

**Upson County Board of Commissioners
February 24, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

Call to Order

Chairman Blackston calls the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. All Commissioners are in attendance. County Manager Jim Wheeless and County Attorney Heath English are also in attendance. The Invocation is and Pledge of Allegiance is led by Chairman Blackston.

Minutes

A motion is made by Comm. Spraggins, with a second from Comm. Ellington, to adopt the February 10, 2015 regular meeting minutes. The motion carries.

Commissioner Hudson – Yes Commissioner Ellington - Yes
Commissioner Wilder – Yes Commissioner Spraggins – Yes
Chairman Blackston – Yes

Public Comments

No public comments.

New Business

- a. County Manager Jim Wheeless explained that some changes needed to be made on the current Timber Harvesting Ordinance to require harvester to have a bond for each tract they are working on in the County. The bond will remain \$5000. This is considered the first reading.
- b. Commissioner Wilder made a motion to change the Board of Commissioner's meeting time to 6:00 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month effective the first meeting in April 2015.

The day and time should be updated in the code book through MuniCode.

A second was made by Commissioner Spraggins.

Commissioner Ellington - Yes Commissioner Wilder – Yes
Commissioner Spraggins – Yes Commissioner Hudson – Yes
Chairman Blackston – Yes

County Manager, Commissioners and County Attorney Comments

County Manager Jim Wheeless stated he has formed a purchasing committee and a personnel policy committee and they will be going over it in section and will submit it to the board as it is completed. He added that he along with Wayne Sandefur and Sherriff Dan Kilgore will be attending an information session on March 3 on purchasing. Mr. Wheeless stated that at the last meeting Dave Wills from ACCG spoke about House Bill 170. At that time ACCG was in support of the bill but they are no longer in support of it.

Commissioner Spraggins had no comments.

Commissioner Hudson stated that he wanted to go on record in support of the E-SPLOST. He added that this was his personal feelings and he was not speaking on behalf of the board as a whole.

Commissioner Wilder stated that he also supports the E-SLOST.

Commissioner Ellington thanked the local churches for the support they showed to the public service workers.

County Attorney Heath English had no comments.

Chairman Blackston stated that he attended the Suns Up Breakfast and they had a good presentation on the E-SPLOST adding that he also supports it. He stated that he is not in support of house bill 170 because it takes money away from the local government putting them in a position to have to increase taxes to make it up the difference. He added that he and Commissioner Ellington had a meeting with other to discuss Upson County going into probation services. They will be contacting other counties that currently have in house probation to see how it is working for them. He stated that it looks like it will be a profitable venture, but they are not looking at profits right. They want to get the people back into a civilian lifestyle. He added that there have been several complaints on our current probation group and there is not check and balance from the state right now. He added there is a lot of more information they need to gather and a work session would be needed to discuss which way they want to go.

Adjournment

Comm. Spraggins made a motion to adjourn at 7:20 pm, with a second by Comm. Wilder to adjourn the meeting.

Chairman Rusty Blackston

Commissioner Steve Hudson

Commissioner Frank Spraggins

Commissioner Lorenzo Wilder

Commissioner Ralph Ellington

Jim Wheelless, County Manager