

AGENDA
McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
March 4, 2009, 10:00 AM, Grand Jury Room, McDuffie County Courthouse

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

Chairman Newton

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Reverend Tim Ferrell, Pastor, Bethel Baptist Church, Thomson, Georgia

APPROVALS

Agenda (Current)
Minutes (Regular Mtg. 02-17-09)

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Employee Service Recognition (Over 25 Years of Service to McDuffie County)
2. Trash Amnesty Day – Saturday, March 28, 2009 (7:30 AM – 12:00 Noon)
3. ACCG Annual Meeting, Civic Center in Savannah, GA April 25-28, 2009

OLD BUSINESS

1. Bid Award – Paving for Access Rd. @ Sweetwater Park (Chris Pelly)

NEW BUSINESS

1. ER & ACO Report – February 2009(Sandra Whitaker)
2. Alcoholic Bev. Application – Mountain Express Oil (formerly USA Truck Stop), 2657 Cobbham Rd., Thomson (Chairman Newton)
3. Alcoholic Bev. Application – Mills Convenience Store(formerly known as Ingram's), 3231 Ellington Airline Road , Dearing (Chairman Newton)
4. Volunteer Firefighter Accident/Sickness Insurance (Chairman Newton)
5. Protective Clothing for Firefighters (Chairman Newton)
6. Proposed 2010 Budget Policy (Don Norton)

ADJOURNMENT

The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners held a regular Commission Meeting Wednesday morning, March 4, 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:
 Don Norton, County Manager
 Annette Finley, County Clerk
 Jimmy Whitaker, Finance Director
 Chris Pelly, Director of Public Works
 Bruce Tanner, County Fire Chief
 Steven Sewell, EMA/Fire Services
 Judge Bubba Swan, Magistrate Court
 Sandra Whitaker, Tax Commissioner
 Connie Cheatham, Clerk of Court
 Kelly Evans, Director, IT Department
 Fred Guarrant, Director, Planning Board
 Joe Gunby, Superintendent, Building & Grounds
 Don Clauson, Director, Solid Waste
 Fred Guarrant, Director, Planning Board
 Mindy Carney, Zoning/License Administrator

MEDIA REPRESENTATION
 WTHO Radio Station
 McDuffie Mirror Newspaper
 McDuffie Progress Newspaper

OTHERS
 Four (4) citizens attended.

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Rev. Tim Ferrell, Pastor, Bethel Baptist Church, Thomson offered the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVALS

Agenda (Current)

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

Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 17, 2009 was made by McCorkle, Wilson by Wilson and passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Employee Service Recognition (Over 25 Years of Service to McDuffie County): Chairman Newton recognized 10 employees who had been with McDuffie County for "25 plus" years and presented them with a framed Certificate of Appreciation with the gold McDuffie County Seal signed by all five (5) commissioners. The employees recognized are:

<u>Department</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Hire</u>	<u>No. of Years Service</u>
Transportation	Dorothy Pinkston	3-24-1984	25
Clerk of Court	Connie Cheatham	9-1-1983	25 Plus
Law Enforcement	Shirley Booker	8-16-1983	25 Plus
Magistrate Court	Paulette Williamson	7-1-1983	25 Plus
Recreation	Charles Pettis	7-1-1982	26 Plus
Recreation	Kenneth (Wayne) McNeal	7-1-1982	26 Plus
Maintenance	Sadie Brooks	1-1-1980	29
Tax Assessor's Office	Deborah Garrison	8-8-1977	31 Plus
Road Dept. (Shop)	George Cosby	2-14-1977	32
Sheriff's Dept.	Sheriff Logan Marshall	3-10-1976	33

Note was made that Ms. Dorothy Pinkston, Rural Transportation with 25 years of service and Ms. Shirley Booker, Law Enforcement with 25 plus years of service, were not present to receive their Certificates. Hopefully, they will be present at the next Award Ceremony to have their pictures made in the next group (20 plus year of service), currently planned for April 1, 2009.

After the certificates were given out, the commissioners congratulated each employee with their thanks for being a long time and highly valued employee of McDuffie County.

A group picture was made of the employees with the commissioners by the McDuffie Progress and McDuffie Mirror newspapers for publication.

- Trash Amnesty Day – Saturday, March 28, 2009: Don Clauson announced that the next Trash Amnesty Day would be held Saturday, March 28, 2009, 7:30 AM thru 12:00 Noon. Don further stated that during the specific time of Amnesty, there would "no charge" for dumping residential trash but for commercial

trash there would still be a charge; Don accepted whatsoever.

also stated that “no tires” would be

3. ACCG Annual Meeting, Civic Center in Savannah, GA: Chairman Newton announced that the ACCG Annual Meeting would be held at the Civic Center in Savannah, GA April 25-28, 2009

OLD BUSINESS

1. Bid Award – Paving for Access Rd. @ Sweetwater Park: Chairman Newton asked Chris Pelly, Director of Public Works, to address this matter.

Chris reported that only 3 bids had been received for the asphalt paving of the roadway at Sweetwater Park. The vendors meet all specifications as requested including prime coat in their bid which was not a specification of the bid; however, it was determined that the prime coat was absolutely necessary for the asphalt paving. The three bids are listed below and made a part of these minutes:

A motion to approve the low bid from Robertson Grading, Evans in the amount of \$33,762.40 including the prime coat was made by McCorkle, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. ER & ACO Report – February 2009: Chairman Newton asked Tax Commissioner Sandra Whitaker to present this report.

Sandra reported a decrease in the amount of \$1550.68 revenue due the County for the M&O of McDuffie County. The property tax decrease is due to a personal property audit resulting in lower values for several years; deleted personal property values due to business closing before 1/1/08; airplane not based in County as of 1/1/08; and, several 2008 appeal values settled.

Mobile Home Digest decreased the amount of revenue in the amount of \$561.16 due the County for the M&O due to the sale of mobile homes that had been foreclosed resulting in only three (3) years of taxes being collectable per state law.

After discussion, a motion was made by Wilson to accept and endorse the report as given; McCorkle seconded and motion passed unanimously.

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2. Alcoholic Beverage Application – Mountain Express Oil (formerly USA Truck Stop), 2657 Cobbham Rd., Thomson: Chairman Newton presented an Alcoholic Beverage Application from Mountain Express Oil (formerly USA Truck Stop, Cobbham Rd.) and confirmed with Ms. Mindy Carney, Zoning/License Administrator, that all requirements had been met and that the Sheriff had approve the application. After discussion, a motion to approve the application was made by Wilson, seconded by McCorkle and passed unanimously.
3. Alcoholic Beverage Application – Mills Convenience Store (formerly known as Ingram's), 3421 Ellington Airline Road, Dearing: Chairman Newton presented an Alcoholic Beverage Application from Mills Convenience Store, (formerly known as Ingram's) 3421 Ellington Airline Road, Dearing and confirmed with Ms. Carney, Zoning & License Administrator, that all requirements had been met and that the Sheriff had approved the application. After discussion, a motion to approve the application was made by Jopling, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.
4. Volunteer Firefighter Accident/Sickness Insurance: Chairman Newton asked Steven Sewell, Assistant Fire Chief, to address this matter.

Steven stated that accident and sickness insurance coverage for Volunteer Firefighters, Part -Time Firefighters and Cadets were at high risk of accidents and they could be

burdened with financial hardship if unable to work their full-time job because of an injury or illness caused by volunteer duties. In addition to providing the insurance coverage, valuable training materials by being a VFIS customer could also be derived. At this time, Steven recommended Plan B which could cost \$5,222 per year (3-year increments) to provide insurance to the volunteers. The local agent would be Ricketson Insurance (Ed Ricketson).

After discussion, a motion to approve the 3-year agreement request in the amount of \$5,222.00 for the accident and sickness insurance coverage with funds coming from Contingency was made by Wilson, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

5. **Protective Clothing for Firefighters:** Chairman Newton asked Steven Sewell, Assistant Fire Chief, to present this matter.

Steven stated that due to an increase in the number of persons wishing to be a member of the Fire Services Department, there is not protective clothing to outfit all personnel. Total cost to outfit a firefighter including boots, pants, coat, helmet, nomex hood, gloves, pager and suspenders is approximately \$2200 per person. With 10 new firefighters along with 8 current firefighters that have gear that is not adequate, a budget amendment with funds coming from Emergency Services (Public Safety) SPLOST IV will be needed as soon as possible. There was no opposition among the Board members to the Fire Services Department starting the bid process. A motion to "waive the local advertizing" since the equipment could not be purchased locally was made by Wilson, seconded by Joplin and passed unanimously. At this time, Steven stated that the fiscal impact would be around \$33,000 in order to provide this equipment.

6. **Proposed 2010 Budget Policy:** Chairman Newton asked County Manager Don Norton to address this matter.

Don presented the Fiscal Year 2010 Year Budget Policy for approval. He called attention to the FY 2010 Budget Requests not exceeding the percentages (i.e. reduction) of the current budget level due to the current drop in the economy. These percentages are copied below and made a part of these minutes:

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After discussion and noting the 2010 Budget Schedule, a motion to approve this Policy was made by McCorkle, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

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 McCorkle and passed unanimously.

McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charles G. Newton IV, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Annette Finley, County Clerk