

The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners held a regular Commission Meeting Tuesday evening, September 19, 2006, 6:30 PM, Grand Jury Room, McDuffie County Courthouse.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Charles G. Newton IV, Chairman
Sammie Wilson Sr., Vice Chairman
Rev. Fred Favors, Commissioner
Darrell Wester, Commissioner
J. Robt. "Bob" Farr

COUNTY REPRESENTATION

Don Norton, County Manager
Annette Finley, County Clerk
Jimmy Whitaker, County Finance Director
Fred Guarrant, Director, Planning Board
Chris Pelly, Director of Public Works
Bruce Tanner, County Fire Chief
Stephen Sewell, Asst. Fire Chief
Sandra Whitaker, Tax Commissioner

OTHERS

Three (3) citizens attended.

MEDIA REPRESENTATION

WTHO Radio Station
McDuffie Mirror Newspaper
McDuffie Progress Newspaper

PUBLIC INPUT

1. Speakers: None
Adjournment: 6:31 PM

PUBLIC HEARING – OATES LANE

Chairman Newton stated that Oates Lane had been considered for "abandonment" at an earlier Commission Meeting held on July 18 and this Public Hearing is part of the legal process for such official abandonment.

Prior advertising and a Public Hearing is required for any road abandonment in McDuffie County. At this time, both have been done with no public input received. A fence and gate is being placed at the entrance to prevent anyone from entering and dumping trash. This road is located on the left side of East Whiteoak Road beyond the Thomson High School. Action to be taken in the ensuing Commission Meeting.

Adjournment: 6:34 PM

ZONING HEARING

Chairman Newton asked Fred Guarrant, Director of the Planning Board, to present this matter.

1. David Pentecost – Minimum County Road Frontage–Lincolnton Hwy.

Fred reported that he had received from David Pentecost requesting approval to divide in half a 6.56 acre parcel (having frontage off of a private easement. Fred stated that with the surrounding property and structure uses David wanted to divide the property for transfer of the "northern half" of the parcel to his father-in-law who is ill, and is currently living at that location along with two other parcels (Powell & Landers) who are using the easement to access their residences. Fred further stated that David had indicated that he did not think that there would be any further division of the parcel. The Planning Commission recommended approval of this application.

Adjournment: 6:40 PM

COMMISSION MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Newton called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner/Reverend Fred Favors led the invocation and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVALS

Minutes (Regular Meeting 9-6-06)

A motion to approve the minutes of the regular Commission Meeting held on September 6, 2006, was made by Wester, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

Agenda (Current)

Chairman Newton stated that he would like to add New Business Item 6. Abandonment of Oates Lane to the current Agenda. A motion to approve the current Agenda with the requested amendment was made by Farr, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

1. Appointment – CSRA Enterprise Community: Chairman Newton asked the commissioners if there were any names to be submitted for the Enterprise Community Board. At this time, no names were submitted for consideration and a motion to postpone the matter to the next regular Commission Meeting scheduled for October 4, 2006, was made by Wilson, seconded by Farr and passed unanimously.
2. Appointment – CSRA Agency on Aging Advisory Board: Chairman Newton presented this matter and asked for recommendations from the Commissioners. No names were submitted for consideration and a motion to postpone the matter to the next regular Commission Meeting scheduled for October 4, 2006 was made by Wester, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.
3. Ordinance Amendment – Manufactured Homes: Chairman Newton reported that this Amendment had been sent to the County Attorney for his review and was now ready to be finalized by the Board and submitted to Municipal Code for codification. Note was made that this amendment could increase revenue due to McDuffie County as a result of numerous manufactured homes throughout the County not displaying a current decal possibly indicating that they have not paid their property taxes. This amended county ordinance is tailored after the state ordinance with a penalty of \$1000 or 60 days in jail or both as authorized by Section 1-13 “General Penalty” of the Code of Ordinances of McDuffie County.

After discussion, a motion was made by Wester to approve the Ordinance Amendment for Manufactured Homes endorsing additional enforcement power behind the County ordinance which matches the State's ordinance making it mandatory to not only buy a decal but also to display it as required by state law; motion was seconded by Farr and passed unanimously.

- 4. **Consideration of Grant Administration & Engineering Services for Hayes Line CDBG Project:** Chairman Newton presented the proposals from Precision Planning asking to be retained as the grant administrator and engineer for this project and recommended same. He confirmed that Precision Planning had submitted the original application for the CDBG grant along with a GEFA grant.

Note was made of the following grants received for this particular project:

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| CDBG Grant Received | \$500,000 |
| GEFA Grant Received | <u>\$100,000</u> |
| | \$600,000 |

An additional \$180,000 is being requested from GEFA by the City of Thomson jointly with the Water-Sewer Commission for the completion of the project.

After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Wester, seconded by Farr to approve the proposal from Precision Planning for the grant administration and engineering services for the CDBG Project for the Hayes Line area; motion passed unanimously..

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. **Planning Board Recommendations:** Chairman Newton recommended the approval for Mr. David Pentecost heard earlier during the Zoning Hearing to divide in half a 6.56 acre parcel having frontage off of a private easement.

Note was made that this easement would be privately maintained with no obligation on the part of the county.

After discussion, a motion was made by Wester to approve the request and uphold the recommendation from the Planning Board; motion was seconded by Farr and passed unanimously.

- 2. **Bid Award – Property & Casualty Insurance:** Chairman Newton - asked Al Sherling, Insurance Consultant, to address this issue.

Al reported that the three (3) bids for the McDuffie County Property/Casualty insurance carriers were opened on September 6, 2006, in the Commission Office and pointed out that a bid tabulation sheet was included in the Commissioners books reflecting the bid results and recommendations, with a lowest and best bid from ACCG.

After reviewing all results in a lengthy discussion, Al recommended to the Board that ACCG-IRMA be retained for another multi-year period. At this time, in turn, Chairman Newton recommended that the current property and casualty insurance policy with ACCG-IRMA be renewed for at least another three years. A motion to approve this recommendation was made by Favors, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

3. **Consideration of Tractor/Mower Online Bid:** Chairman Newton asked County Manager, Don Norton, and Chris Pelly, Director of Public Works to address this matter. Don reported that the online bidding for the Road Department's two tractor/mowers took place on September 14. The overall costs for the purchase of one (1) tractor with mower, each, as outlined in specifications is listed below:

| Rank | Company | Quote |
|------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Burke Truck & Tractor Co., Inc. | \$24,000.00 |
| 2 | Jenkins Tractor Co., Inc. | \$24,175.00 |
| 3 | Interstate Equipment Co., Inc. | \$24,950.00 |
| 4 | Augusta Turf & Tractor | \$25,400.00 |
| 5 | Yancey Agricultural Products | \$28,301.94 |

A motion to approve the low bid from Burke Truck & Tractor Co., Inc., Waynesboro, Georgia, in the amount of \$24,000.00 was made by Wester, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

At this time County Manager, Don Norton, stated that the loader, motor grader, and Tandem dump truck would be solicited by "paper bid" and presented to the Board at the next Commission Meeting scheduled to be held October 4.

4. **Consideration of Proposal for Health Fair for City/County Employees:** Chairman Newton asked Don Norton to address this matter.

Don presented a proposal he had received from the McDuffie Regional Medical Center to hold a City of Thomson/McDuffie County Employee Health Fair on Friday, October 27, 7:30 AM 'til Noon, at the Thomson Depot. He stated the only cost to the County would be \$10.00 per employee (only if they do labs, otherwise no charge). These lab charges of \$10 would be for the Lipd Panel & Glucose tests (consisting of HDL, LDL, Total Cholesterol, Triglycerides, cardiac risk ratio). Note was made that the City of Thomson had received the same proposal and their employees would be included at the same rate.

At this time, the Flu Shot immunizations by the Health Department was discussed. These are to be included at the same time, as an added convenience to our employees, at an additional cost of \$15.00 each (same cost as last year). All county elected or appointed officials, volunteers, full time and part-time employees would be invited to attend at a specified time in accordance with their department head's instructions.

Chairman Newton recommended that the proposal for McDuffie County employees participation in the Health Fair scheduled for Friday, October 27, 2006, 7:30 AM – Noon, Thomson Depot, be approved at with the costs noted along with the flu shot immunization by the Health Department at \$15.00 each. A motion to approve this recommendation was made by Favors, seconded by Wester and passed unanimously.

5. **Consideration of Purchase of Fire/Rescue Truck:** Chairman Newton asked Fire Chief, Bruce Tanner, to address this matter.

Bruce presented the background on the need for a new rescue truck and after discussion, the Board instructed Bruce to acquire some new figures for this purchase and to report back to the Board at a later scheduled Commission Meeting on October 4 or October 17, 2006.

6. **Abandonment of Oates Lane:** Chairman Newton presented the request from Crowell & Company requesting the county to abandon the dirt road known as Oates Lane located off Whiteoak Road noting that ultimately a subdivision would most likely be developed in the area. Following the earlier advertising and Public Hearing held concerning the matter, Chairman Newton recommended the official abandonment of Oates Lane. A motion to approve this recommendation was made by Wester, seconded by Farr and passed unanimously.
7. **Monthly Budget Report – August 2006:** Chairman Newton asked County Manager, Don Norton, to present this report.

Don reported that with 66.7% of the year lapsed, the County has collected 42.8% of the projected YTD Revenue. With 66.7% of the year lapsed, the YTD General Fund expenditures were \$6,693,736.45 or 56.9% as of August 31, 2006.

8. **Monthly Financial Report – August 2006:** County Finance Director, Jimmy Whitaker, presented reports on all bank accounts showing a grand total balance of \$11,488,944.16 as of August 31, 2006; Hotel/Motel Report at a YTD \$144,064.57 or an increase of or 6.72% for the year. Local Option Sales Tax Collections YTD are at \$1,606,854.01 or \$142,031.25 increase (9.70%) for the year; and a SPLOST IV Revenue/Expenditure Report with a total program revenue of \$8,471,239 with total expenditures of \$4,002,837, leaving an available balance of \$4,468,301, not including interest earnings.

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 Farr and passed unanimously.

McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charles G. Newton IV, Chairman

ATTEST:

Annette Finley, County Clerk

