

The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners held a regular Commission Meeting Wednesday, April 6, 2011, 10:00 AM, Grand Jury Room, McDuffie County Courthouse.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

COUNTY REPRESENTATION:

Don Norton, County Manager
Penny Salley, County Clerk
Pam Workman, Finance Director
Sandra Whitaker, Tax Commissioner
Linda Thurmond, Tax Assessor
Raymond White, IT Director
Don Clauson, Solid Waste Director
Logan Marshall, Sheriff

MEDIA:

WTHO
McDuffie Progress
McDuffie Mirror

OTHER:

One (1) Other Attended

COMMISSION MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPROVAL

Agenda (Current)

Chairman Newton asked if there were any corrections or additions to the current agenda. A motion to approve the current agenda with the following changes was made by Wilson, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

Add Personnel to Executive Session

Minutes (Regular Mtg. 3/15/11)

A motion to approve the minutes of the 3/15/2011 Regular Commission Meeting was made by McCorkle seconded by Favors and passed unanimously.

Minutes (Called Mtg. 3/21/11)

A motion to approve the minutes of the 3/21/2011 Called Commission Meeting was made by Favors seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

Minutes (Called Mtg. 3/23/11)

A motion to approve the minutes of the 3/23/2011 Called Commission Meeting was made by Favors seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. National Donate Life Month Proclamation
2. Upcoming Hospital Authority Appointment
Chairman Newton announced the resignation of Mr. James Isom from the Hospital Authority. The Hospital Authority has requested to allow Mr. Doug Whitaker to serve until Mr. Isom's replacement has been named.

A motion was made by Jopling to allow Mr. Doug Whitaker to temporarily fill the vacant seat of Mr. James Isom on the Hospital Authority until a replacement has been named, seconded by McCorkle and passed unanimously.

3. **Consideration of Senior Citizen of the Year Committee Appointment**
 Chairman Newton announced the passing a Mrs. Beatrice Sheffield, who is currently appointed to the Senior Citizen of the Year Committee. Merlinda Hill, Thomson-McDuffie Senior Center Superintendent has made the recommendation of Mrs. Mary Rivera as a replacement.

A motion was made by Jopling to appoint Mrs. Mary Rivera to the Senior Citizen of the Year Committee, seconded by Favors and passed unanimously.

4. **Trash Amnesty Day Results**
 Don Clauson, Solid Waste Director, reported that 252.93 tons were collected on March 26th at the Spring Trash Amnesty Day.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Report of Employee Health Insurance Program (Ashley Ellis, John Taylor)

Ashley Ellis presented the aggregate report for anticipated and actual insurance claims paid by the County. She reported that the anticipated claims for the first quarter were \$300,000 the actual amount paid by the County was \$105,663.14. She also presented the emergency room report, PPO analysis and drug utilization analysis. The emergency room report shows that for the first quarter ER visits have been reduced. PPO analysis shows the total charges for the first quarter at \$441,806.81, with a discount of 53.9%, the actual payment from the County being \$161,421.58. The drug utilization analysis shows a total of 831 prescriptions. Of that 189 are brand name and 642 are generic. She reported that compared to the first quarter for 2010 there are currently 57 additional prescriptions being paid at the generic rate, the total amount paid by the County for the first quarter 2011 is \$41,484, which is roughly the same as this time last year, but includes the additional prescriptions.

Ashley further reported that Medicare is now requiring that TBR file every group, setting them up based on the County's group size, setting these groups up determines which insurance, Medicare or the County's, will be the primary insurance, for those individuals who are Medicare qualified. Ashley has requested to set up a separate group, to include all of the elected and appointed officials. She has requested this change due to the new Medicare filing requirements, if there are less than 20 employees in a group Medicare will be the primary insurance, for those eligible for Medicare. Currently the County has 13 elected and appointed officials, not all are Medicare eligible. Chairman Newton asked if there would be less expense to the Medicare eligible employees if the County purchased a Medicare supplement and prescription plan for them and then removed them from the County's insurance. Ashley stated that it was a possibility and she would look into it further.

A motion was made by Jopling to approve forming a separate group for all elected and appointed officials, due to the new Medicare filing requirements, seconded by McCorkle and passed unanimously.

2. Government Center Action Items

Increased Security Components

After review with the Sheriff's Department and in an attempt to further constrain ongoing manpower costs, Jud requested that the Board consider the following additions totaling approximately \$82,000.00.

- Additional cameras on site and within the facility – Estimate: \$38,425.00
 - Additional fencing around Judges' Parking – Estimate: \$11,527.00
 - Rolling gate in lieu of drop arms - Estimate: \$31,838.00
- (Currently the gate is awaiting the Fire Marshal's approval)

A motion was made by Wilson to approve the additional cameras in the amount of \$38,425.00 and to approve the additional fencing and gate around the Judge's parking area not to exceed \$43,365 to be paid for from Builders Contingency, seconded by Favors.

McCorkle and Jopling feel that the additional fencing and gate should be voted on at a later time, due to the uncertainty of the type of gate that the Fire Marshal will approve for the

Judge's parking. They feel that the money should not be spent unless the area will be completely secure. Chairman Newton suggested a phone poll be done for the fencing and the gate, upon the approval of the Fire Marshal.

At this time Wilson amended his motion to approve the additional cameras only in the amount of \$38,425.00, to be paid for from builder's contingency, seconded by Favors and passed unanimously.

Fiber Optic Connectivity to the Law Enforcement Center

A fiber optic connection between the Courthouse and the Law Enforcement Center will allow improved IT access between the two facilities at a cost of \$100,000.00; this cost also includes a fiber optic connection to the Fire Department. Raymond explained that the cost was for the work performed by Progressive and did not include the costs of permitting and pole attachments, he has requested funds not to exceed \$150,000.00.

After discussion a motion was made by Jopling to approve fiber optic connectivity from the courthouse to the LEC and fire department at a cost not to exceed \$150,000, to be paid for from Owner's Contingency, seconded by Favors and passed unanimously.

Audio/Visual Equipment

Baker Audio and DB Audio and Video have been secured to provide audio and video equipment for the facility including Grand Jury, first and second floor courtrooms and the Commission/Council/Jury Assembly meeting room. The proposals are as follows:

DB Audio and Video -	\$215,125.57
Baker Audio -	\$208,894.42

Baker Audio is the apparent low bidder and is located in the Atlanta Metropolitan Area. DB Audio and Video is located in Gainesville with a local component listed as the Augusta Office in Thomson. Jud has made the recommendation to allow DB Audio and Video to perform the work, due to the local connection as well as the equipment being supplied being completely digital.

McCorkle feels that there should have been a formal bid process instead of Jud soliciting two companies to quote the project.

A motion was made by Jopling to approve the audio/visual equipment and installation bid from DB Audio and Video in the amount of \$215,125.57, to be paid for from Owner's Contingency, seconded by Wilson. At this time Commissioner McCorkle requested a roll call vote.

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Favors		√
McCorkle		√
Newton	√	
Wilson	√	
Jopling	√	

The motion passed with a three to two vote, with Commissioners Favors and McCorkle voting no.

NEW BUSINESS

1. ER & ACO Report -March 2011:

Chairman Newton asked Sandra Whitaker, Tax Commissioner, to present this report.

Sandra stated that the report for March 2011 reflects an increase in the amount of \$112,243.16 for changes to the Property Tax Digest. Property Tax increase is due to several 2010 values under appeal settled; Department of Revenue released 2010 Public Utilities values; two cell tower audits were completed and billed.

The Mobile Home Digest reflected a decrease in the amount of \$358.55 due to the County. Mobile Home Tax decrease is due to several mobile homes reported moved from the County at the end of 2010; moving three mobile homes to the property tax digest; several mobile homes located in the county not displaying decals that were being used as storage.

A motion was made to accept the report by Favors, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

2. Bid Results –Property/Casualty Insurance on Government Center

Chairman Newton stated that two bids had been received for the property/casualty insurance for the Thomson-McDuffie County Government Center, the results are as follows:

Ricketson Insurance	\$21,003.00
ACCG-IRMA	\$13,541.00

A motion was made by Favors to accept the low bid of \$13,541.00 from ACCG-IRMA, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

3. One Day Alcohol License – Blind Willie Blues, May 21, 2010

A motion was made by Wilson to approve the one day sale of alcohol at the Blind Willie Blues Festival, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

4. Approval of ACCG-GSIWCF and ACCG-IRMA 2011-2012 Safety Incentive Discount Program

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

Don stated that this is an annual discount program, it allows for a 7.5% discount for the ACCG-GSIWCF and a 5% discount for ACCG IRMA.

A motion was made by Favors to approve the ACCG-GSIWCF and ACCG-IRMA Safety Incentive Discount Program, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion to enter into an Executive Session was made by Wilson, seconded by McCorkle and passed unanimously.

Topic of Discussion:	Pending Litigation
	Personnel

REGULAR SESSION

A motion to resume the regular Commission Meeting was made by Wilson, seconded by McCorkle and passed unanimously.

5. Pending Litigation

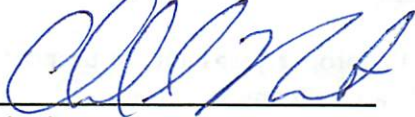
Chairman Newton stated that, if approved by the Board, Sammy Fowler, County Attorney, would be directed to disregard the settlement offer from Barnett Contracting and attempt to collect the full amount owed to the McDuffie County Landfill.

A motion was made by McCorkle to direct Sammy Fowler to attempt to collect the full amount currently owed by Barnett Contracting to the landfill instead of accepting the current settlement offer, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

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

McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Charles G. Newton, IV, Chairman

ATTEST:



Penny Salley, County Clerk

AFFIDAVIT
CLOSED MEETING - ENTIRE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

(copy must be filed with official minutes)

STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF McDUFFIE

Charles Newton IV, Chairman, Commissioner Sammie Wilson Sr, Commissioner
Frederick Favors, Commissioner Paul McCorkle, Commissioner
Wm. Bill Jepling, being duly sworn, state under oath that the following is true and accurate to the best of their knowledge and belief:

1.
The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners met in a duly advertised meeting on April 6, 2011;

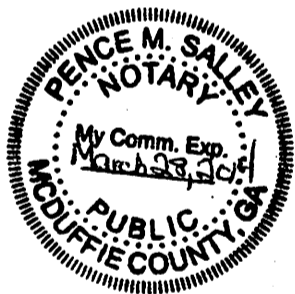
2.
During such meeting, the Board voted to go into closed session;

3.
The Executive Session was called to order at 10:52 AM/PM;

4.
The subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting was devoted to the following matters(s) within the exceptions provided in the open meetings law;

- Consultation with the county attorney or other legal counsel to discuss pending or potential litigation;
- Discussion of tax matters made confidential by state law as provided by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(2) (insert the citation to the legal authority making the tax matter confidential) _____
- Discussion of the future acquisition of real estate as provided by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(4);
- Discussion of deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a county officer or employee as provided by O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(6);
- Other (describe the exemption to the open meetings law): _____ as provided in (insert the citation to the legal authority exempting the topic) _____.

This 6th day of April, 2011.



McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

[Signature] Chairman
Sammie Wilson Sr. Vice Chairman
[Signature] Commissioner
[Signature] Commissioner
[Signature] Commissioner

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 6th day of April, 2011.

Pence M. Salley
Notary Public
My Commission Expires: