

The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners held a "Called" Commission Meeting Tuesday evening, December 16, 2010, 6:30 PM, Grand Jury Room, McDuffie County Courthouse.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Charles G. Newton IV, Chairman
Sammie L. Wilson, Sr., Vice Chairman
Fredrick D. Favors, Commissioner
Paul McCorkle, Commissioner
Wm. "Bill" M. Jopling, Commissioner

COUNTY REPRESENTATION

Don Norton, County Manager
Penny Salley, County Clerk
Pam Workman, Finance Director
Steven Sewell, Asst. County Fire Chief
Ronnie Williamson, Sheriff's Dept.
Linda Thurmond, Chief Tax Appraiser
Gail Newsome, Planning Commission
Don Clauson, Solid Waste Director
Eric Reisinger, Public Works Director
Raymond White, Director, IT Department

MEDIA

McDuffie Progress Newspaper

OTHERS

Two (2) citizens attended.

PUBLIC INPUT

None

ZONING ISSUES

None

COMMISSION MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Newton acknowledged a quorum of commissioners present and welcomed everyone in attendance.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL

Agenda (Current)

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

Minutes (Regular Mtg. 12-1-10)

A motion to approve the minutes of the regular Commission Meeting held 12-1-10 was made by McCorkle, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

1. Further Discussion of Tourism Board of Directors Appointments

There are five (5) vacant positions on the 2011 Thomson-McDuffie Tourism Board of Directors. At this time a motion was made by McCorkle to re-appoint Epp Wilson, seconded by Favors and passed unanimously.

Chairman Newton stated that according to the bylaws of the Tourism Board one of the appointments was required to be someone from the hotel industry. A motion was made by Jopling to appoint Prakash Aildasani from Econo Lodge, seconded by McCorkle and passed unanimously.

At this time Chairman Newton opened the floor for nominations to fill the remaining three (3) seats.

	<u>Brenda Bettross</u>	<u>Jason Smith</u>	<u>Ginger Carrington</u>	<u>Debbie Jones</u>
Favors	√	√		√
McCorkle	√	√		√
Newton	√	√	√	
Wilson	√	√	√	
Jopling	√	√	√	

A motion was made to appoint Brenda Bettross, Jason Smith and Ginger Carrington to the Tourism Board of Directors, the motion died due to the lack of a second. Commissioners McCorkle, Favors and Wilson have concerns that appointing Mrs. Carrington to the Board would be considered a conflict of interest, due to the fact that Mike Carrington is an ex-officio member of the Board and the Executive Director of Forward McDuffie. A second roll call vote was taken at this time.

	<u>Brenda Bettross</u>	<u>Jason Smith</u>	<u>Ginger Carrington</u>	<u>Debbie Jones</u>
Favors	√	√		√
McCorkle	√	√		√
Newton	√	√	√	
Wilson	√	√		√
Jopling	√	√	√	

After discussion a motion was made by McCorkle to appoint Brenda Bettross, Jason Smith and Debbie Jones, seconded by Favors and passed with a 3 to 2 vote, with Chairman Newton and Commissioner Jopling voting no.

2. Confirmation of Fire Truck Purchase (SPLOST V)

Chairman Newton asked Bruce Tanner, Fire Chief, to address this matter.

After discussion and a recommendation by Chief Tanner, a motion was made by Jopling to approve the purchase of a fire truck from NAFECO in the amount of \$291,621 to be paid for from SPLOST V, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discuss Employee Health Insurance Renewal

Chairman Newton asked Ashley Ellis, Blount, Burke, Wimberly & Hendricks Insurors, to address this matter.

Ms. Ellis presented the 2011 renewal package to the Board, she has suggested the following in order to lower the renewal increase:

1. Generic Only Prescription Plan - Unless authorized by physician and the generic is ineffective.
2. Maintain the 34% cost share of what employees pay for dependent coverage cost.

The renewal increase, should the plan stay as is, will be \$231,227.10. If the suggested changes are accepted there is a potential cost savings of \$95,210.05, lowering the increase to \$136,017.05. The total estimated cost for renewal with the above changes is \$1,168,328.21.

After discussion and a recommendation from Chairman Newton a motion was made by McCorkle to accept the generic only prescription plan as well as maintain the 34% cost share for dependant coverage for a renewal increase of \$136,017.05, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

2. Consideration of IT Infrastructure Bids for Government Center

Chairman Newton asked Raymond White, IT Director, to address this matter.

The IT Department recently retained EDI to complete specifications and the bid process for the installation of the cabling, network, telephone voicemail systems and wireless for the Government Center. The low bid was from Presidio/Netplanner in the amount of \$768,913.28, the second low bid from Progressive for \$772,374.08.

Raymond has made the recommendation to the Board that Progressive be awarded the bid. Progressive would be the sole vendor to the entire turn-key project. Presidio would sub-contract the cabling which seems less desirable. There were also questions regarding Presidio/Netplanners bid, areas of work in the bid were quoted extremely low. Progressive has been working with the County and is familiar with the current network and staff; they also have been assisting in the preparation of the new network over the last year. The bid from also includes a fiber run to the City Utilities Department and the County Road Department.

After discussion and a recommendation from Raymond, a motion was made by Favors to accept the bid for IT infrastructure in the amount of \$772,374.08 from Progressive, \$500,000 to be paid from SPLOST V and \$272,374.08 to be paid out of Project Contingency, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

3. Request to Lift Hiring Freeze and to Authorize Minor Restructuring of Finance Department – Payroll Position

Chairman Newton asked Don Norton, County Manager, to address this matter.

Upon request by finance Director Pam Workman, Don has recommended that the present positions be redefined and realigned according to general accounting practices and standards. The restructuring is needed to ensure the maximum amount of productivity for the hours worked. The request is that the current title of Payroll Clerk be changed to Accountant I and upgraded to the original grade 12-A in the amount of \$24,245.13. Also requested is that the current Accounts Payable position be changed to Accountant II and upgraded to a grade 14-E in the amount of \$29,540.34.

In addition, he has asked that the hiring freeze be lifted in order to fill the Accountant I position that will become vacant December 31, 2010 as well as to hire a temporary, part-time intern to assist with W-2's, 1099's, other state and federal mandated issues and preparation for the 2010 fiscal year audit.

With the Assistant Finance Director position remaining vacant, the funds for restructuring the department as well as filling the Accountant I and intern positions are already included in the 2011 budget. Should the Board approve the requests there will be a savings of \$36,810.32 in salaries and benefits.

Commissioner McCorkle has concerns with the restructuring of the department and feels that the County should hire someone at the current pay rate for the Payroll Clerks position.

After discussion a motion was made by Favors to restructure the Finance Department and lift the hiring freeze to fill the Accountant I position and temporary part-time intern position, seconded by Jopling and passed 3 to 1 with Commissioner McCorkle voting no.

4. Designation by Resolution of County Legislative Coordinator for ACCG

ACCG has asked each county to designate, by resolution, a County Legislative Coordinator to assist their policy team in keeping county officials updated on the progress of legislation that can impact Georgia counties and to provide timely information on key issues when requested.

A motion was made by Wilson to designate Don Norton, County Manager, as the County Legislative Coordinator, seconded by Favors and passed unanimously.

5. Monthly Budget Report – November 2010

Chairman Newton asked Don Norton, County Manager, to address this matter.

Don reported that as of November 30, 2010, with 91.7% of the year lapsed, the County had collected \$14,464,985.05 or 117.8% of the projected YTD revenue for the General Fund. With 91.7% of the year lapsed, the YTD General Fund Expenditures were \$10,954,508.61 or 89.5%.

6. Monthly Financial Report – November 2010

Chairman Newton asked Pam Workman, Finance Director, to address this matter.

Pam Workman, reported on all bank accounts showing a grand total of \$17,892,513 as of November 30, 2010; Hotel/Motel revenue reflects a YTD \$161,524 or a total of -2.45% less than on the same date in 2009; Local Option Sales Tax Collections are YTD \$2,329,225 or a total of 8.05%

-4-

increase from the same date in 2009; SPLOST IV Revenue/Expenditures report a cumulative revenue total of \$17,818,007 with a balance of \$106,226 plus \$489,936.00 interest earnings; SPLOST V revenues reflect \$6,292,474 as of September 30, 2010; expenditures are \$2,275,717. Of the \$17,655,000.00 in Bond Construction Funds for the new Government Center Project, \$12,007,339.64 had been spent as of November 30, 2010.

ADJOURNMENT

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

McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charles G. Newton IV, Chairman

ATTEST:

Penny Salley, County Clerk