

The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners held a regular Commission Meeting Wednesday morning, December 6, 2006, 10:00 AM, 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, Commissioner

COUNTY REPRESENTATION

Don Norton, County Manager
Annette Finley, County Clerk
Jimmy Whitaker, County Finance Director
Chris Pelly, Director of Public Works
Sandra Whitaker, Tax Commissioner
Wanda Sisson, Tax Assessor's Office
Kelly Evans, Director, IT Department
Bruce Tanner, County Fire Chief
Don Clauson, Director, Solid Waste

OTHERS

One (1) citizen attended.

MEDIA REPRESENTATION

WTHO Radio Station
McDuffie Progress Newspaper
McDuffie Mirror Newspaper

CALLED TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Reverend Jim Ramsey, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Thomson, led the invocation and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. A proposed Joint City/County Water-Sewer Commission Mtg., is scheduled for Thursday, 12/14/06, 5:30 PM, City Hall.
2. County Employee Christmas Holidays: Friday 12/22, Monday 12/25 and Tuesday 12/26

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. E/R's & ACO's (Errors Releases & Assessor's Change Order Report) Real Estate & Mobile Home Taxes – November 2006: Chairman Newton asked Tax Commissioner Sandra Whitaker to present this report.

Sandra reported that values decreased for the month of November 2006 and reflected a negative \$3710.22 for real property taxes; resulting from audits having been made on personal properties and refunding taxes, i.e. Winn Dixie which closed last year. A positive \$1204.04 is reported in mobile home taxes resulted through field checks and non-decaled mobile homes.

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

2. **Appointments – Hospital Authority:** Chairman Newton announced that he had been advised of 3 available positions on the Hospital Authority Board effective December 31, 2006. The Chairman recommended that only 1 position at a time be considered starting at the December 19 regularly scheduled Commission Meeting. After discussion, a motion was made by Favors to postpone action on this matter until the December 19 meeting and that the three positions totaling nine names be recommended and submitted at that time; motion was seconded by Farr and passed unanimously.

3. **Proposed Contract With Thomson Family YMCA (formerly Health Link):** Chairman Newton asked County Manager, Don Norton, to address this issue.

Don stated that the Thomson Family YMCA had submitted a signed contract for calendar year 2007 for individual memberships of any full-time or part-time county employee (including elected officials) as well as any officially recognized and approved volunteer with the County being charged \$26.80 per month for each individual. The county will continue being charged for the month in which an individual specifically uses the facility. This particular benefit for the employees is desirable as it will provide means for the employees to stay fit and healthy which would ultimately result favorably with the county's health insurance program. A copy of the contract is copied below and made a part of these minutes.

After discussion, a motion to approve the contract with Thomson Family YMCA was made by Favors, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

4. **Proposed Contract With GMA Hotel/Motel Tax Audit Services:** Chairman Newton asked Don Norton to address this matter.

Don reported that the contract itself is now being “fine tuned” by GMA with the county’s preferences. Very few non-substantive changes are expected to be made to the version previously provided to the commissioners. This contract provides compliance review services for seven (7) hotels at \$500 each within the Thomson-McDuffie area which would help maximize revenue potential in the areas of Hotel/Motel Taxes. The total cost for this first phase compliance review would be \$3500 with funds coming from contingency. This procedure identifies potential underreported or uncollected revenue. All of these services enables the entity to insure lodging providers are accurately complying with the Hotel/Motel Tax ordinance.

After discussion, a motion made by Favors to approve the final and corrected contract with GMA for this service; motion was seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously. A copy of this contract is on file in the Commission Office, McDuffie County Courthouse, Thomson, GA.

At this time, Chairman Newton recommended that an Executive Session be held to discuss personnel and announced to the media that “no action” was expected afterwards. A motion to approve the recommendation was made by Farr, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Topic of Discussion: Personnel

At the end of Executive Session, a motion to resume the regular Commission Meeting was made by Farr, seconded by Wilson 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 Wilson, seconded by Farr and passed unanimously.

McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charles G. Newton IV, Chairman

ATTEST:

Annette Finley, County Clerk