

The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Commission Meeting
 Wednesday Morning, September 7, 2011, 10:00 AM, Meeting Room,
 Thomson-McDuffie County Government Center

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Charles Newton, IV, Chairman
 Sammie Wilson, Sr., Vice Chairman
 Wm. "Bill" M. Jopling, Commissioner

COUNTY REPRESENTATION:

Don Norton, County Manager
 Penny Salley, County Clerk
 Pam Workman, Finance Director
 Bruce Tanner, Fire Chief
 Stephen Sewell, Asst. Fire Chief
 Bob Howard, Recreation Director
 Don Clauson, Solid Waste Director
 Rusty Allen, Public Works Director
 Sandra Whitaker, Tax Commissioner
 Deborah Garrison, Tax Assessor's Office

MEDIA:

WTHO
 McDuffie Progress
 McDuffie Mirror

OTHER:

No 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 with the following change was made by Wilson, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

Remove Item One-Old Business- Recommendation to Equalize Sewer Rates Countywide

Minutes (Regular Mtg. 8/16/11)

A motion to approve the minutes of the 8/16/2011 Regular Commission Meeting, with the following change was made by Jopling seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

INCORPORATED

Gross Incorporated M&O Millage	12.782	
(Less Sales Tax Rollback)	(4.282)	
Net Incorporated M&O Millage Rate	8.500	
Mandated State Millage Rate	.250	
School M&O Rate	<u>17.190</u>	
<u>Total Incorporated M&O Millage Rate</u>		25.940

INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS**1. Drug Abuse & Treatment Education Board Appointments**

The terms of the following members of the McDuffie DATE Fund Board have expired. The appointments for these slots will be for terms beginning 1/1/11 and ending 12/31/13.

Reappointments

Jim LeBrun, School Superintendent
 Brenda Bailey, Director, Serenity

Mary Beth Lukich, Director, DFACS
 Emanuel Bryson, Juvenile Justice

Appointments

Joe Nelson, Chief, TPD (to complete John Hathaway's term, which ends 12/31/11)

Peggy Elliott, Chief Probation Officer (replace Susan Echols, Acting CPO, term ends 12/31/12)

A motion was made by Jopling to reappoint the above members and to appoint the two new members, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

2. **Water-Sewer Commission Appointment (Mr. Gene Thomas)**
With no other nominations a motion was made by Wilson to reappoint Gene Thomas to the Water/Sewer Commission, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.
3. **Boys & Girls Club Annual Golf Tournament, September 12, 2011**

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. ER & ACO Report – June, July and August

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

June-

Sandra stated that the report for June 2011 reflects an increase in the amount of \$1,544.01 for changes to the Property Tax Digest. Property Tax increase is due to appeals settled for 2008-2010 with increase of value; a conservation breach for four years of penalties.

The Mobile Home Digest reflected an increase in the amount of \$34.01 due to the County. Mobile Home Tax increase is due to several mobile homes located in the county not displaying decals-put on the digest for up to seven years.

July-

Sandra stated that the report for July 2011 reflects no changes to the Property Tax Digest.

The Mobile Home Digest reflected an increase in the amount of \$150.37 due to the County. Mobile Home Tax increase is due to several mobile homes located in the county not displaying decals-put on the digest for up to seven years.

August-

Sandra stated that the report for August 2011 reflects an increase in the amount of \$927.35 for changes to the Property Tax Digest. Property Tax increase is due to revised personal property audits for one company resulting in higher values for three years; Probate Court granting of year's support, cell tower audits resulting in lower values; business deleted due to closing in 2009; conservation breach for three years.

The Mobile Home Digest reflected no change for August 2011.

A motion was made by Wilson to accept the reports for June, July and August, seconded by Jopling and passed unanimously.

2. Board of Assessors Appointment

Chairman Newton stated that Ruby Harbin's term on the Board of Assessors will expire on September 20, 2011 and presented a resolution to appoint a new member as her replacement. Robin Lancaster has been recommended by the Tax Assessors office to fill the vacant seat. Chairman Newton asked if there were any other nominations.

At this time Jopling requested to postpone this matter until the September 20, 2011 commission meeting.

3. Award of Pitts Street Park Paving Improvements Bid

Chairman Newton asked Bob Howard, Recreation Director, to address this matter.

Bob stated that there was a bid opening held on September 2 at which, one bid was received from Robertson Grading in the amount of \$45,166.50 for the paving project at Pitts Street Park. \$22,471.75 will be paid from Recreation SPLOST and \$22,694.75 will be paid from Road SPLOST

A motion was made by Wilson to accept the low bid from Robertson Grading not to exceed \$45,166.50 for the paving improvements at Pitts Street Park. The motion died for lack of a second.

Jopling has concerns due to the shortfall in SPLOST funds. Newton explained that there was \$250,000 allocated for the skate parks in Dearing and Pitts Street and only \$187,000 had been expended to date. (Original allocation was for \$300,000, but due to SPLOST shortfalls, allocation was being held at \$250,00 instead.)

A motion was made by Wilson to accept the low bid from Robertson Grading not to exceed \$45,166.50 for the paving improvements at Pitts Street Park, \$22,471.75 to be paid from Recreation SPLOST and \$22,694.75 to be paid from Road SPLOST, seconded by Jopling. Wilson requested a roll call vote at this time.

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Wilson	v	
Jopling		v
Newton	v	

The motion carried with a two to one vote with Commissioner Jopling voting no.

4. Discuss Fire Engine #2 Status

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

Bruce stated that problems with Engine 2 had been reported. After taking the engine to H&H Fleet Specialists it was determined that Engine 2 would need extensive repairs or a new engine. Bruce presented the following two options:

Option 1: Transplant engine including parts and labor with two year warranty on engine and one year warranty on fuel system at a cost of \$19,250.

Option 2: Rebuild the engine including parts and labor with ninety day warranty on labor at a cost of \$14,295.

After discussion a motion was made by Jopling to approve the transplant of the engine not to exceed \$19,250 to be paid from contingency, with the condition that Bruce is to get additional estimates before proceeding with H&H Fleet Specialists seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

5. Discuss Audit Service for 2011

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

Don made the recommendation to contract with the current audit firm, Baird & Company, for an additional year for audit services, at a cost not to exceed \$34,000, with probable cost credits for increased staff preparation of financial statements for audit purposes for the year ending December 31, 2011. He feels the benefits of consistency would outweigh the potential benefits of changing auditors, particularly considering the Government Center bond expenditure "close out" process.

After discussion a motion was made by Jopling to approve one additional year with Baird & Company for audit services, not to exceed \$34,000, seconded by Wilson and passed unanimously.

6. Proposed 911 Prepaid Wireless Service Fee Resolution

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

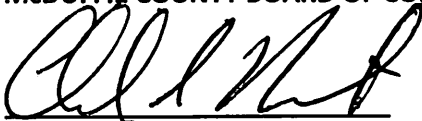
Don stated that a law had been passed this year which allows counties to impose a 0.75 per transaction 911 service fee on prepaid wireless service. He presented a proposed resolution that would allow McDuffie County to collect this 911 service fee. He stated that there would need to be a public hearing before the resolution was adopted.

With no objection from the Board the public hearing will be held on September 20, 2011 at 6:30 PM.

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