williamson.
 - c. 1066 044 – Possible Breach w/ Penalty – Upon motion of Bill Logan, second by Tom Porter to send possible breach letter. Vote: Yes- Engel/Logan/Porter/Williamson.
 - d. Denials – The following applications were denied. 3039 036B – Upon motion of Bill Logan, second by John Williamson to deny as presented. Vote: Yes- Engel/Logan/Porter/Williamson. 3119 026 and 3119 025 – Upon motion of Gary Engel, second by John Williamson to deny as presented Vote: Yes- Engel/Logan/Porter/Williamson.
7. HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS: Upon motion of Tom Porter, second by Gary Engel to approve the denial as presented. Vote: Yes- Engel/Logan/Porter/Williamson. It was discovered after the meeting had adjourned that there were homesteads to be approved. Gary Engel called the meeting back to order at 4:32 P.M. Upon motion of Bill Logan, second by Tom Porter to approve the applications as presented. Vote: Yes- Engel/Logan/Porter/Williamson. At that time a motion was made by Tom Porter second by Gary Engel to adjourn the meeting for the second time at 4:33 P.M. Vote: Yes- Engel/Logan/Porter/Williamson.
 8. CHANGE FINDER UPDATE – Ms. Gooch presented some examples of how the staff was using the change finder data. She will continue to update the board as they work through the change finder data.
 9. 2019 DOAA STUDY – Ms. Gooch presented the audit findings. The county was within all the parameters and will be able to collect utilities at 40%. 2019 was a review year. Ms. Gooch stated she was very pleased with the results.
 10. JEEP QUOTE – Ms. Gooch presented the two quotes for the new jeep. One was for a 2020 model and the other for a 2021 model. The Board of Commissioners will oversee the purchase of the new jeep.
 11. EXEMPT PROPERTY APPLICATIONS
 - a. 3009 003 & 3023 016 – Make a Difference Ministries – see above after item 4.
 - b. 3106 036 – Upon motion of Tom Porter, second by Gary Engel to approve the exemption as presented. Vote: Yes- Engel/Logan/Porter/Williamson.
 12. REAL PROPERTY CHANGES: E&R's – Upon motion of Tom Porter, second by Bill Logan to approve the list as presented. Vote: Yes- Engel/Logan/Porter/Williamson.
 13. FREEPORT APPLICATIONS – Upon motion of Tom Porter, second by Bill Logan to approve the list as presented except Engelheim Vineyards. Vote: Yes- Engel/Logan/Porter/Williamson. Upon motion of Tom Porter, second by Bill Logan to approve the exemption for Engelheim Vineyards. Vote: Yes- Logan/Porter/Williamson. Abstain – Engel.
 14. PRELIMINARY EXEMPT DIGEST – Ms. Gooch presented to the Board for review in case there were any questions prior to approval of the digest in July. At this time, there were no questions. Mr. Porter requested the total acres of public land be included on the report.
 15. APPROVAL OF 2020 REAL PROPERTY, PERSONAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT NOTICES – PREVIOUSLY SUPPRESSED – Upon motion of Bill Logan, second by Gary Engel to approve the Real Property notices as presented. Vote: Yes- Engel/Logan/Porter/Williamson.

Upon motion of Bill Logan, second by Gary Engel to approve the Personal Property notices as presented. Vote: Yes- Engel/Logan/Porter/Williamson.


16. MANUFACTURED HOME CHANGES: E&R's – Upon motion of Bill Logan, second by Gary Engel to approve the list as presented. Vote: Yes- Engel/Logan/Porter/Williamson.
17. PERSONAL PROPERTY CHANGES:
 - a. E&R's – None
 - b. Vehicle Appeals – None
18. CHIEF APPRAISER'S COMMENTS: Ms. Gooch thanked the staff their hard work for the 2019 Sales Ratio Study. There are currently 168 appeals and 76 of those have 30 notices. The staff has started their 2021 field work. Ms. Gooch stated we are on target for the Digest to be approved at the July 15th meeting.
19. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS: Mr. Engel asked for public comments. See item 20. Mr. Engel stated the staff did an amazing job and appreciates the hard work of the staff. He also stated Jerry Davis, who couldn't attend the meeting today, was concerned that the Board voted to close the office but did not vote to reopen it. Mr. Logan stated they had discussed the office would be reopening during their April meeting and it was so noted in the minutes.
20. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mr. & Mrs. Weissinger were in attendance and asked the Board to consider approval of their homestead exemption for 2020. They missed the filing date due to the shelter in place order that was in effect. Upon motion of Bill Logan, second by Tom Porter to approve the exemption for 2020. Vote: Yes- Engel/Logan/Porter/Williamson.
21. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Upon motion of Tom Porter, second by Bill Logan to suspend the regular meeting and go into Executive Session at 4:20 P.M. Vote: Yes- Engel/Logan/Porter/Williamson.

Upon motion of Tom Porter, second by Bill Logan to resume the regular meeting at 4:26 P.M. Vote: Yes- Engel/Logan/Porter/Williamson. Upon motion of Bill Logan, second by Tom Porter to give the authority of the Board to Ms. Gooch and Mr. Engel to negotiate and accept a settlement based on the parameters previously set with regards to 3082J 016. Vote: Yes- Engel/Logan/Porter/Williamson.
22. ADJOURNMENT: Upon motion of Tom Porter, second by Gary Engel, to adjourn the meeting at 4:28 P.M. Vote: Yes- Engel/Logan/Porter/Williamson. (see notes in item 7 regarding reopening the meeting after this adjournment.)

Minutes accepted on the 15th day of July, 2020



Gary R. Engel, Chairman



Donna Walker, Secretary

