

**APPLING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2007
6:00 P.M.**

The Regular Meeting of the Appling County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Virgil Carter on Tuesday, August 7, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. Present were Commissioners Sarah Boatright, H. Mike Dyal, John Elbert Tillman, Ronnie Rentz, Theodore Wilkerson and Chairman Virgil Carter. Also present was County Manager Mike Phillips, County Attorney Bob Highsmith and County Clerk Chrissy Harris. Present from the news media was Joe Taylor of the TSA (Technology Student Association) videoing for ATC Cable Company, Jamie Gardner of the Baxley News Banner and Al Graham from WBYZ Radio Station.

Chairman Carter welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Commissioner Boatright led the pledge to the flag.

Commissioner Rentz gave the invocation.

Commissioner Boatright made a motion seconded by Commissioner Wilkerson to approve the minutes of the meeting held on July 17, 2007. Motion carried unanimously.

RECOGNITIONS

PLAQUE TO CINDY MORRIS

Chairman Carter presented Cindy Morris with a plaque recognizing her for thirty-two years of service with Appling County.

4-H CLUB BB TEAM PRESENTATION

Chairman Carter will cover this item under Chairman's Comments.

CHAD KENT/JASON SELLERS – RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS BUDGETS

Assistant Fire Chief Chad Kent reported to the Board that due to the overwhelming amount of fires last quarter and the assistance the rural fire departments offered to other counties, the Rural Fire Department's Budget is over budget. Mr. Kent requested more money in the Rural Fire Department's Budget for the operation of the last quarter of FY 2008.

The Board will take this matter into consideration and address it at the next Commissioner's Meeting.

JOHNNY AYCOCK – CONFEDERATE HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Mr. Aycock was not present for this presentation.

DISBURSEMENTS

There were no disbursements for approval at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

CONFEDERATE MONUMENT – SPECIFIC LOCATION – LAMAR DEEN

Lamar Deen addressed the Board on the behalf of the Appling County Grays Camp # 918 Sons of Confederate Veterans concerning issues and the specific location of the Confederate War Monument. This organization has been around for fifteen years and performs various types of community work such as historical grave marking and school presentations. Mr. Deen informed the Board that out of the one hundred and fifty nine counties in the state of Georgia there are eighty-seven Confederate War Monuments at the Courthouses or in the center of town in these counties. The most recent monument was erected in Nashville, GA. Mr. Deen stated that on the inscription of the rock that the Confederate Monument will sit upon will read, “Dedicated to those who sacrificed all to save honor.” Also listed will be the eight companies of Confederate Soldiers from Appling County who served in the Confederate War.

In the fall of 2005, Mr. Deen, County Manager Luther Smart, Building and Grounds Superintendent Troy Rushing and Appling Grays member James Miles met to verify the site of the Veteran’s War Monument. The Appling County Grays had originally asked for permission to put the monument where the fountain is but it was agreed upon that it would be put to the west of the fountain. During that time, the All Wars Monument came up and it was agreed that they could put their monument in location that was planned for the Veteran’s War Monument. The Veteran’s War Monument was then moved further west. After being moved, it was suggested by the architect for the courthouse that the Veteran’s War Monument be moved further west to prevent the obstruction of view of the traffic pulling out of the parking lot. Now the monument will be placed where a tree was originally planned to be planted. Mr. Deen added that the monument will be a half of a city block from the Courthouse and not on the Courthouse lawn.

The monument is bronze and is of a life size soldier and his wife mounted on top of a three-foot boulder. The sculptor of the monument is Tom Bruno of Louisiana.

Several fundraisers have been held to raise money for the erection of the Veteran’s War Monument.

Commissioner Wilkerson commended the Appling Grays on raising the money to commemorate the fallen Confederate soldiers but also wanted to point out the struggle and depression of the African American Community during the Confederate War era.

Mr. Wilkerson pointed out that upon reviewing the minutes to the previous meeting when the monument was approved, that there was not a second to the motion granting permission for the monument to be erected. He also added that there was no minority representation at the meeting and there was opposition to the motion on the floor was ignored. Mr. Wilkerson was not a member of the Board at the time the decision was made and did not agree with the decision of the previous Board.

Commissioner Wilkerson made a motion to rescind the 2002 Appling County Board of Commissioner's decision to allow the placement of the Veteran's War Monument. This motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Rentz made a motion seconded by Commissioner Tillman to grant the NAACP/black community permission to erect a statue of comparable value of their choice on the Courthouse grounds and then allow no other statue be placed on the Courthouse Grounds.

Commissioner Dyal thought it would be irresponsible to allow the placement of a statue that the Board knows nothing about and would be unfair to following boards and put them in the same situation the present Board is in. Commissioner Boatright agreed.

This motion was brought to a vote but failed with Commissioners Rentz and Tillman voting for the motion and Commissioners Dyal, Boatright and Wilkerson voting against this motion.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boatright and seconded by Commissioner Dyal to uphold the 2002 Board's decision to allow the Confederate Monument to be placed on the Courthouse lawn at the location designated for the monument. Chairman Carter added that the upkeep and maintenance of the monument be the responsibility of those who place it there. Motion carried with Commissioner Boatright, Dyal, Tillman, and Rentz voting for the motion and Commissioner Wilkerson opposing this motion.

FINAL APPROVAL OF 2008 BUDGET

A motion was made by Commissioner Boatright and seconded by Commissioner Tillman for the final approval of the 2008 Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

BID OPENING OF ELECTRICAL WORK ON EMA BUILDING

County Attorney Bob Highsmith opened the bids for the Electrical Work on the EMA Building and they were as follows:

<i>McInnis Electrical Company</i>	<i>\$ 17,811</i>
<i>Douglas Doyle Electric</i>	<i>\$ 8,000</i>
<i>B & B Builders Inc</i> <i>dba Rebco Inc</i>	<i>\$ 10,979</i>

A motion was made by Commissioner Dyal and seconded by Commissioner Boatright to accept the low bid of \$ 8,000 from Douglas Doyle Electric. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

LOCAL ASSISTANCE ROAD PROGRAM PRIORITY LIST

The Commissioners were provided with a handout with the following LARP Nominations and they were as follows:

<i>Buckhead Road</i>	<i>Miles Chapel Church Road</i>
<i>Pretty Ford Road</i>	<i>Nails Ferry Road</i>
<i>Red Oak Road</i>	<i>Ellis Road</i>
<i>Old Surrency Road</i>	<i>Dyal School Road</i>
<i>Thornton Road</i>	<i>Poor Robin Road</i>

Last year the board submitted ten roads for the LARP Nominations. The two roads chosen out of last year's nominations were Ten Mile and Old Blackshear Highway.

Chairman Carter asked the board to review this year's list and if there is a road they would like to change within their district to get with the County Manager.

ROADS/BUILDING AND GROUNDS

ROADS-TOMMY DAVIS

Mr. Davis had nothing to report at this time.

Commissioner Wilkerson asked Mr. Davis the status on the paving of Doc McTier Road.

Mr. Davis reported that the Road Department has completed the preparation work for the paving of Doc McTier Road and has turned the road over to the contractors for paving.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS-TROY RUSHING

Mr. Rushing had nothing to report at this time.

(the following has been inserted)

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

The Electrical Bid information for the EMA building was posted in the annex, mailed to the newspaper, and sent to five (5) local contractors who have shown past interest. Copies were available in Administration. Bids were due Monday, August 6, for opening at the Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting on Tuesday, August 7, 2007. Three bids have been received so far. Minor changes were made in the bid specifications for a 600 AMP panel; work to be completed as soon as possible after approval, so that the roof can be fixed immediately thereafter; and minimal downtime allowed for EMA operations (Federal requirements). There are some minor questions about the routing of the electrical lines and breakers; these can be easily worked out. The roof work has begun on a preliminary stage, so as not to compete with the electrical work.

The 2008 Budget is in process and is on schedule. The School Board Budget has been requested. Work preparation has been done on the Fire Department Budget and millage. Conversation with R. L. Stone are on-going for setting the millage at the August 21, Commissioner's Meeting. The County plans to maintain the current millage rate at 12.65, which is 0.08 mills higher than the rollback rate calls for. Public Hearings are scheduled to discuss maintaining that millage level. The Tax Commissioner has asked for, and received, an extension for the 2008 Budget filing, until September 1, 2007.

A forum of community leaders met with the County Manager on Wednesday, July 18, to discuss the placement of memorials and statues, current and future, and discuss thoughts, suggestions and ideas for consideration. One suggestion was placement of the Confederate Memorial in some public spot other than the Courthouse grounds. In the same vein of thought, the Board of Directors of the Heritage Center, earlier in the day, chose not to approve of a motion in favor of recommending placement of the Confederate Memorial on the Heritage Center grounds due to space limitations and other factors. The City Manager has previously noted that the new City Park, slated for the area around the water tower, is planned for green space, and that no memorial placements are planned for that area. No decisions or recommendations were made during the meeting with the County Manager, as this was primarily an information-gathering meeting for the County Manager.

The Appling County Grays/Sons of Confederate Veterans are ready for placement of the Confederate Memorial on the Courthouse grounds within a few weeks. They have the stone base and the two statue pieces have been cast and are in Appling County. A specific location for the Confederate Memorial, on the Courthouse grounds, needs to be identified and approved by the Commissioners, preferably at the August 7th meeting.

The County Manager will receive a written report (prior to the First Tuesday Commissioner's Meeting) from Building/Grounds and from Roads for the period from mid-month to mid-month, to highlight significant projects and issues of these two Departments. This will aid the County Manager in being aware of and knowledgeable about significant projects that are planned, ongoing, or completed. Consideration will be given to re-establishing a Department Head/Senior Staff Meeting at some point in

each month. Roads and Buildings and Grounds Departments will continue making direct reports to Commissioners at the Public Meetings. Efforts will be made to concentrate as much business for the Commissioners during the first Tuesday's Commissioner's Meeting, so that the second meeting of the month can function primarily as a workshop for planning and discussions.

There is on-going discussion with Dr. Webb of the School District and Jeff Baxley of the City of Baxley about the ownership of the old Elementary School property beside the Heritage Center; and whether or not the County would be interested in obtaining the property and being responsible for maintenance. At this time, it appears to be the property of Appling County, on a 99-year lease to the Board of Education. Some information will be shared for the August 21st Meeting. The County Manager is trying to obtain further documents to qualify the status and ownership of the two pieces of property (including the Old Middle School).

The County Manager is working with Mike Coleman, the Recreation Director, to cleanup and resite the Max Deen and the Earnest J. Parker Park for public use and availability. Some significant work has already started in the Max Deen Park with the help of inmate labor and other staff. The intent is to bring both parks up-to-par, for general use, as quickly as possible.

The County Manager is beginning discussions with Sullivan Environmental about the contract for waste management services and providing more detailed information about current customers, etc. to ensure that the County is billing the proper residents and users.

Upcoming Meetings:

The Tree Fest Board has a meeting at the Chamber on August 8th at 8:00 a.m.

Public Hearings by the County Commissioners on maintaining the current millage rate are scheduled for 10:00 am and 5:00 pm on Tuesday, August 14th. The Chairman has scheduled some agenda items for August 14th.

The next regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners Meeting is Tuesday, August 21, with Public Input at 5:30 pm, and the third and final Public Hearing in the series for discussion about maintaining the current millage rate.

The First Tuesday Commissioner's Meeting in September is scheduled for September 4th.

A FEMA evaluated EOC/Hatch Exercise is scheduled for Wednesday, August 22nd.

Tuesday, September 4th is Labor Day; County Offices will be closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Commissioner Dyal and seconded by Commissioner Boatright to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue. Motion carried unanimously.

After reconvening from Executive Session, there was no action taken.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairman Carter informed the board that a few weeks ago the 4-H Club BB Team became the National Champions and had recently become the International Champions. The 4-H Club BB Team needs a place to practice shooting. They have asked permission to look into using the area at the tractor pull behind the concession stand for practicing.

The Commissioners agreed to allow the 4-H Club BB Team to look at this area to determine if it will be a suitable place for practicing.

There being no further business, the meeting of the Appling County Board of Commissioners was adjourned.