

The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners held a regular Commission Meeting Tuesday evening, September 16, 2008, 6:30 PM, Superior Court Room, McDuffie County Courthouse.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:
Charles G. Newton IV, Chairman
Sammie L. Wilson, Sr., Vice Chairman
Rev. Fred Favors, Commissioner
J. Robt. "Bob" Farr, Commissioner

COUNTY REPRESENTATION:
Don Norton, County Manager
Annette Finley, County Clerk
Jimmy Whitaker, County Finance Director
Kelly Evans, Director, IT Department
Chris Pelly, Director, Public Works
Bruce Tanner, County Fire Chief
Steven Sewell, Fire Services/EMA
Paul McCorkle, Commissioner Elect
Bill Jopling, Commissioner Elect
Fred Guarrant, Director, Planning Board

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:
Darrell Wester, Commissioner

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

OTHERS:
One (1) citizen attended.

PUBLIC INPUT

Speakers: None
Adjournment: 6:30PM

ZONING HEARING

No Issues

COMMISSION MEETING

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Wilson offered the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVALS

Agenda (Current)

A motion was made by Wilson to approve the current Agenda; motion was seconded by Farr and passed unanimously.

Minutes (Reg. Mtg. 9-3-08)

A motion was made by Farr to approve the minutes a written of the regular Commission Meeting held on September 3, 2008; motion was seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

Minutes ("Called" Mtg. 9-11-08)

A motion was made by Farr to approve the minutes as written of the "called" Commission Meeting held September 11, 2008; motion was seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. ACCG Fall Policy Conference, 10/8 thru 10/10/08, Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel; 2009 Legislative Agenda will be set at this time.
2. Announcement: A City-County "CHIP" Grant was awarded by the Department of Community Affairs on September 16, 2008 in the amounts of \$290,000-County and \$170,000-City. This will enhance the improvements of housing within the area.
3. Announcement – Chief Bruce Tanner announced that Mr. Carl Puckett, will be on site for the community grading (ISO ratings) on September 23. Hopefully the rating will be reduced from "6 to 4" which will benefit all home owners within McDuffie County.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Consideration of Road Name Change – Davis Rd. To Helen Walton Rd.:** Chairman Newton asked for additional information on the request from regarding the name change of Davis Road.

Fred presented a summary for departmental involved costs involved with changing a road name amounting to more than \$750 in cost. County Manager Don Norton stated that a change in road names to reflect a personal request such as this would set a bad precedent, too many costs involved and effect 911 department. Recommendation is to deny the request.

After discussion, a motion to deny this request was made by Farr, seconded by Wilson with the provision that Fred Guerrant outline and provide the costs and policy guidelines for dealing with such requests in the future; motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Bid Award – Road Resurfacing Belle Meade & Dallas Drive Areas:** Chairman Newton asked Chris Pelly, Director of Public Works, to present this matter.

Chris stated that a total of five (5) bids had been received for this project and recommended that the low bid from C n' H Paving be accepted in the amount of \$88.85 per ton, approximately 4300 tons anticipated and with a charge of \$4.50 per gallon tack coat. A copy of the bid summary follows and is made a copy of these minutes.

After discussion, a motion to approve the recommendation was made by Farr with funds coming from SPLOST IV "Road Improvements" not to exceed \$400,000; seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously. It was noted that this project would begin around the end of September and that careful attention along with individual weight tickets would be collected from all incoming trucks loaded with resurfacing mix.

2. **Grant Application – McDuffie County Fire Rescue:** Chairman Newton asked County Fire Chief Bruce Tanner to present this matter.

Bruce asked the Board of Commissioners for authorization to submit an application for grant sponsored by the Georgia Forestry Commission Volunteer Fire Assistant Grant which is a state funded program to assist local volunteer fire departments and governments with capital needs, i.e. equipment such as 9 sets turn-out gear and 9 helmets. The grant covers 50% of the cost of approved applications leaving the remaining 50% the responsibility of the applicant. It was noted that this specific application is budgeted in the 2009 budget and the Fire Department may qualify for reimbursement of up to 50% of \$20,000 or \$10,000 per government and the 50/50 matching rule will apply to all amounts less than the maximum.

After discussion, a motion to approve this application was made by Wilson as recommended, seconded by Farr and passed unanimously.

3. **Budget Amendment – Repair to Tanker Truck:** Chairman Newton asked County Fire Chief Bruce Tanner to address this issue:

Bruce detailed the 2001 International 4900 Tanker Truck damaged which had taken place over a period of time since June 9, 2008. The reports were to the effect that Tanker 5 was leaning severely, unstable, difficult to steer and was steadily getting worse. Tanker 5 was taken to Master Fabricators, Augusta for evaluation. Results are: The frame was twisted, several problems in the rear suspension; and at this time, the vendor was advised to cease work until further notice. The vendor reported that the damage uncovered so far could not have been caused by normal wear and tear but would not speculate as to what may have been the cause. Bruce stated he made several inquiries of the staff at Station 5 but no one would take responsibility. They did state they had seen this truck being driven into fields and pastures to deliver water to other fire fighting apparatus engaged in suppression of wild fires. This practice is prohibited under the Recommended Operating Procedures of the McDuffie County Fire Rescue Services. Bruce further stated that he believed the reports that this truck was taken off road onto unlevelled and unstable ground which would account for the twisting of the frame and damage to the tank mounting system and rear suspension.

As of a few weeks ago, the County Manager decided to contact our insurance carrier for an opinion on whether this is covered damage. The “stop work order” with the vendor remained in effect at this time and is still in effect.

The insurance carrier reviewed the claim and issued a check in the amount of \$2,900 (\$3,900 less \$1,000 for deductible) which has been received and deposited. Now Bruce requested the Board of Commissioners to authorize the transfer of \$7,207.10 from contingency to Line Item 52 2200 (Contract Repair and Maintenance) of the McDuffie County Fire Services budget for the needed repairs to Tanker 5 in accordance with the estimate from Master Fabricators.

After discussion, a motion to approve the \$7,207.10 balance needed to complete the repair of the vehicle with funds coming from Contingency was made by Wilson, seconded by Favors and passed unanimously.

4. **Monthly Budget Report – August 2008:** Chairman Newton asked County Manager Don Norton to present this report.

Don reported that as of August 31, 2008 with 66.7% of the year lapsed, the County had collected \$5,086,375.39 or 40% of the projected YTD General Fund Revenue. With 66.7% of the year lapsed, the YTD General Fund Expenditures were \$8,564,985.73 or 67.4%.

5. Monthly Financial Report – August 2008: County Finance Director, Jimmy Whitaker, presented reports on all bank accounts showing a grand total of \$7,920,629.45 as of August 31, 2008; Hotel/Motel Report reflects a YTD \$159,049.99 or -4.63% decrease from 2007 on the same date; Local Option Sales Tax Collections YTD are at \$1,686,423.78 or an overall increase of 5.10% from 2007 on the same date; and, SPLOST IV Revenue/Expenditure Report with a YTD cumulative total of \$15,889,432, expenditures of \$13,189,764 leaving a balance of \$2,699,668 plus \$482,085 earned interest.

ADJOURNMENT

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

McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charles G. Newton IV, Chairman

ATTEST:

Annette Finley, County Clerk