

**AGENDA**  
**McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**  
**September 2, 2009, 9:15 AM, Grand Jury Room, McDuffie County Courthouse**

**CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME**

Chairman Newton

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Reverend Bob Eick, Retired, Methodist Minister, Thomson

**APPROVALS**

Agenda (Current)

Minutes (Regular Mtg. 08-18-09)

Minutes (Called Mtg. 08-26-09)

**INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Discussion – Homeowners Tax Relief Grant – Note: [www.factsaboutpropertytax.com](http://www.factsaboutpropertytax.com).  
Or [www.accg.org](http://www.accg.org)., click on link.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Interview for Position of County Finance Director
  - a. Ms. Pamela Workman
2. ER/ACO Monthly Report – August 2009 (Sandra Whitaker)
3. Consideration of Wrightsboro Church Project (Chairman Newton)
4. Alcoholic Bev. License Application: DEV Market (formerly Gary's Food Mart), 1042 White Oak Rd., Thomson; Owner: Nitaben S. Patel (Chairman Newton)
5. Discuss Baird & Company's "Agreed Upon Procedures" Proposal (Commissioner Favors)
6. Status Report of Cash Flow and Possible Need for Additional Drawdown of "Reserve" Funds (Don Norton, Jimmy Whitaker)
7. Consideration of Appointment to Position of Finance Director (Chairman Newton)
8. Discuss Possible "No Smoking" Policy at County Park/Recreation Facilities (Bob Howard)

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Topic of Discussion: Potential Litigation

**ADJOURNMENT**

The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners held a regular Commission Meeting Wednesday morning, September 2, 2009, at 9:15 AM, Grand Jury Room, McDuffie County Courthouse. This particular time was earlier than the normal due to a new Item 1. In NEW BUSINESS being added before the Agenda was final.

**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:**  
Sammy Fowler, County Attorney  
Don Norton, County Manager  
Jimmy Whitaker, Interim Finance Director  
Annette Finley, County Clerk  
Kelly Evans, IT Director  
Bruce Tanner, County Fire Chief  
Sandra Whitaker, Tax Commissioner  
Ruthie Thomas, Human Resources  
Don Clauson, Director, Solid Waste  
Bob Howard, Director, Recreation Department  
Ms. Pam Workman, Finance Department

**MEDIA REPRESENTATION:**  
WTHO Radio Station  
McDuffie Mirror Newspaper

**OTHERS**  
Two (2) other citizens 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 Bob Eick, Pastor, Retired Methodist Minister, offered the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVALS**  
Agenda (Current)  
A motion to approve the current Agenda with the changes noted above was made by McCorkle, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

Minutes (Reg. Mtg. 8/18/09)  
A motion to approve the minutes of the regular Commission Meeting held on 8/18/09 were approved by Jopling, seconded by McCorkle and passed unanimously.

Minutes (Called Mtg. 08-26-09)  
A motion to approve the minutes of the Called Commission Meeting held on 8/26/09 were approved by McCorkle, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

**INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
1. **Announcement – Chairman Newton announced that the Homeowners Tax Relief Grant was not renewed this year by the State and the County is not responsible.**

For the last decade, homeowners have benefited from a credit on property tax bills given by the State of Georgia called the Homeowners Tax Relief Grant. This program did not reduce the amount of taxes that you owed to your local government, but it did reduce the amount that you had to pay out of pocket. The state basically paid the difference between what was due and what you had to pay. As of this date, due to financial strains on the state budget, the Georgia General Assembly and the Governor did not fund this credit for the 2009 property tax bills. Tax Commissioner Sandra Whitaker confirmed that with all property tax paying citizens in McDuffie County would be affected by this action.

**OLD BUSINESS**  
None

**NEW BUSINESS**  
1. Interview for Position of County Finance Director:  
a. Ms. Pamela Workman: Chairman Newton stated that this meeting included the interview of Ms. Pamela Workman as County Finance Director who was in attendance and the commissioners would address their thoughts and concerns to her.

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At the end of the interview, Ms. Workman was thanked by Chairman Newton for having made herself available to the commissioners for this interview.

2. ER/ACO Monthly Report – August 2009: Chairman Newton asked Tax Commissioner Sandra Whitaker to present this report.

Sandra stated that an increase in the amount of \$644.37 revenue is due the County for the M&O of McDuffie County. Property Tax increase is due to the 61 appeals which were settled, some resulting additional billing and some requiring refunds be issued.

Mobile Home Digest decreased in the amount of \$(232.13) revenue due the County for the M&O. The tax decrease is due to 2 mobile homes having been moved from the County in 2008 but remained on the 2009 digest.

After discussion, a motion was made by Wilson, seconded by McCorkle to accept and approve the report prepared by Tax Commissioner Sandra Whitaker.

3. Consideration of Wrightsboro Church Painting Project: Chairman Newton announced that the project of painting Wrightsboro Church had come about and that Epp Wilson had offered to oversee the project adding that Coley Ard has kin buried there so he has already pressure washed the roof at no charge. The roof and exterior including front steps need painting badly and hopefully everything can be accomplished before the Wrightsboro Homecoming service on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Bid specifications were recommended by Joe Gunby, Superintendent of Building & Grounds, for the County. Chairman Newton stated that it was his opinion that the painting would cost approximately \$5000 and he recommended that the bid be let as soon as possible. After discussion, a motion to approve this recommendation was made by Wilson, seconded by McCorkle and passed unanimously.

4. Alcoholic Bev. License Application – DEV Market (formerly Gary’s Food Mart), 1042 White Oak Rd., Thomson; Owner – Nitaben S. Patel: Chairman Newton presented an application for beer and wine retail package license from the establishment of DEV Market (formally known as Gary’s Food Mart), 1042 White Oak Road. After confirming that all requirements had been met with Ms. Mindy Carney, Zoning/License Administrator, Chairman Newton recommended approval of this license request. A motion to approve the request was made by Jopling, seconded by McCorkle and passed 3 to 2 with Favors abstaining and the Chairman not voting unless to “break a tie vote”.

5. Proposal - Chairman Newton Discuss Baird & Company’s “Agreed Upon Procedures: asked Commissioner Favors to address this matter.

- Rev. Favors asked Butch Whiddon of Baird & Company to summarize the requested procedures. Butch reported that the time frame for results of their findings would probably be one week. After further discussion, a motion was made by Wilson to postpone the matter until the next work session (October 5); motion was seconded by McCorkle and passed unanimously.

6. Status Report of Cash Flow and Possible Need for Additional Drawdown of “Reserve” Funds: Chairman Newton asked County Manager Don Norton to address this matter.

Don distributed copies of an article dated September 1, 2009 appearing in The Wall Street Journal regarding the current “recession” finally hitting city and county budgets. Property tax collections are expected to turn negative in fiscal 2010 and remain in red in 2011 and 2012.

McDuffie County’s cash available for operations is dwindling and Don asked the Board’s permission to draw down another \$500,000 from the reserve LGIP account (interest rate .4%) and place it in Regions Bank locally with a better interest rate, plus it will be more available for immediate use when needed.

After discussion, a motion was made by Jopling to approve this request; motion was seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously

7. Consideration of Appointment to Position of Finance Director: Chairman Newton announced that one selection from four (4) candidates who had been interviewed for the position was now in order. The selection of candidates is:

- |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Ms. Jamie Sikes    | 3. Mr. Riley Stamey   |
| 2. Mr. Darlow Maxwell | 4. Ms. Pamela Workman |

After a brief discussion, a motion to nominate Ms. Jamie Sikes was made by McCorkle;

Favors nominated Ms. Pamela Workman. No other nominations were offered at this time.

Roll Call Vote:	<u>Sikes</u>	<u>Workman</u>
	Jopling	Favors
	McCorkle	Wilson
	Newton	

The appointment of Ms. Jamie Sikes as County Finance Director was approved.

8. Discussion of a “No Smoking “ Policy at County Park/Recreation Facilities: Chairman Newton asked Bob Howard, Director of Recreation, to present this item.

Bob stated that the Recreation Advisory Board has considered the harmful effects of second hand smoke to children and adults in their parks and recommends approval of their “No Smoking” policy except in the parking lot of the facilities which is copied below and made a part of these minutes.

Based upon published reports by the Office of the Surgeon General of the United States of America, scientific evidence has established that second hand smoke is harmful to adults and children who come in contact with it. There is no safe level of second hand smoke exposure. Children, who make up a large portion of the users of the Recreation facilities, are especially susceptible to its harmful effects. Given the potential danger to children and adults, coupled with environmental concerns over discarded cigarette butts, the Recreation Board recommended to the Board of Commissioners of McDuffie County that all athletic fields, parks and playgrounds, excluding parking facilities, governed by the Recreation Board be designated as “No Smoking” locations and that smoking shall be prohibited at those locations, excluding parking facilities.

After discussion, a motion was made by Favors to approve this recommendation; motion was seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

At this time, Chairman Newton asked for an Executive Session to discuss “potential litigation”, with County Attorney Sammy Fowler present. A motion was made by Wilson to enter into the Executive Session; motion was seconded by McCorkle and passed unanimously.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Topic of Discussion: Potential Litigation

After the Executive Session, a motion to resume the regular Commission Meeting was made by McCorkle, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

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#### 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 Jopling and passed unanimously.

McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Charles G. Newton IV, Chairman

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Annette Finley, County Clerk