

**R080216**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO  
CREATE A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN NEWTON COUNTY AND THE GEORGIA  
FFA-FCCLA CENTER TO BUILD, MANAGE AND OPERATE THE NEWTON  
COUNTY AGRICULTURAL CENTER.**

**WHEREAS**, the Constitution of the State of Georgia, approved by the voters of the State in November of 1982, and effective July 1, 1983, provides in Article IX, Section II, Paragraph I thereof, that the governing authority of the County may adopt clearly reasonable ordinances, resolutions and regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Newton County Board of Commissioners previously allocated \$1,100,000.00 to build a Newton County Agricultural Center in the 2011 SPLOST; and

**WHEREAS**, an Agricultural Center Committee was appointed by the Newton County Board of Commissioners to develop plans for a multipurpose agricultural center for Newton County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agricultural Center Committee directed a land subcommittee to find suitable property for the Agricultural Center; and

**WHEREAS**, the Agricultural Center Committee by and through the land subcommittee selected and visited more than twenty sites and none were found to be suitable for the Newton County Agricultural Center; and

**WHEREAS**, the Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center, a facility owned by the State of Georgia, has expressed interest in a partnership with Newton County to construct an Agricultural Center on 40 acres of land located at the intersection of Georgia Highway 36 and FFA Road; and

**WHEREAS**, the Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center proposes entering into a 50 year lease with Newton County for \$1.00, providing 40 acres of land located at the intersection of Georgia Highway 36 and FFA Road for construction of the Newton County Agricultural Center; and

**WHEREAS**, the Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center would operate the Newton County Agricultural Facility and assume the maintenance and operation of the facility, with no cost to Newton County tax payers; and

**WHEREAS**, this Agricultural Center will enhance the agricultural education programs in Newton County and at the Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center; and

**WHEREAS**, the efforts of Senator Rick Jeffares, Representative Dave Belton, and the Newton County delegation with help from Senator John Wilkinson, Representative Terry England, Senator Jack Hill and Governor Nathan Deal have resulted in the State of Georgia approving \$2,000,000.00 in the 2017 State budget for the Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center to partner with Newton County on construction of an Agricultural Center; and

**WHEREAS**, the efforts of State Representative Dave Belton have resulted in Newton County also receiving \$250,000.00 from the OneGeorgia Authority, which administers Georgia's tobacco settlement funds, for the Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center to partner with Newton County on construction of an Agricultural Center; and

**WHEREAS**, receipt of the aforementioned \$2,250,000.00 in funds from the State of Georgia and the OneGeorgia Authority is conditioned upon Newton County's contribution of \$1,100,000.00 which is being collected under the 2011 SPLOST referendum; and

**WHEREAS**, the partnership between the State of Georgia and Newton County would provide for construction of the Newton County Agricultural Center at a total cost of \$3,350,000.00; and

**WHEREAS**, the Newton County Agricultural Center Committee voted unanimously on May 5, 2016 to accept the proposal of locating the Newton County Agricultural Center at the FFA-FCCLA Center; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 26, 2016 a town hall meeting was held at the Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center to answer citizen questions regarding the proposed Newton County Agricultural Center's impact on the surrounding area; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 2, 2016, the Newton County Agricultural Center Committee and representatives from the Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center appeared before the Newton County Board of Commissioners to share project details, including artist renderings of the potential center space and to address questions regarding how funds will be generated to cover maintenance and operation costs for the Newton County Agricultural Center with no cost to Newton County taxpayers; and

**WHEREAS**, the Newton County Board of Commissioners now wishes to approve a partnership between Newton County and the Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center to build and manage the Newton County Agricultural Center utilizing \$2,000,000.00 from the State of Georgia, \$250,000.00 from the OneGeorgia Authority, and \$1,100,000.00 from the 2011 SPLOST; and

**WHEREAS**, the Newton County Board of Commissioners wishes for an advisory committee to be appointed by the Georgia Agricultural Education State Program Manager and the Newton County Board of Commissioners to establish user rates, create strategies, and promote the successful endeavors of the Agriculture Center.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA AS FOLLOWS:**

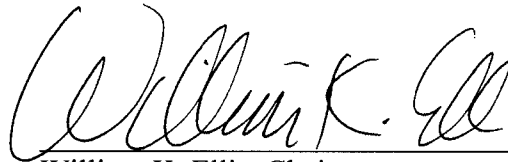
- (1) The Chairman of the Newton County Board of Commissioners, the County Manager and the County Attorney are hereby directed to work with the State of Georgia and the OneGeorgia Authority to prepare appropriate contractual and lease documents, requiring no operational expenses be borne by the County, to effectuate a partnership between Newton County and the Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center to provide for the

construction, management and operations of the Newton County Agricultural Center utilizing \$2,000,000.00 from the State of Georgia, \$250,000.00 from OneGeorgia, and \$1,100,000.00 from the previously allocated 2011 SPLOST funds; and

- (2) The Chairman of the Newton County Board of Commissioners is authorized to execute lease documents, requiring no operational expenses be borne by the County, whereby the Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center enters into a 50 year lease with Newton County for \$1.00, providing 40 acres of land located at the intersection of Georgia Highway 36 and FFA Road for the Newton County Agricultural Center; and
- (3) The Chairman of the Newton County Board of Commissioners is authorized to execute appropriate documents, requiring no operational expenses be borne by the County, accepting \$2,000,000.00 in State funds to be utilized to construct the Newton County Agricultural Center on 40 acres of land located at the intersection of Georgia Highway 36 and FFA Road; and
- (4) The Chairman of the Newton County Board of Commissioners is authorized to execute appropriate documents, requiring no operational expenses be borne by the County, accepting \$250,000.00 in OneGeorgia Authority grant funds to be utilized to construct the Newton County Agricultural Center on 40 acres of land located at the intersection of Georgia Highway 36 and FFA Road.

**SO RESOLVED** this 2nd day of August 2016.

**NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**



William K. Ellis, Chairman

Attest:



Jackie B. Smith, County Clerk

