

The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners held a regular Commission Meeting Wednesday, July 7, 2010, 10:00 AM, Grand Jury Room, McDuffie County Courthouse.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:
Charles. Newton IV, Chairman
Sammie Wilson Sr., Vice Chairman
Fredrick D. Favors, Commissioner
Wm. "Bill" M. Jopling, Commissioner

COUNTY REPRESENTATION:
Don Norton, County Manager
Penny Salley, County Clerk
Eric Reisinger, Public Works Director
Don Clauson, Director of Solid Waste
Linda Thurmond, Chief Tax Appraiser
Sandra Whitaker, Tax Commissioner
Stephen Sewell, Assistant Fire Chief
Bruce Tanner, Fire Chief
Raymond White, IT Director
Fred Guerrant, Planning Board Director
Pam Workman, Assistant Finance Department

MEDIA:
WTHO Radio Station
McDuffie Progress Newspaper
McDuffie Mirror Newspaper

OTHERS:
Six (6) others attended

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Reverend Steve Stokes, Pastor of Pine Grove Baptist Church in Thomson offered the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL

Agenda (Current)

Chairman Newton asked if there were any corrections or additions to the current agenda. With no corrections or additions, a motion to approve the current agenda was made by Wilson, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

Minutes (Regular Mtg. (6/15/2010))

A motion to approve the minutes of the 6/15/2010 Regular Commission Meeting was made by Jopling, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Academy for ACCG Leadership Conference, August 4-6, Athens
2. Meeting to Discuss the Transportation Investment Act of 2010 (House Bill 277), July 14, 2010, 2:00pm Columbia County Building A Auditorium.
3. Graduation Ceremony of the 2010 Basic Firefighter Class, July 8, 2010, 7:00pm County Fire Headquarters
4. Upcoming Hospital Authority Vacancy

OLD BUSINESS

1. Government Center Project Update

Chairman Newton asked Jud Bryant, Program Manager, to address this matter.

- **Veterans Memorial Reflecting Pool Concept:**

In the initial planning for the Government Center, the design Architect proposed a fountain at the intersection of the walkways that approach the complex. Jud Bryant has suggested a reflecting pool in lieu of a fountain, to be located in the proposed location on the Concourse.

The reflecting pool will include a plaque dedicating the pool to veterans of all branches of the United States Military. Members of the Community will be able to purchase brick pavers inscribed with the names/branch of service of the veterans. In addition, the walkways leading to the pool will be reserved for those within the community that wish to remember family members who may not have served in the Military.

The pool will be funded from the Landscaping Allowance. Individual Brick pavers will be purchased through Leadership McDuffie, who will retain a portion of the cost.

No action was taken or required at this time. The concept of the reflecting pool will be brought back to the Board for approval at a later Commission meeting.

- **Financial Report:**

As of the June 2010 pay application from R.W. Allen, the Government Center is approximately 46% complete. There is approximately \$634,582.34 in Owner held retainage and \$115,530.14 in Owner approved change orders. There has been \$6,345,822.46 of the construction completed and \$8,199,159.95 to be

completed.

- **Status Report:**

Currently in the process of framing the building and putting all of the partitions in place. During June the enclosing of the administrative wing has continued as well as the structuring of the enclosures for the judicial wing. All grading, curbs and gutters have been completed.

Jud has asked for permission from the Board to take the Department Heads into the building so they are able to see how the project is progressing.

Within 30 days, brick, mortar and precast stone will be installed on the exterior of the administrative wing. Within 60 to 75 days the same will be completed on the judicial wing.

- **Local Participation Update:**

R.W. Allen has insisted that all sub contractors increase their efforts to utilize local suppliers for participation in the work and to increase the distribution of work to local suppliers.

Jud has suggested that local vendors go to the job site on a regular basis to receive a list and contact information of all the sub contractors that are currently working on the Government Center project.

- **Proposal for professional service in connection with furniture, fixtures and equipment:**

Jud has received two proposals for the planning, specification, bidding, awarding bid and installation of all furniture, fixtures and equipment on the project, with the exception of court audio/visual and City-County audio/visual in the main meeting room.

Of the two proposals received Wakefield Beasley was the low bid. Jud has requested authorization to negotiate a contract with Wakefield Beasley for the above professional services. With no objections from the Board, Jud will move forward with negotiations on the contract and fee and will report back to the board within two weeks.

- **Voice Over IP Update:**

After meeting with several vendors and AT&T with regards to traditional telephone service and the conversion to voice over IP it has been determined that there is no financial benefit to remain with non internet protocols in the new building.

2. Discuss GDOT Local Maintenance & Improvement Grant (LMIG) Program (Particularly Resurfacing Projects)

The Department of Transportation has extended the deadline for the LMIG program by two weeks. Eric has requested that this matter be postponed to the July 20, 2010 Commission meeting to allow him more time to research and prepare a list of roads to present to the Board.

A motion was made to postponed the LMIG application approval to the July 20, 2010 Commission meeting by Jopling, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

3. Consideration of Acquiring Back Hoe for Solid Waste Transfer Station

Chairman Newton has requested that this issue be postponed to the July 20, 2010 Commission meeting to allow Commissioner McCorkle to be involved in the decision of purchasing a back hoe for the Solid Waste Transfer Station.

A motion was made to postponed the acquiring of a back hoe to the July 20, 2010 Commission meeting by Wilson, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. ER & ACO Report – June 2010:

Chairman Newton asked Sandra Whitaker, Tax Commissioner, to present this report.

Sandra stated that the report for June 2010 reflects a decrease in the amount of \$109.71 for changes to the Property Tax Digest. Property Tax decrease is due to the correction of ownership of now exempt properties and error to correct value on a personal property bill.

The Mobile Home Digest reflected a decrease in the amount of \$130.78 due to the County. Mobile Home Tax decrease is due to a new owner purchasing two mobile homes with several years of taxes outstanding and value changes due to appeals filed by homeowner.

A motion was made by Jopling to accept the report, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

2. Re-appointment of Sadie Brooks – McDuffie County Department of Family and Children Services Board 7/1/10-6/30/15

Chairman Newton announced that he had received notice from DFACS that Ms. Sadie Brooks' appointment on the Board would expire July 1, 2010. Ms. Brooks has indicated that she would like to remain on the Board. Chairman Newton recommended that Ms. Brooks be reappointed for another five (5) year term.

A motion to approve this recommendation was made by Wilson, seconded by Favors and passed unanimously.

3. Library Board Appointments

At the May 17th meeting of the Thomson McDuffie County Library Board of Trustees, county representative, George Coussons submitted his resignation to the Board. Mrs. Margaret Q. (Peggy) Lovejoy has agreed to serve as a representative in this position.

In addition, at the May 18th Regional Board Meeting it was approved to increase the Thomson McDuffie County Library Board to nine members. Mrs. Francis Cowart has agreed to serve as a representative for the County.

Chairman Newton recommended approving the appointment of Mrs. Margaret Q. (Peggy) Lovejoy to replace George Coussons. A motion to approve this recommendation was made by Jopling, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

Chairman Newton also recommended approving the appointment of Mrs. Francis Cowart. A motion to approve this recommendation was made by Jopling, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

4. Request to Lift Hiring Freeze for Secretary Position in District Attorney's Office

Chairman Newton has requested that this issue be postponed to the next Commission Meeting to allow Commissioner McCorkle to be present.

A motion was made to postponed the lifting of the hiring freeze for the District Attorney's office to the July 20, 2010 Commission Meeting by Jopling, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

5. Review Establishment of a Land Bank Authority

After a recommendation from Chairman Newton, a motion was made to approve the establishment of a land bank authority to help with the revitalization efforts in the City of Thomson and McDuffie County by Jopling, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

6. Discuss Joint City/County Fire Training Facility

After a recommendation by Chief Tanner, a motion to approve the inter-local agreement governing the use and operation of a joint fire training facility was made by Jopling, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

7. Bid Award – GA Department of Driver Services Paving Project

Chairman Newton asked Eric Reisinger, Public Works Director, to address this matter.

After discussion, and a recommendation by Road Department Director Eric Reisinger, a motion was made by Jopling to award the bid to Robertson Grading for the parking lot paving at the Georgia Department of Drivers Services office not to exceed \$85,156.00 to be paid for by the Georgia Department of Driver Services , seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

8. Discuss Moose Club Road Resurfacing Project

Chairman Newton asked Eric Reisinger, Public Works Director, to address this matter.

Currently under the LARP project there is 1.63 miles on Moose Club Rd. beginning at SR 223/Whiteoak Rd. that DOT is going to resurface. Eric has evaluated the remaining portion of the road and has made the recommendation to allow the project to go forth as is and not fund the resurfacing of the remaining portion of Moose Club Rd.

No action was taken or required.

9. Consideration of Cell Tower Review, Inventory and Valuation Services Contract.
Chairman Newton asked Linda Thurmond, Chief Tax Appraiser, to address this matter.

This is a project that could potentially increase the digest by valuing cell towers more realistically than the way it is currently being done. The money to pay for the project would come out of budgeted funds under "Professional."

After discussion and a recommendation by Linda, a motion was made to allow Georgia Center for Local Government to perform basic services and valuations on two (2) cell towers as a "test run" to be paid for out of budgeted funds not to exceed \$2,500.00 by Jopling, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

10. Budget Amendment for County Managers Office Due to H.R. Coordinator Reclassification
Chairman Newton asked Don Norton, County Manager, to address this matter.

Don requested an \$8,074.00 budget amendment due to the H.R. Coordinator reclassification that was approved at the June 2, 2010 Commission meeting. The amount requested is for an entire year so the amount used for 2010 will be approximately half of the requested amount. Don is requesting the full amount for future budget year calculations.

After discussion, a motion to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$8,074.00 for the year of 2010, to come from Contingency, was made by Favors, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

11. Review and Adopt Fiscal year 2011 Budget Policy
Chairman Newton asked Don Norton, County Manager, to address this matter.

Don presented the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget Policy for approval. Don has proposed the following changes from the 2010 Fiscal Year budget policy. This will be a balance between achieving the desired reduction and possibly to begin placing money back into reserve.

<u>2010 Amended Budget</u>		<u>Maximum 2011 Budget Request</u>
Less than \$500,000.00	-2%	98%
More than \$500,001.00	-5%	95% (Fire, Recreation, Sheriff, Public Works)

After discussion and a recommendation from County Manager Norton, a motion to approve this policy was made by Wilson, seconded by Jopling 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 Jopling and passed unanimously.

McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charles G. Newton IV, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Penny Salley, County Clerk