

## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Charles W. Oddo, Chairman  
Randy Ognio, Vice Chair  
David Barlow  
Steve Brown  
Charles D. Rousseau



## FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

Steve Rapson, County Administrator  
Dennis A. Davenport, County Attorney  
Floyd L. Jones, County Clerk  
Tameca P. White, Chief Deputy County Clerk

140 Stonewall Avenue West  
Public Meeting Room  
Fayetteville, GA 30214

## MINUTES SPECIAL CALLED MEETING October 19, 2015 9:30 a.m.

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### Call to Order

Chairman Oddo called the October 19, 2015 Special Called Meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

### Acceptance of Agenda

Chairman Oddo noted that there is usually no allotment for Public Comments during a Special Called Meeting.

Commissioner Brown moved to accept the Agenda and to add Public Comment. Commissioner Ognio seconded the motion. No discussion followed. The motion passed 5-0.

### PUBLIC COMMENT:

**Arnie Geiger:** Mr. Geiger said the District Voting discussion has gone on a long time. He asked the Board to consider that this issue has been on a "long, long, road" and that there needs to be an end to the matter rather than giving in.

**Charles Bennett:** Mr. Bennett said he gave some material to some of the Commissioners about a similar "gerrymandered" case that is before the House of Representatives in the State of Maryland. He thought the reason that the matter was the House of Representatives, after it was at the Appellate Court, was because the scale-factors used to set up the maps were not used in the State of Maryland. He thought, after he examined the District Five map, that the same problem existed in Fayette County. He asked the Board to take the case either to the judge or to appeal the injunction that was issued prior to the past Special Election.

**Pat Earnest:** Ms. Earnest said everyone in the county has lost 80% of their voting ability and she wondered how that was fair. She understood that citizens could still talk to the Commissioners but only one Commissioner would be accountable to her. She asked the Board to "go all the way to the end" so that the Defendant's side of the argument needs to be heard since that has not yet happened. She said Fayette County has always been fair but that this issue was not good since it was creating a bad reputation for the county.

**Bill Pool:** Mr. Pool said the Board needed to make up its mind whether it is the Chamber of Commerce and the NAACP who are running the county or is it the people. He thought the District Voting matter needed to go all the way to court.

**Terry Williamson:** Mr. Williamson said much has gone forward and much has been said. He agreed there is factual evidence that Fayette County is gaining a reputation and that reputation says a lot about the county and how open it is to different ideas. He stated that the Board will never satisfy everyone in the County even when it makes the right decisions, but he added that the people elected the Commissioners to make the best decisions in the interest of the County. He closed by asking the Board to make the best decision possible.

**Carol Springsteen:** Ms. Springsteen said she has lived in the county since 1986 and this issue was a real shocker to her. She did not think Fayette County has discrimination and did not think this issue should have gone on so far since it is deplorable. She thought the citizens would vote for someone who is qualified regardless of who they are or their party. She said the county was built on values, trust and morals and many have moved to Fayette County because of that. She said the county is safe with good police and she thought the people have not had the opportunity to really truly understand the issues. She concluded that Fayette County was being used and manipulated by people who are from outside the county.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

##### **1. Executive Session for one item of Pending Litigation and one item of Real Estate Acquisition.**

Commissioner Ognio moved to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Barlow seconded the motion. No discussion followed. The motion passed 5-0.

The Board recessed into Executive Session at 9:40 a.m. and returned from Executive Session at 11:30 a.m.

##### **Return to Official Session and Authorization to sign the Executive Session Affidavit.**

Commissioner Ognio moved to return to Official Session and to authorize the Chairman to sign the Executive Session Affidavit. Commissioner Barlow seconded the motion. No discussion followed. The motion passed 5-0. A copy of the Executive Session Affidavit, identified as "Attachment 1," follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

##### **Comments on Mediation.**

Commissioner Ognio stated that the citizens needed to know that the Board would attend mediation, as ordered by the judge, on Wednesday. Commissioner Rousseau added that mediation is not a public session. Chairman Oddo agreed and reiterated that the mediation would not be open to the public.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Commissioner Ognio moved to adjourn the October 19, 2015 Special Called Meeting. Commissioner Rousseau seconded the motion. No discussion followed. The motion passed 5-0.

The October 19, 2015 Special Called Meeting of the Board of Commissioners was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

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Floyd L. Jones, County Clerk

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Charles W. Oddo, Chairman

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia, held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October 2015. Referenced attachments are available upon request at the County Clerk's Office.

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Floyd L. Jones, County Clerk