

**CALHOUN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL BOCC MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 17, 2015**

**PRESENT AND ACTING:**

**MARION "LEE LEE" BROWN, CHAIRMAN  
WOODROW "LEE" SHELTON, VICE-CHAIRMAN  
THOMAS G. FLOWERS  
DENNIS JONES  
DARRELL MCDUGALD**

**MATTHEW FUQUA, ATTORNEY  
CARLA HAND, CLERK OF COURT AND COUNTY COMPTROLLER  
BECKY BROWN, DEPUTY CLERK  
THAD SCOTT, DEPUTY SHERIFF**

The special meeting held in the Courtroom on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Courthouse was called to order by Chairman Brown at 5:45 p.m., CT. Commissioner McDougald led the Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Chairman Brown reminded everyone to silence their cell phones and reminded those on the agenda they will have three minutes to speak on their topic. The public will have an opportunity to speak on items before the Board votes on a motion.

**FRACKING AND OTHER METHODS OF OIL EXTRACTION IN CALHOUN COUNTY**

Chairman Brown opened the discussion of fracking and other methods of oil extraction in Calhoun County. Commissioner McDougald asked the Board to allow the citizens on the agenda to speak. The Board agreed by consensus.

Mr. Philip McMillian, Vice-President and General Manager of Neal Land and Timber Company and Vice-President of Big River Cypress and Hardwood, advised the Board he currently manages natural resources in Calhoun County and surrounding counties and has done so for the past 35 years. Mr. McMillian stated he has worked with State agencies in developing best management practices for growing and harvesting timber. Mr. McMillian expressed some concerns he has regarding the "No Fracking" Resolution and how it would hamper production not today but in the future when methods improve. Mr. McMillian stated this Resolution is based on fears and if passed it could prevent Calhoun County citizens from any benefits that might be derived from oil and gas production.

Mr. Ken Tucker, landowner in Calhoun County, (speaking on behalf of Calhoun County residents Mike Tucker, Kathryn Tucker, and Finlay Corbin) gave the Board facts from a US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) environmental study which has proved fracking is not dangerous or a threat to the environment. Mr. Tucker stated if Calhoun County has oil within the County it should be welcomed and land owners have rights to decide if they want to allow drilling or fracking on their property.

Mr. Dwight Van Lierop, owner of Van Lierop Insurance and resident of Calhoun County, asked the Board not to ban any oil and gas exploration and use of high pressure well stimulation techniques such as

hydraulic fracturing within Calhoun County. Mr. Van Lierop stated there are several common misconceptions that surround the use of the advanced techniques, the impact on the environment, the health and welfare of Calhoun County residents and the impact of property values. Mr. Van Lierop stated if we allow the fear of undocumented pollution kill Calhoun County's opportunity to be part of any energy boom then we will destroy any opportunity to provide economic security to residents for many years to come and force our younger generation to move from the County to find gainful employment.

Mr. Mike Dalton, a former resident of Calhoun County and an owner of two (2) oil well companies in South Texas, advised the Board oil and gas exploration could change the lives of Calhoun County residents. Mr. Dalton stated this could benefit his employees who are originally from Calhoun County and may allow them the opportunity to return home to Calhoun County to make a good living.

Dr. Tom Herbert, a professional geologist, advised the Board Cholla Petroleum, Inc. has filed two (2) permits with the State of Florida: Geophysical Permit (G-172-15) and Environmental Resource Permit. Dr. Herbert stated he has reviewed Resolution 2015-36 and addressed some misconceptions regarding the aquifer.

- ❖ A motion for Calhoun County to adhere to the existing State of Florida rules and regulations regarding oil drilling and testing was made by Commissioner McDougald and seconded by Commissioner Flowers. Chairman Brown called for public comment. Mr. Greg Preble (former Calhoun County engineer), an engineer in Tallahassee, advised the Board "fracking" is the reason for \$2.00/gallon gas. Mr. Preble stated if there is an outlaw on "fracking" in the country then there would be a significant price increase for gasoline. Mr. Preble noted it is apparent Calhoun County is struggling with no significant financial based economy. Ms. Beverly Veress, Calhoun County resident against fracking, asked the Board to listen to those who have been involved with "fracking." Ms. Veress states she personally knows individuals whose land decreased in value because of "fracking." Ms. Monica Phillips advised the Board "fracking" will negatively affect logging, fishing, hunting, causing deforestation and loss of deer habitat. Ms. Caitlin Hope, a Carr School student, expressed her concerns about "fracking" and the use of dangerous chemicals that will pollute the water and cause cancer. Mr. Peggy Frith, Calhoun County resident, advised the Board most citizens don't own mineral rights to their property and won't make any profit. Mr. Charles Foster, Calhoun County resident, expressed his concerns regarding "fracking" and water contamination. Dr. David Craig, a retired Pathologist, advised the Board there have been studies done by the University of Pennsylvania and Columbia University where there has been an increase in illnesses of patients who live next to "fracking" areas. Ms. Amy Datz provided the Board a handout showing concerns regarding "fracking" affecting home mortgages, crime increase and an increase in vehicle accidents. Mr. Douglas Miller expressed his concerns regarding "fracking" and the water supply needed for fracking. Mr. Herb Shelton expressed his concerns regarding the aquifer and how "fracking" in Calhoun County will effect surrounding counties. Mr. Howard Kessler, a physician, advised the Board he is present with other physicians to express concerns to prevent diseases from "fracking." Mr. Rodney DeHan, an Environmental Scientist, advised the Board Florida's aquifer is unique and different from anywhere else and if you contaminate one resource you contaminate the others. Mr. Bobby Voss, Calhoun County resident, expressed his concerns and effects "fracking" would have in Calhoun County. Ms. Robyn Parrish-Hill, resident of Calhoun County, expressed concerns that "fracking" may destroy or negatively impact the Chipola River Basin. Dr. Shirley Zahn, a marriage therapist, asked the Board to look at the long term effects "fracking" would

have on families, damages to cultures and health and other consequences that families face with stresses of illness. Dr. Ronald Saff advised the Board of potential health risks from fracking. Ms. Patricia Thomas advised the Board she is trying to stop "fracking" because of the negative effects on the environment. Mr. Kevin Jackson, resident of Calhoun County, expressed his concerns regarding "fracking" in Calhoun County. Dr. Marc Freeman gave the Board the current status of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) report on the safety of fracking. Mr. Ray Bellamy expressed his concerns regarding the casings used in fracking and how they leak into the aquifer. Mr. David Terry, Calhoun County resident, expressed his concerns regarding fracking and the damage it can cause in Calhoun County. Ms. Linda Young gave the Board a handout regarding how the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is not concerned with protecting the State of Florida.

**Chairman Brown called for break at 7:58 p.m. to reconvene at 8:08 p.m.**

- ❖ (Motion discussion continued) Chairman Brown asked Attorney Fuqua to refresh the Board with the motion made by Commissioner McDougald. Attorney Fuqua stated according to the Public Participation Policy a motion and a second has been made and public comment has been given. The Clerk restated the motion which Commissioner McDougald had made and seconded by Commissioner Flowers. Mr. McClendon asked the Board what does the motion mean. Commissioner McDougald stated this is not to ban fracking but to allow State of Florida to regulate oil drilling and testing. Commissioner Flowers asked if there were other resolutions from surrounding counties for comparison. Attorney Fuqua stated the Resolution he prepared was based upon a Washington County Resolution provided to him by Ms. Datz which he modified to fit Calhoun County noting it is much broader than just a Resolution against fracking. There were no further comments. The motion failed 1-4. (Chairman Brown, Commissioner Jones, Commissioner Shelton and Commissioner Flowers opposed)

Chairman Brown asked the Board if there was a motion to adopt Resolution 2015-36. **(A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CALHOUN COUNTY, FLORIDA, REQUESTING A STATEWIDE BAN ON OIL AND GAS EXTREME HYDRAULIC FRACTURING, ACID FRACTURING AND ANY FORM OF WELL STIMULATION FOR OIL AND GAS IN FLORIDA)** Commissioner Flowers stated he would still like to see the resolutions adopted/considered from the surrounding counties. Attorney Fuqua read the proposed Resolution 2015-36.

- ❖ A motion to allow the citizens of Calhoun County to vote on fracking during next year's election was made by Commissioner Jones and seconded by Commissioner Flowers. Chairman Brown called for public comment. Mr. Gene Bailey, Calhoun County citizen, stated he is for fracking. Ms. Carol Panek, Calhoun County citizen, stated her mineral rights will be taken away from her and the well water will be poisoned. Mr. Kevin Jackson thanked Commissioner Jones for taking a stand and putting liberty back in the citizen's hands which impact their family's lives. Mr. Howard Kessler advised the Board Legislature is returning January 12, 2016 and your right to make a decision will be gone. Ms. Margie Mason, Calhoun County resident, stated the public has spoken and it is time for you to take a vote. Ms. Peggy Frith stated the Board has had time to do research, the public has spoken against fracking and now it is time to take a vote on fracking. Commissioner McDougald recommended Commissioner Jones withdraw his motion and allow time for the Board to make a motion to adopt Resolution 2015-36. Commissioner Jones and Commissioner Flowers withdrew their motion to allow citizens of Calhoun County to vote on fracking during next year's election.

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Chairman Brown asked the Board if there is a motion to adopt Resolution 2015-36.

- ❖ A motion to adopt Resolution 2015-36 was made by Commissioner Jones. The motion died for lack of second.

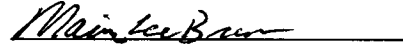
**Chairman Brown called for break at 8:34 p.m. to reconvene at 8:40 p.m.**

### **CALHOUN COUNTY AMBULANCE SERVICES**

Attorney David House gave the Board a report on gross/net revenues for services rendered by Calhoun-Liberty Hospital for 2012, 2013, and 2014; 2015 amounts are not yet available. Attorney House stated there has been discussion of the County taking back over the ambulance service. He stated in 2008 Calhoun-Liberty Hospital took Emergency Medical Services (EMS) over at the request of the County and there has been a reduction in the annual cost to the County. (currently \$240,000/annually) Attorney House stated the ambulance made 2,864 runs last year and also remarked both Gulf and Holmes Counties provide more than \$240,000 in County funds for their ambulance service. Attorney House advised the Board the books for 2015 are not accurate at this time and asked the Board to table this discussion until a complete and accurate investigation is done. Attorney House stated allowing Calhoun-Liberty Hospital to run the ambulance service benefits the hospital and further stated it could hurt the hospital if the ambulance service is taken from them. Commissioner Shelton asked how the County taking over the ambulance service would hurt the hospital. Attorney House stated if a patient is picked up and doesn't have a preference and is not an acute case then they are taken to Calhoun-Liberty Hospital, the ambulance service also make runs for the prison and also takes patients back and forth between local area care facilities. Commissioner Flowers asked how long will it be before the books will be ready to bring before the Board. Attorney House stated it could be three to six months before the books are accurate.

- ❖ A motion was made by Commissioner Flowers to allow Calhoun-Liberty Hospital to continue providing ambulance service for Calhoun County and for the Hospital to come before the Board with an accurate set of books once the investigation is over. Commissioner Shelton stated he is getting asked what is happening to the money citizens are giving Calhoun-Liberty Hospital for services rendered. Commissioner McDougald stated the ambulance service is running better since Calhoun-Liberty Hospital has taken the services over. Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. Commissioner Jones stated he has nothing against Calhoun-Liberty Hospital or the ambulance services but mentioned Mr. R. Pierson, a neighbor of his, was told EMS would not come back to his house and he should call the Volunteer Fire Department the next time he needed services. Chairman Brown called for public comment. Ms. Margie Mason stated it is not a good idea for the County to take over the ambulance services. Mr. David Odom stated the main reason counties give EMS over to the hospitals is due to the billing for services rendered. There were no further comments. The motion passed 4-1. (Commissioner Shelton opposed)
- ❖ During the December 8, 2015 Regular Board meeting a motion to cancel the December 22, 2015 Regular BOCC Meeting was made by Commissioner McDougald and seconded by Commissioner Jones with discussion. The motion was not voted on at the December 8, 2015 meeting therefore Chairman Brown called for the vote. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the special meeting at 8:54 pm.

  
MARION "LEE LEE" BROWN, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

  
CARLA A. HAND, CLERK