

AGENDA
McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
January 7, 2009, 9:45 AM, Grand Jury Room, McDuffie County Courthouse

SWEARING IN CEREMONY

Probate Judge Valerie Burley

1) Commissioner William (Bill) W. Jopling
McCorkle
District 2, Seat A

2) Commissioner Paul W.
District 2, Seat B

COMMISSION MEETING

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

Chairman Newton

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Reverend Tom Kerr, Pastor, First United Methodist Church, Thomson, Georgia

APPROVALS

Agenda (Current)
Minutes (Regular Mtg. 12-16-08)
Minutes (Called Mtg. 12-29-08)

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Announcement: Commissioners' Group & Individual Pictures To Be Taken, 1/20/09, 5:30 PM
2. Announcement: New ISO Rating From 6/9 to 5/9, Effective April 1, 2009

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. ER & ACO Report – December 2008 (Tax Commissioner Sandra Whitaker)
2. Appointments – County Clerk & County Attorney (Chairman Newton)
3. Resolution – Section 5311 – For 2010 Budget (Bob Howard)
4. Need for Replacement of Pick-Up Truck for Road Dept. (Chris Pelly)
5. Naming of “West Bypass” Road (Chris Pelly)
6. Approval of Budget Amendment to Account for \$900,000 Transfer from Reserve Funds (Jimmy Whitaker)
7. Approval Write-Off of \$1.5 Million Emergency Telephone (E-911) Funds (Jimmy Whitaker)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Topic of Discussion: Discussion of the future acquisition of real estate as provided by O.C.G.A. S 50-14-3(4).

ADJOURNMENT

The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners held a regular Commission Meeting Wednesday morning, January 7, 2009, 10:00 AM, Grand Jury Room, McDuffie County Courthouse.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Charles G. Newton IV, Chairman
Sammie L. Wilson, Vice Chairman
Rev. Fred Favors, Commissioner
Paul W. McCorkle, Commissioner
Wm. "Bill" W. Jopling, Commissioner

COUNTY REPRESENTATION:

Sammy Fowler, County Attorney
Don Norton, County Manager
Annette Finley, County Clerk
Jimmy Whitaker, County Finance Director
Sandra Whitaker, Tax Commissioner
Chris Pelly, Director of Public Works
Kelly Evans, Director, IT Department
Bruce Tanner, County Fire Chief
Steven Sewell, EMA/Fire Services

MEDIA REPRESENTATION

WTHO Radio Station
McDuffie Mirror Newspaper
McDuffie Progress Newspaper

OTHERS:

Twenty One (21) citizens attended.

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

Chairman Newton acknowledged a quorum of commissioners present, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.

The Chairman reflected on the Swearing In Ceremony held immediately prior to this Meeting for the two new commissioners, Paul McCorkle and Bill Jopling, and extended congratulations with a specific "welcome aboard". He noted that they will be replacing the outgoing commissioners, Darrell Wester and Bob Farr.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Reverend Tom Kerr, Pastor, First United Methodist Church, Thomson, offered the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVALS

Agenda

A motion to approve the current Agenda was made by Wilson, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

Minutes (Reg. Mtg. 12-16-08)

A motion to approve the minutes of the Commission Meeting held on December 16, 2008 was made by Wilson, seconded by McCorkle and passed unanimously.

Minutes (Called Mtg. 12-29-08)

A motion to approve the minutes of the "Called" Commission Meeting held on December 29, 2008 was made by Favors, seconded by McCorkle and passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Announcement: Commissioners' Group and Individual Pictures to be taken, 1-20-09, 5:30 PM in the Witness Room of the Courthouse; due to conflicts, a more convenient date of February 2, 2009 was decided upon with the same time & place.**
2. **Announcement: New ISO Rating From 6/9 to 5/9, Effective April 1, 2009. Note, a report will be made at the next Commission Meeting scheduled for 1/20/09.**

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. **ER & ACO Report – December 2008:** Chairman Newton asked Tax Commissioner Sandra Whitaker to present this report.

Sandra reported a decrease in the amount of \$1,887.41 revenue due the County for the M&O of McDuffie County. The property tax decrease is due to several 2007 appeals that were heard by the Board of Equalization; several 2008 values were decreased due the Board of Equalization ruling.

-2-

Mobile Home Digest increased \$636.42 in revenue due the County. This increase is due to the several mobile homes located in the county that were not on the Mobile Home Digest discovered as a result of field checks by the Tax Assessor's staff.

A motion to accept and approve this report as presented was made by Wilson, seconded by McCorkle and passed unanimously.

2. **Appointments – County Clerk & County Attorney:** Chairman Newton advised that Ms. Annette Finley had expressed interest in being re-appointed as County Clerk for the year 2009 and recommended same. A motion to approve this recommendation was made by Favors, seconded by McCorkle and passed unanimously.

Chairman Newton also recommended that Sammy Fowler be re-appointed as County Attorney for the year 2009. A motion to approve this recommendation was made by Jopling, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

3. **Resolution – Section 5311 – 2010 Budget Year:** Chairman Newton asked Bob Howard, Director of Recreation, Rural Transportation and Leisure Services, to address this matter.

Bob reported transportation services to the citizens of McDuffie County since 1978. The transit program currently operates five vehicles, four of the vehicles are used on a daily basis and the fifth is utilized when needed. He is now requesting the Board of Commissioners to allow McDuffie County to continue operating the Section 5311 Transit Program.

After discussion and a recommendation to continue allowing McDUFFIE County to operate the Section 5311 Transit Program was made by McCorkle, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously

4. **Need for Replacement of Pick-Up Truck for Road Department:** Chairman Newton asked Chris Pelly, Director of Public Works, to report on this issue.

Chris reported an accident that had happened on December 16, 2008 in which County Truck #M54 (totaled by our insurance company) in the Road Department ran into the back of a County owned tractor #M45 (being used as a sweeper at the time). This leaves the Road Department short one truck for work crews (already short one truck) and another truck is not budgeted for 2009.

The insurance will pay approximately \$5075 less the county's deductible of \$1000 leaving approximately \$12,000 needed for a new truck comparable to the one lost in the accident.

Amount After discussion and at this time, a motion was made by McCorkle to allow the Road Department to go out on bid for the replacement of this truck; motion was seconded Jopling and passed unanimously. Note was made that since the item is not budgeted, funds for this purchase will be coming from the Contingency Account. to be determined following receipt of bids.

5. **Naming of "West Bypass" Road:** Chairman Newton asked Chris Pelly to continue with this item.

This It was and the Chris stated that after being contacted by the Georgia Department of Highway Safety, there is confusion as to whether the "West Bypass" road is a state or a county road. must be determined plus a name must be given to the "West Bypass" road. determined that the state gave the road to McDuffie County in 2001 or 2002 County has been maintaining the road since that time.

Jopling and After additional discussion, a motion was made by McCorkle to request additional research on the road along with "postponing" the item until the next scheduled Commission Meeting to be held on January 20, 2009; motion was seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously. Note was made that the "West Bypass" road was constructed to state specifications with a load limit of 80,000 lbs. as opposed to a County road limit of 56,200 lbs. when constructed.

6. **Approval of Budget Amendment to Account for \$900,000 Transferred from LGIP Reserve Funds:** Chairman Newton asked Jimmy Whitaker, County Finance Director, to address this issue.

Jimmy reported that during the calendar year ending December 31, 2008, McDuffie County began to feel the effects of a cash flow problem early in the year and had to make three (3) \$300,000 transfers from the County LGIP account. This was necessary as the General Fund bank balance fell below \$100,000 on several occasions and it was necessary to transfer the funds in order to pay current bills. The effect of the transfer was to reduce the balance in the LGIP reserve account from approximately \$2,000,000 to a balance of approximately \$1,100,000. The \$900,000 withdrawal will be restored to the LGIP account upon approval of the McDuffie County Board of Commissioners.

Jimmy recommended that the Board approve a budget amendment for the year ending December 31, 2008 that would reflect prior year income of \$900,000 and an increase in the contingency account of \$900,000 for use as needed to balance various General Fund accounts. After discussion, a motion to approve this recommendation was made by McCorkle, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

7. Approval Write-Off of \$1.5 Million Emergency Telephone (E-911) Funds: Chairman Newton asked Jimmy Whitaker to continue with his presentations.

Jimmy reported the Emergency Telephone System (911) for McDuffie County and Glascock County is funded by fees received from land line and cell phone subscribers who have telephones located within the county; \$1 is collected for each cell phone per month and \$1.50 is collected for each regular telephone in the county per month. The balance of the operational expenses is paid by McDuffie County. Over the last several years, a balance of \$1,525,046 has accumulated and the County's auditors have requested for the past two (2) years that the County "write it off" as a bad debt because there is no likelihood of the County ever collecting these funds.

The effect of the "write off" would have no direct fiscal impact to the county as it would merely reduce the account receivables by the \$1,525,046 and thus reduce net assets on the balance sheet by the same amount. Jimmy recommended that the Board approve this reduction in accounts receivable from E-911 in order for the County to show a balance sheet that is more realistic, as recommended by the county's auditors.

After discussion, a motion was made by Wilson to approve this recommendation and that it be done on an annual basis in the future; motion was seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

At this time, Chairman Newton asked that an Executive Session be held with the topic of discussion being future acquisition of real estate. A motion to enter into an executive Session was made by Wilson, seconded by Favors and passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Topic of Discussion: Acquisition of Real Estate

After the Executive Session, a motion to resume the regular Commission Meeting was made by Jopling, seconded by McCorkle and passed unanimously.

NO ACTION was taken as a result of the Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board of Commissioners at this time, a motion to adjourn was made by Wilson, seconded by Favors and passed unanimously.

McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charles G. Newton IV, Chairman

ATTEST:

Annette Finley, County Clerk