

AGENDA

McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
April 2, 2008, 10:00 AM, Superior Court Room, McDuffie County Courthouse

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

Vice Chairman Wilson

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Reverend Herman Gilmore, Pastor, Temple of Prayer Ministries, Thomson

APPROVALS

Agenda (Current)

Minutes (Regular Mtg. 3-18-08)

Minutes (Called Mtg. 3-25-08)

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. CIA Thomson Elementary Students (16) (Vice Chairman Wilson & Gail Newsome)**
- 2. Proposed Joint County, City of Thomson & Town of Dearing Meeting to Discuss SPLOST V Projects, Tuesday, April 15, 2008, 5:00 PM, Library Conference Room.**

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Fire Services – Dive Boat, Motor & Trailer (Bruce Tanner)**
- 2. Approval of 2009 Budget Policy (Don Norton)**
- 3. Approval of Pay for Performance Program for 2008 (Don Norton)**

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. ER's & ACO's (Error Releases & Assessor's Change Order Report) Real Estate & Mobile Home Taxes – March 2008 (Tax Commissioner Sandra Whitaker)**
- 2. "One Day" Alcoholic Bev. License Request; Blind Willie Blues Festival, 5/10/08(Don Powers)**
- 3. Appointments – DFACS (Vice Chairman Wilson)**
- 4. Youth Organizations (Schools) Participation @ Animal Shelter (Gail Newsome)**
- 5. Bid Award – 3 Vehicles; Planning Board, Tax Assessor, Road Dept. (Chris Pelly)**
- 6. Bid Award – Road Dept., Bush Cutter & Tractor (Chris Pelly)**
- 7. 2008 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Application (Bruce Tanner)**

ADJOURNMENT

The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners held a regular Commission Meeting, Wednesday morning, April 2, 2008, 10:00 AM, Superior Court Room, County Courthouse.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:
Sammie L. Wilson, Sr., Vice Chairman
Rev. Fred Favors, Commissioner
Darrell Wester, Commissioner
J. Robt. "Bob" Farr, Commissioner

ABSENT:
Charles G. Newton IV, Chairman

OTHERS:
Ms. Gwendolyn Nipple
Ms. Jennifer Gibson
10 Thomson Elementary Students
(CIA Students)

COUNTY REPRESENTATION:
Don Norton, County Manager
Annette Finley, County Clerk
Jimmy Whitaker, County Finance Director
Bruce Tanner, County Fire Chief
Chris Pelly, Director of Public Works
Steven Sewell, Fire Services/EMA
Sandra Whitaker, Tax Commissioner
Gail Newsome, Code Enforcement
Kelly Evans, Director, IT Department
Don Clauson, Director, Solid Waste

MEDIA REPRESENTATION
WTHO Radio Station
McDuffie Mirror Newspaper
McDuffie Progress Newspaper

CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME

Vice Chairman Wilson called the meeting to order noting that a quorum was present and welcomed everyone in attendance.

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Rev. Herman Gilmore, Pastor, Temple of Prayer Ministries, Thomson, offered the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance followed.

APPROVALS

Agenda (Current)

A motion to approve the current agenda was made by Wester; motion was seconded by Farr and passed unanimously.

Minutes (Regular Mtg. 3-18-08)

A motion to approve the minutes of the regular Commission Meeting held on 3-18-08 was made by Farr, seconded by Wester, and passed unanimously.

Minutes (Called Mtg. 3-25-08)

A motion to approve the minutes of the Called Commission Meeting held on March 25, 2008 was made by Farr, seconded by Wester and passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Ten (10) second grade students from the Thomson Elementary School known as the C.I.A. (Citizens in Action) came before the Board of Commissioners, for recognition of their support and contributions to the Animal Shelter. The group was escorted by the Manager of the Animal Shelter, Gail Newsome along with Ms. Gwendolyn Nipple and Ms. Jennifer Gibson from Thomson Elementary School

Ms. Newsome explained that as one of their projects, the students adopted the Animal Shelter. A total of 200 food and other items were donated by these students to the Animal Shelter. As a result of their efforts, they were given a Pet Safety Education class and allowed to play with the puppies.

As a result of their efforts, the Commissioners expressed gratitude for their endeavors and presented them with a Certificate of Appreciation plaque signed by all of the commissioners. Pictures of the students with the

Commissioners were made by the McDuffie Mirror and McDuffie Progress newspapers.

2. **Proposed Joint County, City of Thomson & Town of Dearing Meeting to Discuss SPLOST V Projects, Tuesday, April 15, 2008, 5:00 PM, Library Conference Room**

This meeting is being held for the purpose of discussing which projects will be listed in the SPLOST V referendum placed on the election ballot for the September 16, 2008 election.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Fire Services – Dive Boat, Motor & Trailer:** Vice Chairman Wilson asked the County Fire Chief Bruce Tanner to address this matter.

Bruce stated that the current boat itself is a 17' Boston Whaler acquired from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, 19 years old and is in fair to good condition. He emphasized the good quality of the boat and stated that it should not be replaced at time as the cost would be approximately \$20,350 to \$42,500 for a new boat, motor and trailer to fit their needs. As a result, he asked that \$9,000 be transferred from contingency to the McDuffie County Emergency Management Agency's 2008 budget for the purpose of purchasing an outboard motor along with the associated material and labor costs for installation.

After discussion, Vice Chairman Wilson recommended the transfer of \$9,000 from Contingency for the purchase and installation of a motor for the Rescue/Dive Boat and that the County Bid Process would be adhered to in that purchase. A motion to approve that recommendation was made by Wester, seconded by Favors and passed unanimously.

2. **Approval of 2009 Budget Policy:** Vice Chairman Wilson asked County Manager Don Norton to present this matter.

Don reported that this budget policy was very similar to the 2008 policy schedule except for the dates of the 2009 schedule/process. The goal/objectives are the same along with the budget structure. Plans are scheduled to have the 2009 budget in place by July 1, 2008.

After discussion, Vice Chairman Wilson recommended approval of the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Policy. A motion was made by Favors to approve this recommendation, seconded by Wester and passed unanimously.

3. **Performance-Based Bonus Salary Program:** Vice Chairman Wilson asked County Manager Don Norton to address this issue.

Don reported that the Performance-Based Bonus Salary Program had been circulated to all elected officials and all department heads with no response received, would cost the county approximately \$40,000 to \$50,00 per year, would provide an ongoing incentive for individual employees, and no employee would receive more than \$500 with most employees receiving different amounts based upon job performance as evaluated by the respective elected official and department heads.

Note was made by Don that this program is seen as having great motivation potential if implemented correctly. However, if implemented incorrectly, it could also create more problems than it attempted to solve. Don stated that

it is important to establish this program as soon as possible in order to maximize the positive outcome potential in 2008.

After discussion, a motion was made by Wester to postpone this matter until Chairman Newton would be in attendance; motion was seconded by Farr and passed unanimously. Note was made that Chairman Newton is expected to be present at the next schedule Commission Meeting on April 15, 2008.

NEW BUSINESS

1. ER's & ACO's (Error Releases & Assessor's Change Order Report) Real Estate & Mobile Home Taxes – March 2008: Vice Chairman Wilson asked Tax Commissioner Sandra Whitaker to present this report.

Sandra reported a decrease of \$5,308.16 in the amount of revenue due the County for the M&O of McDuffie County. The Property Tax decrease is due to several appeals filed on 2007 values being settled with some increasing and some decreasing; Personal Property Audit completed for several business that increased values for 2007 and some "closed" businesses remained on 2007 Digest in error.

The Mobile Home Digest decreased in the amount of \$889.16 due to the approval of homestead exemption for several owners; several mobile homes were de-titled and put on digest as real property; location of several mobile homes located in the county were not displaying a location permit.

A motion to approve and accept this report as presented was made by Wester, seconded by Farr, and passed unanimously.

2. "One Day" Alcoholic Bev. License Request; Blind Willie Blues Festival, 5/10/08:

Vice Chairman Wilson presented this request and asked County Clerk Annette Finley if all the requirements had been met and everything in order; to which she replied "yes" everything was in order and the \$100.00 fee had been paid.

A motion to approve this request was made by Wester, seconded by Farr and passed 3 to 1; Rev. Favors abstained because of religious reasons.

3. Appointments – DFACS: Vice Chairman Wilson announced a letter from the DFACS County Director, Mrs. Mary Beth Lukich, had been received notifying the Board the current position of Mrs. Tommie Ann Burnley, who is the Vice-Chair of DFACS, will expire on June 30, 2008. Mrs. Burnley has offered to continue her service to the DFACS board.

After discussion, a motion was made by Farr to re-appoint Mrs. Burnley to a 5-year term effective July 1, 2008 ending June 30, 2013; motion was seconded by Wester and passed unanimously.

4. Youth Organizations (Schools) Participation @ Animal Shelter:: Vice Chairman Wilson asked Ms. Gail Newsome, Manager of the Animal Shelter to address this matter.

Gail asked the Board to consider allowing students to participate at the shelter with care for the small, abandoned animals and to provide education to the students regarding pet safety and the responsibilities of owning a pet.

The County Attorney had been contacted in regard to the proposed program and he strongly suggested a “Release of Liability” be obtained. This “Release of Liability” is copied below and made a part of these minutes.

It was noted that this program would include students from the elementary, middle school and high school levels. After discussion, a motion was made by Wester to approve the request for this educational program at the Animal Shelter; motion was seconded by Farr and passed unanimously.

**5. Bid Award – 3 Vehicles; Planning Board, Tax Assessor, Road Department:
Vice**

Chairman Wilson asked Chris Pelly, Director of Public Works, to address this matter.

Chris stated that 3 bids had been received for the advertised 3 vehicles and a summary is shown below and made a part of these minutes.

After discussion, a motion was made by Wester to approve the low bid of Culpepper Ford; motion was seconded by Favors and passed unanimously.

6. **Bid Award – Road Dept., Bush Cutter & Tractor:** Vice Chairman Wilson asked Chris Pelly, Director of Public Works, to present this matter.

Chris reported that only two (2) bids had been received for this advertised item and they are copied below and made a part of these minutes:

After discussion, a motion was made by Wester to approve the purchase of the 6430 Standard Cab Tractor (including options as requested) and a 23' Alamo Mower from Greensouth Equipment, Inc., with a low bid of \$82,145.00 for both; motion was seconded by Farr and passed unanimously.

7. **2008 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Application:** Vice Chairman Wilson asked Bruce Tanner, County Fire Chief, to address this matter.

Bruce asked the Commissioners for authorization to proceed with submission of an application for a grant to the 2008 Assistance to Firefighters Grant program. If a grant is awarded, plans are to purchase:

New 3000 gallon tanker	\$185,000
Two Thermal Imaging Cameras	\$ 20,000

There is no commitment of funds at this time, however if a grant is approved, there will be a cash match of 5% of the approved amount. A decision to accept or reject grant funds will then need to be made.

After discussion, a motion was made by Wester to authorize the McDuffie County fire Chief to proceed with the submittal of an application for the 2008 Assistance to Firefighters Grant program; motion was seconded by Favors and passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, a motion to adjourn was made by Wester, seconded by Farr.

McDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Sammie L. Wilson, Sr., Vice Chairman

ATTEST:

Annette Finley, County Clerk