

AGENDA

McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
September 5, 2007, 10:00 AM, Grand Jury Room, McDuffie County Courthouse

3rd PUBLIC HEARING **COUNTY 2007 M&O MILLAGE RATE**

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

Chairman Newton

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Reverend Herman Gilmore, Pastor, Temple of Prayer Ministries, Thomson

APPROVALS

Minutes (Regular Mtg. 8/21/07)

Agenda (Current)

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. CDBG Awards, Savannah, 9/6 & 7/07; Boys & Girls Club Expansion & CHIP Housing**
- 2. ACCG Annual Fall Policy Conference, Atlanta, Marriott Marquis Hotel, 10/1-3/07**
- 3. USDA Approval of Water Expansion System Project, SE McDuffie – Engineer is preparing Bid Letting with an October date for Bid Opening.**

OLD BUSINESS

- 1.**

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Resolution – Adopt 2007 County M&O Millage Rates and Confirm 2007 Board of Education Millage Rate (Chairman Newton)**
- 2. ER's & ACO's (Error Releases & Assessor's Change Order Report) Real Estate & Mobile Home Taxes – August 2007 (Sandra Whitaker)**
- 3.**
- 4. Sanitation Status (Don Clauson)**
- 5. Update - "Bridge" Grant Status (Kelly Evans)**
- 6. Thiele Kaolin Co., Request to Relocate a Portion of Fred Reeves Rd. (Chris Pelly)**
- 7.**
- 8.**
- 9.**
- 10.**
- 11.**

ADJOURNMENT

The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners held a regular Commission Meeting, Wednesday morning, September 5, 2007, 10:00 AM, Grand Jury Room, McDuffie County Courthouse.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT
Sammie Wilson Sr., Vice Chairman
Darrell L. Wester, Commissioner
J. Robt. "Bob" Farr, Commissioner

COUNTY REPRESENTATION
Don Norton, County Manager
Annette Finley, County Clerk
Jimmy Whitaker, County Finance Director
Sandra Whitaker, Tax Commissioner
Chris Pelly, Director of Public Works
Don Clauson, Director of Solid Waste
Kelly Evans, Director, IT Department
Gail Newsome, Code Enforcement
Fred Guerrant, Director, Planning Board

ABSENT
Charles G. Newton IV, Chairman
Rev. Frederick Favors, Commission

MEDIA
WTHO Radio Station
McDuffie Mirror Newspaper
McDuffie Progress Newspaper

OTHERS
Two (2) citizens attended.

3rd Pubic HEARING YEAR 2007 MILLAGE RATE

Vice Chairman Wilson asked County Manager Don Norton to preside over this Hearing.

Don stated that this is the 3rd and final Public Hearing to be held for the purpose of inviting "public input" on the Year 2007 Millage Rate and outlined the following:

County Millage Rate	Remains Unchanged
Rate for the "unincorporated area is	7.8 Mills
Rate for the "incorporated" area	8.5 Mills
Effective Percent Tax Increase-Incorporated Area	2.09%
Effective Percent Tax Increase-Unincorporated Area	7.00%
Net Taxes – Revenue Increased	\$372,124

The public was then asked for questions or concerns about the millage rate and/or process.

It was noted that the deadline each year is technically August 1 for the submission of the final millage rate Resolution and attendant documents to the State Revenue Commissioner. For the past many years, the tax digest submittal has not met the August 1 deadline. Each year a penalty of approximately \$2000 is therefore imposed. However, we have had very good success in having the digest "approved" due to the diligent efforts of the Tax Assessors Office. To submit an incomplete or otherwise unacceptable digest would subject the County to far more severe penalties and related issues, according to the County Manager. Many attempts have been made statewide to have the due date moved to September 1. Commissioner Wester asked that the Tax Assessor's Office report to the Board on the matter.

Mr. Harold Eubanks reported what he believed to be a relatively unfair side of the re-assessment process regarding the timber industry. Commissioner Wester assured him that all aspects of his concerns would be considered and thanked him for his input.

Hearing adjourned at: 10:25 AM

COMMISSION MEETING

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

Vice Chairman Wilson announced that a quorum was present, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

In the absence of Reverend Herman Gilmore, Pastor, Temple of Prayer Ministries, Thomson, Vice Chairman Wilson asked Fred Guerrant, Director, of the McDuffie County Planning Board to offer the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVALS

Minutes (Regular Meeting 8-21-07)

A motion was made by Farr to approve the minutes of the Commission Meeting held on August 21, 2007; motion was seconded by Wester and passed unanimously.

Agenda (Current)

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

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Announcement – CDBG Awards, Savannah, 9/6 & 7/07; Boys & Girls Club Expansion & CHIP Housing**
2. **Announcement – ACCG Annual Fall Policy Conference, Atlanta, Marriott Marquis Hotel, 10/1-3/07**
3. **USDA Approval of Water Expansion System Project – The Engineer has set a Bid Letting of October 17. This long awaited project is scheduled for 72 miles of water line in East & SE McDuffie County.**

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Resolution – To Adopt the 2007 County M&O Millage Rates and to Confirm the 2007 Board of Education Millage Rate: Vice Chairman Wilson announced and recommended that the following Resolution be adopted:**

After discussion, a motion to adopt the recommended Resolution as written was made by Wester seconded by Farr and passed unanimously.

2. **ER's & ACO's (Error Releases & Assessor's Change Order Report) Real Estate & Mobile Home Taxes – August 2007: Chairman Newton asked Tax Commissioner Sandra Whitaker to address this matter.**

Sandra reported that during the month of August, there were no changes for the Real Property Tax Digest but there was an increase of \$149.74 in the Mobile Home Digest due to Tax Assessors field checks that showed several mobile homes destroyed/moved from the county before 2007; but also located several mobile homes not previously on the digest thereby resulting in this slight increase.

After discussion, a motion was made by Farr to approve the report as presented; motion was seconded by Wester and passed unanimously.

3. **Sanitation Status:** Vice Chairman Wilson asked the Director of Solid Waste, Don Clauson to address this matter.

Don reported that he along with many others had recently received numerous complaints regarding the garbage collection service in McDuffie County. He stated it seemed to be the general opinion that McGahee Sanitation, currently the sole handler of residential waste in the county's unincorporated area, had gotten steadily worse. Some customers state their waste has not been picked up from 2 weeks to a month. Most of the time customers can't even get an answer to their phone call when calling. McGahee Sanitation will not answer the phone and whenever they do, McGahee reports numerous excuses ranging from personnel to equipment breakdowns.

Don also said that he had discussed the matter with other CSRA haulers inquiring if they might be interested in coming into McDuffie County and serving our residents. Most responses were similar in being interested but only if they can have an exclusive contract for the whole county. As a result, Don recommended that the Board of Commissioners may want to consider a county-wide waste service with an exclusive contract for the entire unincorporated area, giving the county more control over how its citizens are being taken care of in this area.

After discussion with Mr. David McGahee, President of McGahee Sanitation, the Commissioners asked Mr. McGahee to advise the Commission Office of any problems he might be having whenever they occur. This will help the County be able to at least respond knowledgeably when receiving complaint calls. Mr. McGahee also agreed to provide additional contact telephone numbers.

4. **Update – “BRIDGE” Grant Status:** Vice Chairman Wilson asked Kelly Evans, Director of the IT Department to address this matter.

After a background report on the “BRIDGE” Grant, Kelly reported that Lincoln, Warren and Wilkes Counties have completed their TechSmart sessions and are finalizing their technology roadmap. McDuffie County has only completed the first TechSmart session and is in the process of scheduling sessions 2 and 3. Within the last month, Grovetown and Harlem have exhibited interest in the program and a meeting is scheduled to begin the process. All five counties have struggled to recruit the board sector participation required to achieve Phase II funding from One Georgia.

Additionally, Kelly reported that a public meeting was held August 30 at Raysville Baptist Church to assess the Raysville Community's need for telephone, cable, internet, and cellular upgrades. Forty people attended the meeting representing 11% of the Raysville population. AT&T has committed to approximately \$200,000 in infrastructure improvements to provide improved communications access to the Big Creek Water Treatment Plant and DSL to the Raysville residents.

The grant application breakdown as developed by Linda Grijalva at the RDC follows:

The Commissioners were respectfully asked to assist in getting additional interest and participation from the industry and the education sectors at the general meeting scheduled for September 17, 2007, 6:00 PM, at the

The Commissioners thanked Kelly for this update and asked that she keep them informed as to the progress being made. No action was required on this matter.

5. **Thiele Kaolin Co.-Fred Reeves Rd. Relocation:** Vice Chairman Wilson asked Director of Public Works Chris Pelly to address this matter.

Chris stated that he had received a formal request from Mr. Carroll Burton as landowner requesting that Thiele Kaolin be allowed to realign Fred Reeves Rd. The request for relocation is to allow kaolin mining to occur in the location of the present road and there would be no cost to the County. Also, he would be there to oversee and make sure all safety factors and other county standards were met during the realignment. . At Thiele Kaolin's expense, they will:

- Remove timber.
- Grub & construct the new section of the county dirt road that meets county standards.
- The minimum of cleared area will be 40 ft. within a vertical alignment which is safe for public traffic.
- Also, requesting one crossing for which will be installed the appropriate signage warning the public of the crossing & will install stop signs so that crossing traffic will stop. This will become the new permanent location for the county road since the old county road will be abandoned for mining and likely a lake will be formed at the present location.
- Thiele agrees to indemnify and hold McDuffie County harmless against any claim of a third party from damages to property or injuries to persons arising out of its activities during construction. At the completion of the relocated Fred Reeves Road, the county will assume responsibility of the maintenance.

After discussion, a motion was made by Farr to approve the request from Thiele Kaolin with the relocation of Fred Reeves Road as outlined; motion was seconded by Wester 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 Wester, seconded by Farr and passed unanimously.

McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Sammie Wilson Sr., Vice Chairman

ATTEST:

Annette Finley, County Clerk