

The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Commission Meeting Tuesday evening, January 18, 2011, 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
Bruce Tanner, Fire Chief
Linda Thurmond, Chief Tax Appraiser
Eric Reisinger, Public Works Director
Raymond White, Director, IT Department
Fred Guerrant, Planning and Zoning Director
Frank Watson, McDuffie Extension

MEDIA

WTHO
McDuffie Mirror
McDuffie Progress

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 with the following change was made by Wilson, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

Add New Item 6 to New Business: Approval of Water/Sewer Commission Recommendations

Minutes (Regular Mtg. 1/5/11)

A motion to approve the minutes of the regular Commission Meeting held 1/5/11 was made by Jopling, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Capitol Connection Conference January 31, 2011-February 1, 2011 – Atlanta
Cancel Work Session Scheduled for January 31
2. Proposed Annual Planning Retreat Dates – March 4, 2011
3. Upcoming Development Authority Appointment

OLD BUSINESS

1. Status Update Re. Government Center Fountain Issue

Chairman Newton asked Jud Bryant, Bryant Associates, Architects, to address this matter.

R.W. Allen has submitted for Board approval documents of their proposal for the fountain to be located at the entry to the Government Center. The fountain consists of a five foot diameter, cast

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iron bowl, stand and a 17 foot receiving pool. The fountain will stand approximately ten feet tall at the highest point of the water. The cost for the installed fountain, to include, equipment, pumps, fixtures and brick will be \$88,125. There is approximately \$80,000 currently in the landscape budget that has been designated for the fountain. Jud is requesting approval to move \$8,125 from Owner Contingency to the landscape budget to cover the remaining balance.

Commissioner McCorkle and Commissioner Favors have concerns that the cost of the fountain is too high and should be further researched before agreeing to pay such a high price. Jud stated that five companies were solicited to provide bids for the project and only two companies provided bids.

After a recommendation from Chairman Newton and discussion a motion was made by Jopling and seconded by Wilson to approve the fountain not to exceed \$88,125 and to move \$8,125 from Owner Contingency to the landscape budget. 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 Commissioner McCorkle and Commissioner Favors voting no.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request to Retroactively Lift Hiring Freeze for Sheriff's Jailer

This is a budgeted position; the request has been made due to the resignation of a jailer.

A motion was made by Favors to lift the hiring freeze for a Jailer at the McDuffie County Law Enforcement Center, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

2. Discuss and Request to Lift Hiring Freeze for County 4-H Program Assistant

Chairman Newton asked Frank Watson, County Extension Agent, to address this matter.

In an effort to keep the 4-H Program going, Frank made the recommendation to the Board to lift the hiring freeze to hire a part time County 4-H Program Assistant by shifting budgeted funds from a vacant Agent position; which is unlikely to be filled due to state budget issues. Therefore, there is no fiscal impact to the County.

After discussion and a recommendation from Frank, a motion was made by Jopling to lift the hiring freeze for a part time 4-H Program Assistant, seconded by McCorkle and passed unanimously.

3. Discuss Need for Purchase of New SAN for IT Department

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

Raymond stated that the 1TB storage device that is currently being used for backups is no longer large enough for all backups to run. He has recommended replacing the device with an Overland REO 1500 4TB. The 4TB device will meet the backup needs for the City and County with room to grow. The total cost for the replacement of the device is \$6,229.48, to be paid for from SPLOST IV funds. This cost includes a (1) year support agreement.

After discussion and a recommendation from Raymond a motion was made by Favors to approve the purchase of the Overland REO 1500 4TB device, with a one (1) year support agreement, in the amount of \$6,229.48 to be paid for from SPLOST IV funds, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

4. Consideration of Aerial Photography Proposal

Chairman Newton asked Linda Thurmond, Chief Tax Appraiser, to address this matter.

Linda presented a quote and information from Pictometry International Corporation. Pictometry is three-way and five-way imagery, which will allow updating of now antiquated aerial photography on the County's GIS system. The total cost is \$27,044.00; this includes the flight at two resolutions, 12" GSD for the county and 4" GSD for Dearing and Thomson, as well as viewing software with unlimited seats, which allows data to be shared by all county offices at no additional charge. The software allows the overlay of the GIS data layers that are already developed over the imagery. The cost also includes the integration with the current system as well as integration with Qpublic, which will allow the general public to have access to the updated imagery.

After discussion and a recommendation from Linda a motion was made by Jopling to approve the contract with Pictometry International Corporation in the amount of \$27,044.00 to be paid for out of SPLOST IV Economic Development, seconded by McCorkle and passed unanimously.

5. Status Update and Need for Wetlands Credits Purchased- for I-20 Interchange Project

As part of the new interchange at Three Points Road there are wetlands credits that need to be purchased, which are the responsibility of the County per the agreement for the interchange. Chairman Newton has spoken with Bill Kuhlke, Chairman of the DOT Board, and has asked about the possibility of DOT purchasing the wetlands credits for the County due to the right-of-way issues and unanticipated costs that have come up with the project. At this time it is not known whether DOT will purchase the credits. The cost of the credits is \$156,000.00

Chairman Newton has made the recommendation to approve the purchase of the wetlands credits in the event that DOT does not purchase them for the County. McCorkle asked for an update concerning the \$413,000 that was sent to DOT for the project. County Manager Norton stated that as of the last update he received, there was approximately \$116,000 that was to be returned to the County. McCorkle has concerns with the relatively small amount that will be returned to the County out of the original \$413,000.00.

After a recommendation from Chairman Newton and discussion a motion was made by Jopling to approve the purchase of wetlands credits for the I-20 Three Points Road Interchange project not to exceed \$156,000.00 to be paid for from SPLOST V funds, seconded by Wilson and passed three to one, with McCorkle voting no.

6. Approval of Water/Sewer Commission Recommendations

- New Fire Line at Thomson Manor Nursing Home

At the request of the State Fire Marshal, the Water/Sewer Commission has made the recommendation to replace two (2) defective fire hydrants in and around Thomson Manor Nursing Home. Construction will involve correcting a water main problem behind the nursing home, including a new section of main that will run between the nursing home laundry room and Dr. Lemley's office at a cost not to exceed \$20,000 to be paid for out of the Special Account.

Commissioner McCorkle has concerns about the Special Account and how it was formed and asked for clarification. Chairman Newton explained that \$754,100 was taken out of Water/Sewer SPLOST for the purchase of property intended for use as a land application spray field behind Advanced Auto. After the process was started of putting in the land application spray field it was found that the property had a high water table and was not suitable for a land application spray system. The property was purchased from the County by the Development Authority and the money that was received from the Development Authority was placed in the Special Account to be used for SPLOST eligible water and sewer projects. Technically, it could not be put back into SPLOST without having an audit finding, which is why the Special Account was formed. The Special Account is used to pay for Water/Sewer SPLOST eligible projects.

After a lengthy discussion a motion was made by McCorkle to replace two (2) defective hydrants and correct the water main problems, not to exceed \$20,000.00 to be paid for out of

the Special Account, seconded by Jopling and passed three to one with Commissioner Favors voting no.

- New Metering Equipment at White Columns

The Water/Sewer Commission has made the recommendation to replace the metering equipment at White Columns at a cost not to exceed \$24,000 to be paid for out of the Special Account. Commissioner McCorkle feels that this cost should come out of a renewal and extension operations type account and not the Special Account which is intended for water/sewer capital projects.

A motion was made by Jopling to approve the recommendation of the Water/Sewer Commission to replace the metering equipment at White Columns, not to exceed \$24,000, to be paid for out of the Special account, with the stipulation that in the future, clarification as to operating vs. capital expenditure is handled at the Water/Sewer Commission meetings, seconded by Wilson and passed three to two with Commissioner McCorkle and Commissioner Favors Voting No.

7. Monthly Budget Report – December 2010

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

Don reported that as of December 31, 2010, with 100% of the year lapsed, the County had collected \$15,019,806.55 or 120.3% of the projected YTD revenue for the General Fund. With 100% of the year lapsed, the YTD General Fund Expenditures were \$12,066,020.27 or 96.8%. The "excess" revenue was due to earlier than planned collection of property taxes.

8. Monthly Financial Report – December 2010

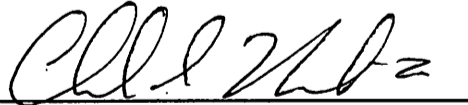
Vice Chairman Wilson asked Pam Workman, Finance Director, to address this matter.

Pam Workman, reported on all bank accounts showing a grand total of \$16,760,434 as of December 31, 2010; Hotel/Motel revenue reflects a YTD \$174,859 or a total of -0.84% less than on the same date in 2009; Local Option Sales Tax Collections are YTD \$2,511,819 or a total of 6.69% increase from the same date in 2009; SPLOST IV Revenue/Expenditures report a cumulative revenue total of \$17,818,007 with a balance of \$92,192 plus \$489,997.00 interest earnings; SPLOST V revenues reflect \$6,565,895 as of December 31, 2010; expenditures are \$2,082,921. Of the \$17,655,000.00 in Bond Construction Funds for the new Government Center Project, \$12,705,374.34 had been spent as of December 31, 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