

**APPLING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 21, 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 21, 2007 following a Public Hearing on Setting Millage for the FY 2008 Budget. Present were Commissioners Sarah Boatright, H. Mike Dyal, John Elbert Tillman, Ronnie Rentz, Theodore Wilkerson and Chairman Virgil Carter. Also present was County Manager Michael 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 Wilkerson gave the invocation.

Commissioner Boatright made a motion seconded by Commissioner Dyal to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting held on August 7, 2007, the Public Hearing held on August 14, 2007 at 10 a.m., and the Public Hearing Held on August 14, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

RECOGNITIONS

There were no Recognitions at this time.

DISBURSEMENTS

There were no Disbursements for approval at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

**ERNEST J. PARKER PARK COMMUNITY CENTER BID SPLOST PROJECT –
COMMISSIONER WILKERSON**

Commissioner Wilkerson reported that he had met with the Recreation Authority and they have come up with plans to erect the facility at the Ernest J. Parker Park funded by the 2005 SPLOST. Commissioner Wilkerson proposed that the Commissioners borrow money from General Fund to complete this project and pay back the General Fund as the 2005 SPLOST money comes in.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilkerson to borrow money from General Fund and bid out the 2005 SPLOST project at Ernest J. Parker Park and repay General Fund as the 2005 SPLOST money is collected. Commissioner Dyal seconded this motion to open this issue up for discussion.

The Commissioners expressed their concerns on the need to have plans and specifications on this project before bidding out this project.

Commissioner Wilkerson presented the Board with drawings and plans that he had on the project.

The question was also raised if the money could legally be borrowed from General Fund and be repaid by the 2005 SPLOST funds.

County Attorney Bob Highsmith agreed to check on the legality of borrowing from General Fund to pay for the Earnest J. Parker Park SPLOST project and pay it back as the money is collected.

The Commissioners agreed that they would like to allow the County Attorney to check on the legality of borrowing money from General Fund for the 2005 SPLOST project before making a decision.

The Commissioners also agreed that they would like to look at the drawings and plans on this project and discuss it further in a Work Session before making a decision.

Commissioner Wilkerson withdrew his motion to borrow money from the General Fund and bid out the 2005 SPLOST project for the Ernest J. Parker Park and repay General Fund as the 2005 SPLOST money is collected. Commissioner Dyal withdrew his second.

This item will be discussed further at the Work Session to be held next Tuesday night.

SET 2007 TAX MILLAGE RATE

Chairman Carter presented the following millage rates:

<i>County</i>	<i>12.95 mills</i>
<i>School</i>	<i>14.75 mills</i>
<i>Fire and Rescue</i>	<i>.47 mills</i>
<i>State</i>	<i>.25 mills</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>28.42 mills</i>

A motion was made by Commissioner Tillman and seconded by Commissioner Rentz to accept the 2007 millage rate as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

FIRE DEPARTMENTS REQUEST FOR \$18,000 BUDGET AMENDMENT

At the last Regular Meeting, Assistant Fire Chief Chad Kent came before the board requesting an additional \$18,000 for the Rural Fire Departments' Budget. Due to the overwhelming amount of fires last quarter and the assistance the Rural Fire Departments offered to other counties, the Rural Fire Department is over budget.

County Manager Michael Phillips informed the Board of the \$587,172 Insurance Premium Tax Rebate that was received that in the past has been used to offset the overage in expenditures for Fire and Rescue and Solid Waste.

Commissioner Dyal made a motion seconded by Commissioner Rentz to grant the Fire Departments' request for an additional \$18,000. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

BRIEFING ON OLD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROPERTY – COUNTY MANAGER

County Manager Mike Phillips reported that he had checked into the ownership of the Old Elementary School Property and the Old Junior High School Property.

Mr. Phillips reported that the Old Junior High School is the property of the Board of Education. In the past, there was discussion on the purchase of the Old Junior High School by the Board of Commissioners with the intent to lease it to the Progressive Club. No documentation has been found that verifies that those plans were followed through.

Mr. Phillips also reported that the Old Elementary School is the property of the Board of Commissioners and was leased to the Board of Education in 1990 on a 99-year contract. There is discussion that the Head Start Program and the Cedar Wood program may be moved from that location. If these two programs are moved it is expected that the Board of Education will request the termination of the remainder of the lease.

CITY OF SURRENCY REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE WITH FIRE DEPARTMENT CONSTRUCTION

A request has been made by the Mayor of the City of Surrency for the County's assistance with the construction of the Fire Department in Surrency. The approximate cost of the construction is \$ 40,000.

There was discussion about when the other Rural Fire Departments had an extension added to their Fire Department Building that the City of Surrency did not get an addition on their Fire Department. The board agreed to give consideration to assisting the City of Surrency for the same amount that was spent on the extension of the other Fire Departments.

EASEMENT FOR US #1 FOUR LANE EXPANSION NEAR AIRPORT

This item will be discussed at a Work Session scheduled for next Tuesday night.

SATILLA CREEK BRIDGE PARTICIPATION APPROVAL

This item will be discussed at a Work Session scheduled for next Tuesday night.

DCA JOINT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN APPROVAL

A motion was made by Commissioner Boatright and seconded by Commissioner Wilkerson to approve the Department of Community Affairs Comprehensive Plan. Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF LINC RADIOS

County Manager Michael Phillips reported that some of the Commissioners had expressed their concerns if it would be in the best interest of the County to utilize cell phones instead of LINC radios. Accounts payable Clerk Johnie Faye Waters has compiled some information on whether it would be feasible to use Alltel Wireless cell phones instead of LINC Radios.

Accounts Payable Clerk Johnie Faye Waters explained to the board that the county currently has twenty-two LINC radios and seven Alltel Wireless cell phones. The breakdown of LINC radios and Alltel cellular phones per department are as follows:

<i>LINC Radio</i>		<i>Alltel Wireless Cell</i>	
<i>EMA</i>	2	<i>Public Bldgs</i>	2
<i>Recreation</i>	4	<i>Admin.</i>	3
<i>DFACS</i>	1	<i>Landfill</i>	1
<i>Road Dept</i>	4	<i>E911</i>	2
<i>County Shop</i>	2	<i>Magistrate</i>	1
		<i>EMA</i>	2
		<i>Sheriff's Office</i>	2
		<i>Coroner</i>	2
		<i>County Extension</i>	1

Ms. Waters explained that up until March of 2007 only ten out of twenty two LINC Radios was under the government plan and the County was being charged various amounts. The average total bill was \$879.93 (for twenty LINC Radios). In March 2007 the other twelve LINC Radios were put under the government plan and if disconnected will cost \$200 per unit to break the contract. When the plans were renewed Southern LINC gave the County two LINC Radio phones at no cost to the County. Twenty-one LINC Radio have a cell phone on it for \$36.99 per month and one does not for \$30 per month and currently the total bill each month is \$786.00. The minutes for cell phone usage on the LINC phones is in a minute pool with a total of eight thousand minutes and currently the County is only using one fourth of the eight thousand minutes.

If the county switches over to Alltel cell phone, which will be a total of twenty-seven phones the approximate cost will be \$ 971 per month.

Commissioner Dyal suggested that the county use radios and landline phones.

Commissioner Boatright stated that she did not think it was fair for some of the County employees to have LINC Radios and others not have them.

County Manager Michael Phillips added that the County can maybe do away with some of the LINC Radios but it may not be much savings to the county. It will be necessary for some employees to keep their LINC Radio.

The County Manager agreed to look over the list of individuals who have the LINC Radios and determine which ones may not be necessary and get back with the Board.

ROADS/BUILDING AND GROUNDS

ROADS-TOMMY DAVIS

VERNON WILLIAMS ROAD EXTENSION (.3 MILE, STAGGER LEE)

Mr. Tommy Davis was not present at the meeting.

Commissioner Chairman Virgil Carter relayed that Road Superintendent Tommy Davis suggested that if the Board expected to pave the three tenths of a mile in question that it would probably be cost efficient to do it when the other paving on Vernon Williams Road is being done rather than waiting until later.

Commissioner Boatright was under the impression that the Board has not agreed to pave the road and that the board was waiting on a price.

Commissioner Dyal was also under the impression that the Board was waiting on a price of the cost of paving.

Commissioner Tillman expressed that the Road Superintendent could probably give the Commissioners an accurate guess on the cost of the paving by going by the current paving projects.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS-TROY RUSHING

Mr. Rushing reported that the floor in the Concerted Services kitchen is in need of repair due to a leak under the sink causing the floor to rot. Repair work on the Concerted Services kitchen floor will begin next week.

Mr. Rushing informed the Board that the Bedingfield Building is now empty and is being cleaned up. Mr. Rushing asked the board to give consideration on how much renovation needs to be done to the building.

Mr. Rushing has been receiving a lot of complaints on grass that needs cutting at the various county buildings. A grass-cutting schedule needs to be worked out with the prison work detail.

The board needs to consider plans for the decorating of the Courthouse and Courthouse Annex for Christmas. The decorations need to be ordered now.

The board agreed to allow the County Manager to come up with bid specifications on the decorating of the Courthouse and the Courthouse Annex Building.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

The County Manager had nothing to report at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no need for Executive Session at this time.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman announced that there will be a Work Session on Tuesday, August 28, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.

Commissioner Wilkerson requested that the issue of spraying and ditching on county right of ways be added to the agenda for the Work Session scheduled for next Tuesday.

The Chairman also asked the Board's opinion on allowing various community clubs to put up displays in the annex during the first two weeks of October. The Board agreed to allow various clubs to put up displays during the time period suggested.

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