

The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Commission Meeting Tuesday evening, October 18, 2011, 6:30 PM, Meeting Room, Thomson-McDuffie County Government Center

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

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

COUNTY REPRESENTATION

Penny Salley, County Clerk
Pam Workman, Finance Director
Bruce Tanner, Fire Chief
Stephen Sewell, Asst. Fire Chief
Mike Carrington, Forward McDuffie

MEDIA

WTHO
McDuffie Mirror
McDuffie Progress

OTHER

Thirty (30) others signed in, there were approximately 130 people present.

PUBLIC INPUT

None

ZONING HEARING

Advance Primary (Kaolin)

Guerrant summarized for the Board an application which he received from Advance Primary Materials (APM) seeking Conditional Use Approval for the establishment of a kaolin mining operation on approximately 192+ acres located on the east and west side of Margarets Road to include properties numbered 52-41, 42, 53, 54 and referenced by APM as the "Cofer Mine". Guerrant explained it was APM's request to mine kaolin beginning with the area on the east side of Margarets Road approximately across from the former Bob Cofer residence. In addition the application included a request to construct a proposed "haul road" on the Wisham tract (52-34) for future use. The Wisham tract is not included by APM in this application, but may be applied for in the future. Mining would consist of the extraction of kaolin from five (5) acre pits which would then be trucked to APM's Dearing Plant by way of Margarets and Moose Club roads. Having completed extraction from a pit, mining would then proceed to an adjacent "new" pit with the previous "old" pit being reclaimed by back fill from the new pit. This procedure would continue to the west side of Margarets and continue in a counter clockwise direction until all of the kaolin is extracted from various parcels which is estimated to take approximately 15 years, then all pits would be landscaped. The mining and hauling of the raw material would take place from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., 68 trips per day, for seven (7) days per calendar quarter, with hauling being coordinated with the school system to avoid interference with school bus activities. Also, no mining or hauling activities will take place on weekends or holidays.

At this time Chairman Newton allotted 20 minutes for presentation and remarks from opponents of the application. Representing the majority of opponents were Brink Bradshaw, Rex Allen, Teddy Love, Joanne Harris, Peggy Lovejoy and Jessica Long. Cumulatively, their remarks centered on traffic safety and roadway maintenance related to the increase in truck traffic, mining's affect on neighboring water tables and water quality, wildlife and other environmental issues, loss of property value.

Chairman Newton allotted 20 minutes to Mark Davies (APM) for the presentation of a power point presentation in favor of the mining application. The presentation referenced the origin of APM as an American-Canadian corporation and included the financial growth of the company over the last several years, the anticipated growth in the future, the contribution the company will make to the community, and their efforts to minimize any off-site impacts of the mining operation. Mr. Davies presented a letter from APM which explained that APM was prepared to offer the following conditions in addition to the conditions made in the original Conditional Use Permit application:

- APM will pay to McDuffie County \$0.25 per crude ton hauled from the properties under the Conditional Use Permit up to a maximum annual payment on a calendar year basis of \$10,000 as a contribution to road maintenance for Margarets Road.
- For any neighbor of the proposed development within a ½ mile radius of the center of the pit who permanently loses their well water, APM will fund the full cost to hookup to the County water service to the affected neighbor(s).

- APM is prepared to accept a CUP review by the McDuffie County BOC one year after the commencement of mining to consider the effectiveness of the condition and to propose any additional conditions that can be determined are necessary.
- APM is prepared to reduce the area of the initial Georgia State mine permit from 30 acres to 10 acres.
- The haul route will be changed from the original application to head north on Margarets Road to White Oak Road (State Hwy 223) to the Thomson Bypass.

Mr. Davies also presented, in the same letter, supporting documents and correspondence from past meetings and discussions with McDuffie County regarding this particular kaolin mining project.

Others that spoke in favor of the kaolin mine were Ken McDonald, President of APM, Sean Kelley, Harold Eubank, Keith Howell and Roger Burton.

The Planning Commission recommended denial of the Conditional Use Permit.

Adjournment 7:25

COMMISSION MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner 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 Jopling and passed unanimously.

Minutes (Regular Mtg. 10/5/11)

A motion to approve the minutes of the regular Commission Meeting held 10/5/11 was made by Jopling, seconded by McCorkle and passed unanimously.

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. ACCG District Meeting October 26th, 10:00 AM, Augusta Marriott
2. Trash Amnesty Day, November 5th, 7:30 AM to 12:00 PM

UPCOMING APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

1. Fire Engine/Fire Station Issues

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

Bruce stated that Engine 6 is currently out of service due to needing engine repairs. H&H Fleet Services has offered two options to repair the engine.

- Option 1 - \$15,500 Transplant engine including parts and labor with two year warranty on engine and one year warranty on fuel system.
- Option 2 - \$5,500 Repair engine including parts and labor with ninety day warranty on labor.

Bruce recommended option two with funds coming from the recent insurance settlement that the County received from the accident at Station 4.

After discussion a motion was made by McCorkle to approve repairing the engine of Engine 6 at a cost of \$5,500 to be paid from the insurance settlement from the accident at Station 4, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

Bruce asked for further instruction regarding Engine 4, which was damaged during the accident at Station 4. Currently the truck is at Jimmy and Dena's Body Shop, the estimate for repairs is \$5,500. After researching the value of the truck on GovDeals.com it has been determined that the County could possibly receive \$8,000-\$9,000 for the truck.

After discussion a motion was made by McCorkle to declare Engine 4 surplus and place it on GovDeals.com as is, with no repairs being made, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

2. Budget Amendment for Fire Department Donations

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

Bruce stated that the Fire Department has recently received donation checks in the amount of \$139 to assist with the cost of the annual firefighter banquet. He made the recommendation to allow a budget amendment showing \$139 as revenue income in the Fire Rescue Revenue Account and increase the line item for General Supplies by \$139 in the Fire Rescue budget.

A motion was made by Jopling to approve the budget amendment of \$139 for the General Supplies line item in the Fire Rescue budget, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Planning Board Recommendations

Chairman Newton made the recommendation to approve the Conditional Use Permit for APM for a one year period.

After discussion and hearing public comment regarding the Conditional Use Permit for APM for kaolin mining on Margarets Road, a motion was made by Favors to uphold the decision of the Planning Board and deny the Conditional Use Permit and any provisional efforts, seconded by McCorkle. At this time McCorkle requested a roll call vote.

	<u>Deny</u>	<u>Approve</u>
Favors	✓	
McCorkle	✓	
Wilson	✓	
Jopling	✓	
Newton		✓

The motion passed with a four to one vote with Chairman Newton voting in favor of the conditional use permit.

2. Dedication of Roads in Northview Acres

Chairman Newton asked Fred Guerrant, Planning and Zoning Director, to address this matter.

Fred stated that he received an application from Karla Grimaud for the acceptance of Kelso Drive and Huntly Circle in Northview Acres subdivision. He stated that the roads were in acceptable condition to accept into the County road system.

A motion was made by McCorkle to transfer Kelso Drive and Huntly Circle, in Northview Acres, into the County road system, seconded by Favors and passed unanimously.

3. Approval to Realign Fred Reeves Road

Commissioner McCorkle addressed this matter in the absence of Rusty Allen, Public Works Director.

McCorkle stated that he spoke with Rusty regarding Fred Reeves Road. He stated that Theile Kaolin has requested the realignment of the road, they have agreed to be responsible for all of the work and expense associated with the realignment.

After discussion a motion was made by McCorkle to approve the realignment of Fred Reeves Rd. under the supervision of Rusty Allen, County Road Director, with the work to be completed by Theile Kaolin, in coordination with the land owner, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

4. Monthly Budget Report

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

Pam Workman reported that as of September 30, 2011, with 75% of the year lapsed, the County had collected \$6,771,566.74 or 45.4% of the projected YTD revenue for the General Fund. With 75% of the year lapsed, the YTD General Fund Expenditures were \$8,623,424.44 or 70.4%.

5. Monthly Financial Report

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

Pam reported on all bank accounts showing a grand total of \$8,232,541 as of September 30, 2011; Hotel/Motel revenue reflects a YTD \$135,048 or a total of 0.48% more than on the same date in 2010; Local Option Sales Tax Collections are YTD \$1,758,552 or a total of -10.22% decrease from the same date in 2010; SPLOST IV Revenue/Expenditures report a cumulative revenue total of \$17,818,007 with a balance of \$558,248 including the remaining interest earnings; SPLOST V revenues reflect \$9,189,658 as of September 30, 2011; expenditures are \$5,911,498. Of the \$17,655,000.00 in Bond Construction Funds for the new Government Center Project, \$17,200,684.56 had been spent.

ADJOURNMENT

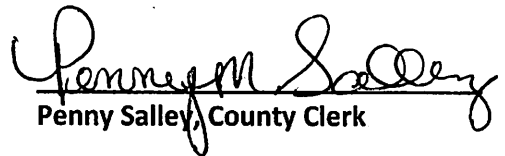
There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, a motion to adjourn was made by Wilson at 8:15, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

MCDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Charles G. Newton IV, Chairman

ATTEST:



Penny Salley, County Clerk