

McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
March 7, 2007, 10:00 AM, Grand Jury Room, McDuffie County Courthouse

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

Chairman Newton

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Reverend Phil Bray, Pastor, Ft. Creek Baptist, Thomson, GA

APPROVALS

Minutes (Regular Mtg. 2-20-07)

Agenda (Current)

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Announcement – Thursday, 3/8/07, 6 PM, Depot, Solid Waste Management Plan Public Hearing**
2. **Announcement – Community Wide “Pandemic Flu Drill” Coordinated by Health Dept., Saturday, 3/10/07, 8:30 AM**
3. **Announcement - NIMS Training Opportunity – Incident Command Systems, Tuesday, 3/13/07, 3:00-5:30 PM, Library Conference Room.**
4. **Announcement – Boys & Girls Steak & Burger Dinner, 3/20/07, 6:30 PM, Augusta State University Athletic Complex (Commission Mtg., Time Conflict)**
5. **Announcement – Trash Amnesty Day, Saturday, 3/24/07, 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Solid Waste Transfer Station**

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Building Permit Fees (Fred Guerrant)**
2. **Resolution – Authorizing County 2007 CHIP Application**
3. **Joint Resolution – Thomson/McDuffie for CHIP “Set-Aside” \$200,000**
4. **Resolution of Support for Thomson CHIP Application**

NEW BUSINESS

1. **E/R's & ACO's (Error Releases & Assessor's Change Order Report)
Real Estate & Mobile Home Taxes – January & February 2007(Sandra Whitaker)**
2. **Bid Award: Solid Waste Management Services (Don Clauson)**
3. **Bid Award: Fire Station #1 Parking Lot (Chris Pelly)**
4. **Road Dept., Purchase of Large Steel Drum Roller (Chris Pelly)**
5. **Road Dept., Imery's Alternate Truck Route Request (Chris Pelly)**
6. **Resolution: Authorizing Don Norton To Sign DOT Documents (Don Norton)**
7. **Restructuring of Fire Department (Bruce Tanner)**
8. **Change Orders for Fire Station #1 Project (Bruce Tanner)**
9. **Approval of 2007 Water System Budget (Jimmy Whitaker)**
10. **Approval of 2007 Sewer System Budget (Jimmy Whitaker)**

ADJOURNMENT

The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners held a regular Commission Meeting Wednesday morning, March 7, 2007, 10:00AM, Grand Jury Room, McDuffie Courthouse.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Charles G. Newton IV, Chairman
Sammie Wilson, Sr., Vice Chairman
Rev. Fred Favors, Commissioner
Darrell Wester, Commissioner
J. Robt. "Bob" Farr, Commissioner

COUNTY REPRESENTATION

Don Norton, County Manager
Annette Finley, County Clerk
Jimmy Whitaker, County Finance Director
Chris Pelly, Director, Public Works
Fred Guerrant, Director, Planning Board
Kelly Evans, Director, IT Department
Don Clauson, Director, Solid Waste
Stephen Sewell, Fire Services/EMA
Bruce Tanner, County Fire Chief
Sandra Whitaker, Tax Commissioner

MEDIA REPRESENTATION

McDuffie Mirror Newspaper
McDuffie Progress Newspaper
WTHO Radio Station

OTHERS

Eight (8) other citizens & guests attended.

CALLED TO ORDER

Chairman Newton called the meeting to order and welcome everyone in attendance.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Reverend Phil Bray, Pastor, Ft. Creek Baptist Church, Thomson, GA led the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVALS

Minutes (Regular Meeting 2/20/07)

A motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Farr, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

Agenda (Current)

A motion to approve the agenda as written was made by Wilson, seconded by Farr and passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Bobby Hildreth, Georgia Power Area Manager –Thomson, East Region introduced himself as having been assigned to this area replacing Mr. R Shipman, and stated that he hoped to become acquainted with everyone on a "first name" basis emphasizing that he was here to help and serve in the best interest of all citizens.
2. Chairman Newton announced details of the State and Federal Disaster Declarations resulting from the recent EF2 tornado in McDuffie County. Disaster Center is planned for set-up in the gymnasium at Sweetwater Park effective Friday, March 9 for state and federal agencies including the Red Cross

Ms. Kathleen Kosmoski, representative from the Red Cross, stated they had been set up at the First Baptist Church in Thomson since the onset and presented an update of their activities in the county noting that 44 clients had been processed, 1500 meals and snacks had been given out, over \$25,000 in direct assistance and some overnight accommodations had been made. They will continue their presence at the Sweetwater gym site as of Friday, March 9, until they are no longer needed.

Bruce Tanner, McDuffie County EMA Director and Fire Chief, responded stating that the volunteer help from neighboring counties, friends and family members has really been outstanding and emphasized that all citizens of McDuffie County are to be commended for their diligent work and support. He

stated that a Federal Disaster Declaration provides an opportunity for citizens and government to apply for costs to offset tornado damage. A disaster center will open Friday, March 9, in the gymnasium at Sweetwater Park noting that the "work had just begun".

3. **Announcement:** Thursday, March 8, 2007, 6:00 PM, Depot, Solid Waste Management Plan Public Hearing will be held. This Plan is for 10 years and it will need to be updated in 2 years (2009) in order to get it on the same schedule as the Comprehensive Plan.
4. **Announcement:** A Community Wide "Pandemic Flu Drill" coordinated by the Health Department, Saturday, March 10, 2007, 8:30 AM will be held at Thomson High School. County officials are urged to participate.
5. **Announcement:** NIMS Training Opportunity – Incident Command System Tuesday, March 13, 2007, 3 PM-5:30 PM, Library Conference Room. This is sponsored by the Georgia Public Safety Training Center. Note was made that the ACCG had been asked to include this particular training in their regular training schedules adding that this would encourage attendance among county officials.
6. **Announcement:** Boys & Girls Steak & Burger Dinner will be held Tuesday, March 20, 2007, 6:30 PM, Augusta State University Athletic Complex. Note was made that this event would conflict with a regularly scheduled Commission Meeting.
7. **Announcement:** The Spring Trash Amnesty Day is scheduled for Saturday, March 24, 2007, 7:00 AM to 12:00 Noon at the Solid Waste Transfer Station.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Building Permit Fees:** Chairman Newton asked Fred Guerrant, Director of the County Planning Board, to address this matter.

Fred stated that these fees, discussed earlier at the February 20, 2007 regular Commission Meeting, also approved for adoption by the City of Thomson, were in line with our neighboring counties and recommended that the new increased permit fees would include the additional driveway permit. He added that the average rate increase would be going from 7 cents per square foot under roof to approximately 8 cents per square foot noting that subcontractor fees (electric etc.) would be going from \$35 to \$50. The new rates are recommended to become effective May 1, 2007. A copy of the new Building Permit Fees is copied below and made a part of these minutes:

After discussion, a motion was made to approve the new permit fees effective May 1, 2007 was made by Favors, seconded by Farr and passed unanimously.

2. **Resolutions:** Chairman Newton presented 3 required resolutions related to the upcoming 2007 Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP) application. These resolutions are copied below and made a part of these minutes.

After discussion, a motion was made by Wester to approve the adoption of the resolutions; 1) Authorizing Application, 2) Supporting For The City of Thomas and 3) a Joint Mayor, City Council and Board of Commissioners for Community Housing Improvement Program Funds (\$200,000) as presented; motion was seconded by Farr and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. E/R's & ACO's (Errors Releases & Assessor's Change Order Report) Real Estate & Mobile Homes – January & February 2007: Chairman Newton asked Tax Commissioner Sandra Whitaker to present these reports.

Sandra presented reports for the following respective months as indicated:

January 2007

Increase \$5899.50 - Property Taxes

Property Taxes increase is due to public utility values being released the state and allowed the rebilling using 2006 digest instead of 2005 digest

Decrease \$90.79 - Mobile Home Taxes

Mobile Home Taxes decrease is due to granting of Homestead Exemption and being billed on 2007 property tax digest.

February 2007

Decrease \$118.76 Property Taxes

Property Tax decrease is due to expired Fifas.

Increase \$495.05 – Mobile Home Taxes

Mobile Home Tax increase is due to location of mobile homes.

After discussion, a motion was made by Wester to approve reports from both months, January and February 2007; motion was seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

2. **Bid Award - Solid Waste Management Services:** Chairman Newton asked Director Don Clauson to present this matter.

Don reported that 2 bids for solid waste transportation & disposal had been received along with a "no bid" which are copied below and made a part of these minutes:

After discussion, a motion to accept the bid of \$34.61 per ton, less \$1.50 per ton rebate, (\$33.11 after rebate) for each ton delivered to R & B Landfill per quarter was made by Farr, seconded by Wester and passed unanimously.

3. **Bid Award – Fire Station #1 Parking Lot:** Chairman Newton asked Chris Pelletier, Director of Public Works, to present this matter.

Chris stated that 2 bids had been received for this project and they are copied below and made a part of these minutes:

After discussion, a motion was made by Wester to approve the low bid of \$70,709.00 from C'n'H Paving for the ES Building parking lot, Fire Station I; motion was seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously. Note was made that approximately \$50-60,000 from the Department of Transportation for assistance on this project is also being made available.

4. **Road Department – Purchase of Large Steel Drum Roller:** Chairman Newton asked Chris Pelly, Director of Public Works, to address this matter.

Chris stated that with the upcoming special projects in the near future, there is a need for this large steel drum roller. The rented one in the past is approximately \$1850 per week and to convert the existing sheep foot roller it would be necessary to have a steel drum roller costing approximately \$18,000. Note was made that there is only one source in Wyoming where this equipment can be purchased. Chris suggested and proposed that the current rubber tire roller (currently owned by the County) be sold as surplus on govdeals and proceeds be applied toward a converter kit for the sheep foot roller.

After discussion, a motion was made by Wilson to suspend the rules regarding advertising of this Bid Process; motion was seconded by Farr and passed unanimously.

A second motion was made by Wester to approve the recommendation to surplus the current rubber tire roller and place on govdeals in order to apply the proceeds toward the purchase of a converter kit; motion was seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

A third and final motion was made by Wilson to approve the purchase of a smooth steel drum roller conversion kit with sale proceeds from the sale of the rubber tire roller and the balance of necessary funds coming from "contingent funds"; motion was seconded by Farr and passed unanimously.

5. **Road Department – Imery's Alternate Truck Route Request:** Chairman Newton asked Chris Pelly to address this issue.

Chris stated that he had received a request from Imery's to help facilitate trucking from the Fuller-Greene property. Currently they are hauling an extra 34 miles per round trip by going through Dearing and Thomson. By allowing them to take the Ft. Creek Road over to Hwy. 17 at Happy Valley, they would save mileage and take trucks out of Dearing and Thomson. Several safety measures were discussed by allowing them to change the route.

After further discussion, a motion was made by Farr to approve the request from Imery's contingent upon the wording of their contract i.e. maintenance, school bus safety measures, amount of bond, security, length of contract; with the conditions included, the motion was seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

6. **Resolution – Authorizing Don Norton to Sign DOT Documents:** Chairman Newton asked County Manager Don Norton to address this issue.

Don presented a Resolution authorizing him to sign any necessary documents with the Department of Transportation for the sale of the current Fire Station No. 1 property located near the intersection of the Augusta Highway and Harris Bypass. Note was made that the closing of this property is scheduled for 2:00 P.M. today.

A motion to approve and adopt the Resolution was made by Wilson, seconded by Farr and passed unanimously.

7. **Restructuring of Fire Department:** Chairman Newton asked County Fire Chief Bruce Tanner to present this matter.

Bruce recommended that he be given the authority to:

- appoint all department officers subject to review by the Board Commissioners;
- confirm the following slate of officers:

Station 1	James Mullis	Station Chief *
Station 2	To Be Determined	Captain
Station 3	Lawrence Bruce	Captain
Station 4	To Be Determined	Captain
Station 5	Ron May	Captain
	Don Reeves	Station Asst. Chief *
Station 6	Steve Parrish	Captain

- * These exceptions were made in deference to the longevity these individuals have served their present capacity. Upon their retirement or invocation of charter member status person appointed to fill the vacant position will hold the rank of Captain or the position will be eliminated.
- All other current elected officers revert to the status of firefighter without prejudice or loss of seniority.

After discussion, a motion to approve these recommendations and changes with the McDuffie County Fire Services was made by Wester, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

8. Change Orders for Fire Station #1 Project: Chairman Newton announced that he had talked with the Glenn Gregory regarding:

- Change Order 5: Bottom of Door Emergency Stop/Reverse – Electrical
- Change Order 6: Change Over Water Heater From Propane to Natural Gas

Chairman Newton said he had been informed that Change Order 5 was not needed and recommended the approval of Change Order 6 only pertaining to changing the water heater from LP to Natural Gas. After discussion, a motion to approve Change Order 6 in the amount of \$1250.23 (funds from SPLOST project budget) was made by Wester, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

9. Approval of 2007 Water System Budget: Chairman Newton asked Finance Director Jimmy Whitaker to address this matter.

Jimmy presented the 2007 Budget for Water System which is copied below and made a part of these minutes.

After discussion, a motion to approve the 2007 Water System budget was made by Wilson, seconded by Farr and passed unanimously.

10. **2007 Sewer System Budget:** Chairman Newton asked Finance Director Jim Whitaker to make this presentation:

Jimmy presented a 2007 Sewer System Budget which is copied below and made part of these minutes:

After discussion, a motion to approve the 2007 Sewer District budget presented was made by Wilson, seconded by Farr and passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

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

McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charles G. Newton IV, Chairman

ATTEST:

Annette Finley, County Clerk