

AGENDA

McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
January 20, 2009, 6:30 PM, Grand Jury Room, McDuffie County Courthouse

PUBLIC INPUT

Speakers:

Adjournment:

ZONING HEARING

- 1. Karen/Gary Powell – Residential Crossover Easement – Lincoln Hwy.**

Adjournment:

COMMISSION MEETING

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

Chairman Newton

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVALS

Agenda (Current)

Minutes (Regular Mtg. 01-07-09)

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. ACCG Legislative Conference February 9 & 10, 2009, Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel**
- 2. City-County Annual Retreat, February 27 & 28, 2009, UGA, Athens**
- 3. Progress Being Made on Off-System Safety Enhancement Project (Chairman Newton)**
- 4. Committee on Reorganizing & Restructuring**

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Status Update on “West Bypass” Road (Chairman Newton)**

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. County Health/Life Ins. Program (Ed Ricketson)**
- 2. Discuss Proposed Cost Containment Amendment to Employee Health Plan (Ashley Ellis, John Taylor)**
- 3. Approval/Authorization of Chairman to Sign Revised Three Points Interchange Agreement (Chairman Newton)**
- 4. Appointment: Commission Representation on Joint City/County Water/Sewer Commission Replacing Commissioner Wester (Chairman Newton)**
- 5. Proposed Minor Restructuring/Reclassification in Tax Commissioner’s Office (Sandra Whitaker)**
- 6. Discussion/Recommendation for Traffic Engineering Study @ Gov’t Ctr. (Rev. Favors)**
- 7. Discussion/Recommendation for Construction Manager @ Risk @ Gov’t Ctr. (Rev. Favors)**
- 8. New County ISO Rating (Bruce Tanner)**
- 9. Walmart EMA Grant (Bruce Tanner)**
- 10. CSRA RDC FY 2010 Aging Grant - \$22,000 (Merlinda D’Antignac)**
- 11. Monthly Budget Report – December 2008 (Don Norton)**
- 12. Monthly Financial Report – December 2008 (Jimmy Whitaker)**

ADJOURNMENT

The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners held a regular Commission Meeting Tuesday evening, January 20, 2009, 6:30 PM, 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:

Don Norton, County Manager
Annette Finley, County Clerk
Jimmy Whitaker, County Finance Director
Bob Howard, Director of Recreation, Rural
Transportation and Leisure Services
Sandra Whitaker, Tax Commissioner
Bruce Tanner, County Fire Chief
Steven Sewell, EMS/Fire Services
Fred Guerrant, Director, Planning Board
Kelly Evans, Director, IT Department
Chris Pelly, Director of Public Works

MEDIA REPRESENTATION

WTHO Radio Station
McDuffie Mirror Newspaper
McDuffie Progress Newspaper

OTHERS

Three (3) citizens attended.

PUBLIC INPUT

Speakers: None
Adjournment: 6:30 PM

ZONING HEARING

Chairman Newton asked Fred Guerrant, Director of the Planning Board, to present this matter.

at Fred reported that another application had been brought before the Planning Commission their meeting held on December 2, 2008 however additional information was needed on the matter before it could be brought to the Board of Commissioners.

1. Karen/Gary Powell – Residential Crossover Easement – Lincolnton Highway

Fred summarized an application received from Karen Powell requesting a residential crossover easement at the Powell's residence located at 5384 Lincolnton Highway noting that the Powells currently reside on a 20' acre parcel on the east side of the Lincolnton Highway just past the water treatment plant, however, the parcel is an old flag lot with only 51.6 feet of road frontage. The Powells are planning to build a new residence on the property and it is anticipated that the bank would not be taking all of the 20+ acre as collateral and would only be taking the front half and parcel access as collateral. The problem is that this would, upon platting, leave the back half of the property as a separate parcel without any roadway access i.e. landlocked. After Fred met with the county attorney, the only solution would be to approve the easement, but only in the case a pending "adverse taking" of the property such as court order parcel separation (e.g. divorce), tax seizure, foreclosure, bankruptcy, or other action deemed by the Planning Commission as beyond the control of the property owners. Such property/access restriction shall run with the property and shall transfer to any agents, benefactors, or representatives. Under no circumstances shall the easement or such property accessed by same be activated in order to create a new buildable lot. The Powells agreed and the Planning Commission recommended approval by the Board of Commissioners.

Adjournment: 6:37 PM

COMMISSION MEETING

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner/Reverend Fred Favors, Pastor, Springfield Baptist Church, Thomson, GA offered the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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APPROVALS

Agenda

A motion to approve 2 additional items (1st two) on the current Agenda was made by Wilson, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

Minutes (Reg. Mtg. 1/7/09)

A motion to approve the minutes as written of the Commission Meeting held on January 7, 2009 was made by McCorkle, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. ACCG – Legislative Conference, February 9-10, 2009, Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel
2. City-County Annual Retreat, February 27-28, 2009, UGA, Athens
3. Progress Being Made on Off-System Safety Enhance Project: Chairman Newton asked Chris Pelly to make this statement. He announced that signage has been installed and the painting of striping will be completed next week.
4. Committee on Reorganizing & Restructuring: Rev. Favors stated that this proposed structure to see if there may be Departments will be considered before a Commission Work Session committee would review current organizational better approaches. Delegated responsibilities within as well. This matter will be discussed and come at a later date.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Status Update on “West Bypass” Road: Chairman Newton asked Chris Pelly to address this issue.

Chris noted that this matter had been discussed earlier and he had written a letter to the state asking for their direction on the matter. This information will come before the Board as soon as it is received.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Planning Board Recommendations: Chairman Newton reviewed the application of Karen/Gary Powell, asked for the Board’s action on the matter and recommended approval of the application from Karen/Gary Powell as presented earlier in the Zoning Hearing. After discussion, a motion was made by Jopling to uphold the recommendation; motion was seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.
2. Development Authority: Chairman Newton stated that Mike Carrington, Executive Director of the Development Authority, had asked for help to clear a one-acre parcel off the Warrenton Highway. Chris stated that the work would entail one-week of work at no expense to the county. Note was made that there was no opposition from the Commissioners in this matter.
3. County Health/Life Insurance Program – Ed Ricketson: Mr. Ricketson was not in attendance at this meeting and his presentation may come before the Board at a later date.
4. Proposed Cost Containment Amendment to Employee Health Plan: Chairman Newton asked Ms. Ashley Ellis, the county’s insurance agent with Blount, Burke, Wimberly & Hendricks, out of Statesboro, to present this matter. Ms. Ellis introduced Mr. John Taylor, the county’s insurance carrier with Taylor Benefit Resource, who reported they are proposing a dialysis PPO for any county employee that may develop kidney problems and require dialysis. He further stated that they can negotiate far better rates. As a result, the proposed dialysis PPO will allow the provider as well as an employee a better discounted rate, without loss of the care needed.

After further discussion, Chairman Newton recommended approval of this cost containment amendment to our Employee Health Plan. A motion was made by Jopling to approve the recommendation contingent upon the County Attorney’s approval; motion was seconded by Wilson and passed 4 to 1 with Favor’s voting “no”.

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5. Approval/Authorization of Chairman to Sign Revised Three Points Interchange Agreement: Chairman Newton presented a revised format now referred to as the Project Framework Agreement with GDOT for the I-20 Interchange at Road, PI #0003621. The revised format was discussed at length after which time Chairman Newton recommended approval of this Revised Agreement with his authorization to sign all related documents pertaining to the funding of right of acquisition with GDOT acquiring the needed real property as quickly as possible. motion was made by Jopling to approve this recommendation, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

Three Points
way
A

6. Appointment: Commission Representation on the Joint City-County Water/Sewer Commission Replacing Former Commissioner Wester: Chairman Newton announced that new commissioner representation was needed on the Joint City-County Water/Sewer Commission as a result of former Commission Wester leaving office. At this time, A motion was made by Favors to appoint Paul McCorkle to that vacant seat on the Joint City-County Water/Sewer Commission; motion was seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

7. **Proposed Minor Restructuring/Reclassification in Tax Commissioner's Office:** Chairman Newton asked Sandra Whitaker, Tax Commissioner, to present this matter.

Sandra stated that she was requesting approval from the Board of Commissioners to upgrade two employees in her department;

- 1) Upgrade current Deputy Tax Commissioner to Chief Deputy Tax Commissioner remaining at current Grade and Step
- 2) Upgrade Senior Tag/Tax Technician to Deputy Tax Commissioner/Administrative Assistant, Grade 14, Step E
- 3) Upgrade one Tax/Tag Technician to Senior Tax/Tag Technician Grade 12.

With the new job classification, the updated salary figure will increase the regular salary budget by approximately \$3600 for 2009 Budget Year.

After discussion, a motion was made by McCorkle to approve this request noting that the Tag Office is run very efficiently; motion was seconded by Favors and passed unanimously.

8. **Recommendation for Traffic Engineering Study @ City-County Gov't Center:** Chairman Newton asked Commissioner Favors to address this matter.

Favors announced that the Steering Committee had held two recent meetings regarding the Traffic Management Study with three proposals received for this project. They are:

<u>Firm</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Street Smart, Atlanta GA	69	\$20,000
Precision Planning, LLC, Lawrenceville GA	63	\$19,000
Williams & Associates, Athens, GA	61	\$19,000

The Board of Commissioners authorized in November 2008 an expenditure not to exceed \$20,000 in fees for this project. By unanimous vote, the Steering Committee forwards their recommendation to the Board of Commission for further consideration and action and at the same time, recommends that Street Smarts be selected for the Traffic Management Study as outlined in their proposal for the City-County Government Center .

After further discussion, a motion was made by Favors to approve this recommendation not to exceed \$20,000 for the traffic study; motion was seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

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9. **Discussion/Recommendation for Construction Manager @ Risk @ Gov't Center:** Chairman Newton asked Commission Favors to present this proposal:

Rev. Favors presented the findings of the four (4) responses with fee proposals to the County's advertised Request for Proposal for Construction Management at Risk Services (CM@Risk). The firms were ranked by qualification by all members of the Steering Committee and the submitting firms are listed below:

<u>Firm</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Turner Construction Co., Atlanta GA	72	3%
Winter Construction, Atlanta, GA`	64	2.5%
R.W. Allen, LLC, Athens, GA	58	3.5%
Batson-Cook Co., West Point, GA	57	1.5%

A discussion among the Commissioners resulted in postponing the matter until the next Commission Work Session scheduled for February 2, 2009. Also, Jud Bryant, Program Manager, will attempt to get quotes on "General Conditions" from Turner Construction Company as well as the others to set a "probable costs" range for each.

10. **New County ISO Rating:** Chairman Newton asked Bruce Tanner, County Fire Chief, to address this matter.

Bruce reported a brief summary of the fire departments' most recent I.S.O. public Protection Classification Survey.

He stated that the Insurance Services Office Public Protection Classification was lowered from a 6/9 to a 5/9 resulting from improving services provided to citizens along with dedication and hard work of our career and volunteer officers and staff. This classification will become effective April 1, 2009

Bruce recommended that the Commissioners :

- 1) Recognize the efforts of our fire department, its career and volunteer officers and staff for their efforts in making this lower rating possible;
- 2) Recognize that the investment of tax dollars in improving our fire department and the services we provide to our citizens in cost effective and prudent;
- 3) Agree in principle to support the goal of further reducing our Public Protection Classification to a Class 4 so that our residential property owners can realize the significant saving on their property insurance premiums associated with this classification; and
- 4) Seek fire department's input in any future plans for expansions or alterations to the water system as to how they might impact our Public Protection Classification and the services we provide to our citizens.

A copy of the McDuffie County Fire Rescue Service ISO Summary follows and is made a part of these minutes.

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The Board acknowledged the recommendations, noted that volunteers are increasing in number and commended Bruce and his staff for doing a great job in this regard..

11. Walmart EMA Grant: Chairman Newton asked Bruce Tanner, County Fire Chief, to report this matter.

in Bruce stated that he had received a check in late 2008 from Wal-Mart for training the Emergency Management Agency in the 2009 budget year. This check was donated to be used for expenses associated with training for the Dive Team.

At this time, Bruce recommended a budget amendment showing \$1,000 as 2009 revenue income in EMA Revenue Account #348900 and increase the line item for School 52-3700 by \$1,000 in the EMA budget.

A motion to approve this recommendation was made by McCorkle, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

12. CSRA RDC FY2010 Aging Grant \$22,000: Chairman Newton asked Ms. Merlinda D'Antignanc, Supervisor of the Sr. Citizens Center, to address this matter.

This Ceramic Merlinda stated that approval from the Board of Commissioners was needed in order to submit the CSRA RDC FY 2010 Aging Grant in the amount of \$22,000. grant will accommodate more seniors to be able to participate with a variety of activities while saving county money. It will continue to buy the supplies and pay for three part-time people working with Craft Classes, Jewelry Classes and Classes. Merlinda's recommendation was for the Board to approve receiving this application for the Aging Grant FY 2010 and also to approve receiving same, if awarded. A motion to approve this recommendation was made by Jopling, seconded by McCorkle and passed unanimously.

13. Monthly Budget Report – December 2008: Chairman Newton asked Don Norton, County Manager, to present this report.

General budget Don reported that as of December 31, 2008, with 100% of Year lapsed, the County had collected \$11,810,731.79 or 86.7% of the projected YTD revenue for the Fund. With 100% of the year lapsed, the YTD General Fund Expenditures were \$12,276,142.29 or 90.2% . Following final adjustments, it is believed the 2008 year will end in the "black", in spite of a very difficult year.

14. Monthly Financial Report – December 2008: Jimmy Whitaker, Finance Director, continued the report on all bank accounts showing a grand total of \$27,886,846.75

2.75% as of December 31, 2008; Hotel/Motel revenue reflects a YTD \$219,802.35 or - from 2007 on the same date; Local Option Sales Tax Collections are YTD \$2,547,865.71 or 2.56% increase from 2007 on the same date; and SPLOST IV Revenue/Expenditure Report with a program to date cumulative revenue total of \$17,176,495 with an available balance of \$1,663,749 plus \$486,555 earned interest.

ADJOURNMENT

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

McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charles G. Newton IV, Chairman

ATTEST:

Annette Finley, County Clerk