

The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners held a regular Commission Meeting Wednesday, January 5, 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
Fred Guerrant, Planning Director
Bruce Tanner, Fire Chief
Valerie Burley, Probate Court
Don Clauson, Solid Waste Director
Sandra Whitaker, Tax Commissioner
Linda Thurmond, Tax Assessor

MEDIA:

WTHO
McDuffie Progress Newspaper
McDuffie Mirror Newspaper

OTHER:

Two (2) Others 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 Sammie Wilson 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 was made by Wilson, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

Minutes (Called Mtg. 12/16/2010)

A motion to approve the minutes of the 12/16/2010 Called Commission Meeting was made by McCorkle seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Presentation of Community Wildfire Protection Plan (GA Forestry Commission)

Mr. Will Fell, CWPP Specialist with the Georgia Forestry Commission presented the Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

The mission is to set clear priorities for the implementation of wildfire mitigation in McDuffie County. The plan includes prioritized recommendations for the appropriate types and methods of fuel reduction and structure ignitability reduction that will protect the community and its essential infrastructure. It also includes a plan for wildfire suppression. Specifically, the plan includes community centered actions that will:

- Educate citizens on wildfire, its risks and ways to protect lives and properties,
- Support fire rescue and suppression entities,
- Focus on collaborative decision making and citizen participation,
- Develop and implement effective mitigation strategies, and
- Develop and implement effective community ordinances and codes.

Chairman Newton thanked Mr. Fell and Mr. Sharpe for the presentation and suggested that the plan be posted on the County's website for citizens to have access to the information.

2. Status Update Re. Government Center Project

Financial Report:

As of the December 2010 pay application pay application from R.W. Allen, the Government Center is approximately 90% complete. There is approximately \$616,143.51 in owner held retainage and \$115,530.14 in owner approved change orders. Including pay application 12 \$11,706,726.64 of the construction has been completed and \$2,203,673.50 to be completed.

Result of First Cost Sharing Meeting:

The first meeting of the Cost Sharing Committee was held on December 2, 2010. The committee directed Staff to secure costs projections from utility suppliers. Once that information has been secured, a second meeting will be scheduled and conducted in the near future. The Committee resolved that cost sharing would be developed through an equitable distribution of costs between the two parties.

FF&E:

Elizabeth Sessions with Wakefield Beasley reported that there were six bids received and opened on December 22, 2010. After being reviewed the low single vendor bid is from Office Creations in the amount of \$509,332.96. Jud made the recommendation to allow Office Creations to be the sole vendor instead of splitting the bid among several different vendors.

Landscape Bid:

R.W. Allen is awarding the bid for landscape installation and maintenance to Whitestone Utility Services in the amount of \$124,350. R.W. Allen has requested a deductive alternate to remove seeding and sod from the contract. Chairman Newton stated that there would be an \$8,500 credit given if seeding is removed. He feels that laying sod is a better alternative to seeding and that there could possibly be a cost savings to the county/city. Commissioner McCorkle feels that the contract should be left as is. Chairman Newton and Jud will have additional information available at the next meeting.

Veterans Memorial Fountain:

R.W. Allen has secured three alternate proposals from a fountain sub contractor for the water feature at the Government Center. The cost to go with the plan most consistent with early drawings is approximately \$117,000 for a six foot cast stone fountain. Should the Board wish to stay with the reflecting pool the cost is approximately \$127,000. Jud has requested that the Board of Commissioners take action as to the concept, whether the water feature will be a fountain or reflecting pool. Commissioner McCorkle feel that the cost of the fountain is too high and has asked for additional options concerning the fountain.

After discussion a motion was made by Jopling to approve the fountain concept as opposed to the reflecting pool, seconded by Favors and passed unanimously. Commissioner Favors was absent for the actual vote.

3. Discuss Commissioner Sale/Rental of Property to County

Commissioner McCorkle has requested to have County Attorney Sammy Fowler investigate the process in which Commissioners are allowed to do business with the County for the purchase of parts. Commissioner McCorkle also suggested forming a finance committee consisting of two commissioners to review and approve all the bills for the county.

County Attorney Fowler presented a statute governing purchases dealing with entities in which a Commissioner is involved. The statute states that it is a crime for an elected official/ appointed officer/employee to do business with the county. It does not apply to the sale of personal property for less than \$800 per calendar quarter or sales of personal property made pursuant to sealed competitive bids by the elected official/ appointed officer/employee with the prior approval of the Board. Sammy feels that the Commissioners need to avoid even the appearance of a conflict of interest concerning all purchases, whether for small parts or sealed bids.

Commissioner McCorkle has further requested that Sammy look into the legality of Commissioner affiliations with companies currently doing business with the County, specifically McDuffie Feed & Seed.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS**1. ER & ACO Report – December 2010:**

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

Sandra stated that the report for December 2010 reflects an increase in the amount of \$6165.57 for changes to the Property Tax Digest. Property Tax increase is due to several 2010 values under appeal settled or dropped; cell tower audits resulting in increased values.

The Mobile Home Digest reflected an increase in the amount of \$243.98 due to the County. Mobile Home Tax increase is due to one mobile home owner, reporting a mobile home was still in the county after reporting in 2004 it had been moved.

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

2. Annual Appointments – County Attorney and County Clerk

A motion to appoint Sammy Fowler as County Attorney for 2011 was made by Jopling, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

A motion to appoint Penny Salley as County Clerk for 2011 was made by Wilson, seconded by McCorkle and passed unanimously.

3. Consideration of FF&E Bids for Government Center

A motion was made by Jopling to accept the low bid from Office Creations in the amount of \$509,332.96, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

4. Discussion of New By-pass Road Radar Speed Enforcement

County Manager Norton stated that Eric has spoken with DOT and they are currently working on this and will have the by-pass certified for radar in the next seven to ten days. There may be no action required by the board.

No action was taken or required at this time.

5. Discuss LMIG/Mesena Road Project Plans

The request for funding through 2011 LMIG has been awarded for 2.98 miles of asphalt leveling, overlay and striping on Mesena Road from the Warren County line to Wire Road. Eric made the recommendation, at the January 3, 2011 work session, that prior to construction the County should consider widening Mesena Road to a 24' section, repair two storm cross drains and allow for funding of asphalt paving of requested 4' widening.

Don clarified that there would be approximately \$250,000 coming from SPLOST V funds for the widening, patching and repair of two storm cross drains on Mesena Road.

While no vote was taken, the Board agreed that this proposed approach would be acceptable.

6. Alcoholic Beverage Application – Saicon Package, Washington Rd.

Chairman Newton asked Fred Guarrant, Director, Planning board to address this matter.

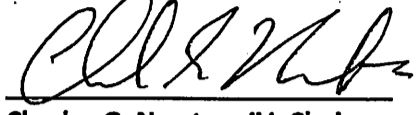
Fred confirmed that all requirements had been met for the sale of beer and wine at Saicon Package


A motion was made to approve the alcoholic beverage application by McCorkle, seconded by Jopling 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