

AGENDA
McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
June 3, 2009, 10:00 AM, Grand Jury Room, McDuffie County Courthouse

PUBLIC HEARINGS (2)
9-1-1 CHARGES– McDUFFIE COUNTY
(Chairman Newton)

1. Amending the Original July 1, 1998 Resolution By Imposing a 911 Charge for VOIP Connections at \$1.50/Connection
2. Imposing the 9-1-1 Charge of \$1.50 on Wireless Telecommunications for Phase II Services (currently \$1.00/ Wireless Connection)

Adjournment

COMMISSION MEETING

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME
Chairman Newton

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Reverend Jim Ramsey, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Thomson, GA

APPROVALS
Agenda (Current)
Minutes (Regular Mtg. 05-19-09)

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS
1.

OLD BUSINESS
1.

NEW BUSINESS

1. E.R. and ACO – Property Tax and Mobile Home Digest May 2009 (Sandra Whitaker)
2. Discuss Proposed County Mission Statement (Commissioner Jopling)
3. Resolution – Amending The Original July 1, 1998 Resolution by Imposing a 911 Charge for VOIP Connections. (Chairman Newton)
4. Resolution – Imposing the 9-1-1 Charge \$1.50 on Wireless Telecommunications for Phase II Services (Chairman Newton)
5. Purchasing Disclosure for Interstate Equip. Co. and McDuffie Feed and Seed (Chairman Newton)
6. Proposed Environmental Health Fees Increase (Chairman Newton)
7. Discuss Drainage Problems at 1128 Harrison Drive (Chairman Newton)
8. Proposed IT Department Position Reclassifications (Chairman Newton)
9. Deerfield Subdivision Road Dedication (Chairman Newton)
10. Municipal Governmental Water Rate Approval (Chairman Newton)
11. Fire Station #3 Roof Repair Bids (Chairman Newton)

ADJOURNMENT

The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners held a regular Commission Meeting Wednesday morning, June 3, 2009, 10:00 AM, Grand Jury Room, McDuffie County Courthouse.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

COUNTY REPRESENTATION:

Don Norton, County Manager
Kharhonda Collins, Probate Clerk
Jimmy Whitaker, Interim Finance Director
Kelly Evans, IT Director
Bruce Tanner, County Fire Chief
Fred Guerrant, Director, Planning Board

MEDIA REPRESENTATION:

McDuffie Mirror Newspaper
McDuffie Progress Newspaper

OTHERS PRESENT:

None

**PUBLIC HEARINGS (2)
9-1-1 Charges –McDuffie County**

Speakers: Charlie Newton

1. Amending the Original July 1, 1998 Resolution By Imposing a 911 charge for VOIP Connections at \$1.50/Connection
2. Imposing the 9-1-1 Charge of \$1.50 on Wireless Telecommunications for Phase II Services (currently \$1.00/ Wireless Connection)

No Public Input

Adjourned: 10:10 AM

COMMISSION MEETING

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

Reverend James Ramsey of First Baptist Church offered the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVALS

Agenda (Current)

Additions and a correction were made to the Agenda by adding the following:
Item# 12 – SPLOST IV- Tax Offices Parking Lot Paving Project (Rev. Favors)
Item# 13 - Engagement of Accounting Firm for Additional Audit Services (Rev. Favors)

A motion was made by McCorkle to approve the current agenda with changes as stated above; motion was seconded by Jopling, passed unanimously.

Minutes (Regular Mtg. 5/19/09)

Mr. Newton asked for action to approve the minutes of the regular Board Meeting held May 19, 2009, motion was made by Jopling, seconded by McCorkle and passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Bruce Tanner, Fire Chief, stated that the flag pole has been mounted at Fire Station #1.
2. Chris Pelly announced the coming of the Old Frontier Rodeo to be held Friday and Saturday June 5th and 6th. He further stated that there would be 108 cowboys attending with fun for the entire family.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. E.R. and ACO – Property Tax and Mobile Home Digest May 2009
Sandra Whitaker stated there was a decrease of 1,352.00 that was due to an appeal in 2008. No further changes had been made. Favors motioned to accept, and Jopling seconded, passed unanimously.

2. **Proposed Mission Statement**
 Chairman Newton stated that the mission statement for our employees had already been adopted for the McDuffie County Government. Jopling stated that the mission statement was to let the community know why we are here. He continued by reading and proposing it for adoption for the county. The Mission statement is: "It is the mission of McDuffie County government to provide Leadership for our community, be responsive to the needs and concerns of our citizens and to provide quality services in a progressive, professional and fiscally responsible manner." A motion was made by Chairman Newton and second by Wilson and passed unanimously.

3. **Resolution – Amending the Original July 1, 1998 Resolution by Imposing a 911 Charge for VOIP Connections:**
 Chairman Newton asked for adoption of this resolution, Favours motioned and Joplin seconded, passed unanimously.

4. **Resolution – Imposing the 9-1-1 Charge \$1.50 on Wireless Telecommunications for Phase II Services.**
 Chairman Newton asked for adoption of resolution, Favours motioned and Jopling seconded, passed unanimously.

5. **Purchasing Disclosure for Interstate Equipment Co. and McDuffie Feed and Seed**
 Chairman Newton stated the law requires that any commissioner who has a business that has involvement with the county; must have a yearly vote in order to publicly disclose this relationship. This vote would be for Chairman Newton representing McDuffie Feed and Seed, and McCorkle representing Interstate Equipment Co. The votes were taken separately, and each passed unanimously. Finally, a bid to rent a track hoe (excavator) from Hertz rental equipment was also approved. Chairman Newton asked if there was any opposition from the board for the purchase, the entire board agreed, passed unanimously. Chairman Newton asked McCorkle to talk with Sammy Fowler regarding purchases this topic for clarification.

6. **Environmental Health Fees Increase**
 Chairman Newton stated that items were presented to us by Tim Mosley, having compared our rates to the rates of surrounding counties finding it to be lower and this increase will bring us on par with other areas. Jopling then motioned to approve fee increases, second by Wilson, approved unanimously.

7. **Drainage Problems at 1128 Harrison Drive**
 Chairman Newton gave a brief background description of the drainage issues at 1128 Harrison Drive. He further added that it would very difficult to make changes because water and sewer lines. He stated McCorkle and Favours went to view the damaged property who suggested that we do something to fix the resident's yard. Chairman Newton stated that his only concern was that it sets a precedence, because there have been previous similar situations whereas there was no action taken. This would be the first time that we would not have taken the road superintendent's professional opinion that the problem was not created by McDuffie Co. Chairman Newton then left the floor open for discussion. McCorkle stated that he suggests to have someone go look at the property for resolution, and if the problem came from the State, to ask them for assistance. Jopling stated that he did not see the need to tear up the road. Favours suggested hiring an engineering firm for higher expertise. Chairman Newton stated that he has that knowledge. He further stated his only opposition in the matter in regards to the project was the precedence such action would be setting. Chairman Newton stated that there is no need to spend extra money for an engineering company for this problem. Favours stated that it creates problems for other communities such as Dallas Drive and the need to repair the entire area. Chairman Newton stated that if the board makes a decision to put down the necessary pipes for that area, then they would take a look at it. He further added that he would do as much as possible in saving the county money in the resolution of this problem. McCorkle motioned that we proceed in the resolution of the problem. This was a 3-2 "yes" vote.

8. **IT Department Position Reclassifications**
 Chairman Newton stated that Kelly Evans has the ability to promote employees within her department, and perform at a higher level. The reclassification of these employees will come through funds that are already in her budget. This action, however, would at least temporally eliminate the budgeted position of "network analyst" Chairman Newton proposed that the motion be made for the increase that would have no impact on our budget. Evans suggested that any saving would be for additional funding for training that is currently needed for Valerie Demons. Jimmy Whitaker stated that there had been no "MUNIS" training for employees since 2002, he further added that web training was in effective. Chairman Newton

suggested that due to current budget restraints that we wait until September or October for training issues. The board continued with a brief discussion. Motion was made by Wilson and second by Joplin, passed unanimously.

9. **Deerfield Subdivision Road Dedication**
Chairman Newton asked Chris Pelly if he was prepared for the county to accept the roads. He stated that he was prepared. Motion was made by Favors and second by Wilson, passed unanimously.
10. **Municipal Governmental Water Rate Approval**
Chairman Newton stated that this is the first step to do a inter connection with the City of Harlem whereas they would be able to purchase water from us and likewise we would from them through an inter-connect in emergency situations. Chairman Newton stated that the water-sewer commission has not approved the fee structure and the approval of the motion will be contingent upon their approval. Jopling then motioned for approval and McCorkle seconded, passed unanimously.
11. **Fire Station #3 Roof Repair Bids**
Chairman Newton asked Don Norton to discuss the bids for the repairs. Norton stated that the overall bid from Brook's construction was \$ 7,000. 00, the small roof was \$785.00 which brings the total to \$7785.00. The bid from Candler and Duncan was \$6,680.00 and TG Roofing's bid was \$5,600.00. There was a brief discussion of the bid's details. Chairman Newton cited that there was a difference in the gauges of steel panels. Chairman Newton stated that we should go back and do a sealed bid equal comparison, since all these quotes exceed \$5,000.00.
12. **SPLOST IV Tax Offices Parking Lot Paving Project**
Chairman Newton asked Favors to address the board regarding this matter. Favors stated that it had been brought to his attention regarding phishing efforts. Favors stated that one of the acquisitions that were brought to his attention was an effort that was taken from SPLOST IV in the amount of \$5,400.00 for the paving of the office parking lot. Favors further stated that this was a law violation because it was not brought before the board for approval. Favors stated that the funds should be replaced. Favors also recommended that our Attorney, look at this situation and find out what happened regarding this issue. Chairman Newton asked Norton if he could find out an answer through Count Attorney, Sammy Fowler's Office.
13. **Engagement of Accounting Firm for Additional Audit Services**
Favors stated that relative to the issue (SPLOST IV) to possibly hire an auditor to investigate all procedures to insure that they were handled properly. Favors also suggested that there be a panel in addition to the auditors to help with the review consisting of two commissioners, one from each district. Favors then added that the previous audit by Mauldin and Jenkins had several findings and asked Jimmy Whitaker if we have complied with those findings. Jimmy stated that we have not fully complied, but two of the findings are being pursued (segregation of duties and the time and attendance issue). He mentioned of two findings, one of them being a payment to someone by payroll without the proper back up information and authorization and the other being the alteration of time cards and summary sheets by payroll without getting the approval by the department head. The only issues that are being addressed are the segregation of duties, and time and attendance. The most important of the issues, the undocumented payment and the unapproved payments had not been addressed and in fact ignored. Favors stated that if findings of that sort have been made, then now is the time to have such audit. Favors added that we need to stay transparent in all areas of such matters. Further discussion of the issue continued regarding cost and necessity of the Audit proposed by Favors. Chairman Newton stated that he recommends that a letter of engagement from either our current auditors and/or another audit firm, such as Mauldin and Jenkins, be prepared for the auditors with specifications to pursue. Chairman Newton motioned that we get the letter from the auditors. Wilson second, clarification was made regarding two commissioners working with auditors, passed unanimously. Brief discussion on current auditors and where we are standing with cost.

Other:

Associated with Item #5

McCorkle asked to clear up rental excavator work to be completed within a month. Chairman Newton agreed to efforts and asked Chris Pelly to stay on top of the job. Don Norton stated that we will not rent the excavator or back hoe until all permits approvals are acquired.

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.

Charles G. Newton IV, Chairman

Prepared by:

**Kharhonda Collins, Probate Clerk
Sub. for Annette Finley, County Clerk**

Attest:

Donald W. Norton, County Manager