

**APPLING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 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, October 16, 2007. Present were Commissioners Sarah Boatright, H. Mike Dyal, John Elbert Tillman, Ronnie Rentz, Theodore Wilkerson and Chairman Virgil Carter. Also present was 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 of WBYZ Radio Station. County Manager Michael Phillips was absent at this meeting.

Chairman Carter welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Bob Highsmith led the pledge to the flag.

Steve Rigdon gave the invocation.

Commissioner Boatright made a motion seconded by Commissioner Rentz to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 18, 2007. Motion carried unanimously.

RECOGNITIONS

There were no recognitions at this time.

DISBURSEMENTS

There were no Disbursements for approval at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

CHAD KENT – FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Chad Kent addressed the board concerning a need for a First Responder Certification Class. Twenty-eight people have signed up to take a First Responder Class. Mr. Kent has been in contact with Aaron Williamson who is a certified First Responder Instructor. The cost for the class will be \$65 per person. The total cost for the training classes will be \$1,820. Mr. Kent has the books from the last training course that can be used for the class. After completing the class the First Responders will need their bags with the needed equipment to respond to calls. The cost for the bags is \$100 per bag. The total cost for the bags will be \$2,800. The total cost for the training and the bags will be \$4,620.

The Commissioners agreed to discuss this issue further at the Work Session/Called Meeting next Tuesday night.

C & D LANDFILL FEES INCREASE

Chairman Carter reported that the Commissioners had received a handout in their packets concerning this issue. The Commissioners decided to discuss this issue further in a Work Session/Called Meeting next Tuesday night.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Commissioner Boatright and seconded by Commissioner Tillman to go into Executive Session to discuss land acquisition on the Live Stock Barn and Arena and the Old Junior High School. Motion carried unanimously.

The Commissioners reconvened from Executive Session to continue with the items on the Agenda. The Commissioners will go back into Executive Session after New Business to discuss a personnel issue.

LIVESTOCK BARN & ARENA STATUS – LEASE

A motion was made by Commissioner Rentz and seconded by Commissioner Boatright to lease the Livestock Barn and Arena to the Stockman's Association for twenty-five years with the Stockman's Association being responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the Livestock Barn and Arena. Motion carried unanimously.

The County Attorney has a lease for the Stockman's Association to look over and sign.

(Insert Lease)

OLD JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT – LEASE PURCHASE

Chairman Carter asked the Progressive Club and the Boys and Girls Club to appoint two members of their organizations to represent them while discussing what portions of the Old Junior High School is needed by their organizations. The Recreation Director was also asked to identify the portions needed for the Recreation Department. This item will be discussed further at the Work Session/Called Meeting scheduled for next Tuesday night.

SATILLA CREEK BRIDGE AGREEMENT APPROVAL

The Board was in agreement that they had already approved this issue at a previous meeting.

APPROVE BIDDING OF POOL BUILDING AND REPAIR

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilkerson and seconded by Commissioner Dyal to allow the repair work for the pool buildings to be bid out. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS**ORDINANCE-APPLING COUNTY CONDUCT CITY ELECTIONS**

A motion was made by Commissioner Boatright and seconded by Commissioner Dyal to approve the Ordinance to allow the Probate Judge to conduct elections for the City of Graham. Motion carried unanimously.

(Insert Ordinance)

DEERFIELD DRIVE PAVING, FUNDING REQUEST, CITY OF BAXLEY- 2001 SPLOST

A motion was made by Commissioner Tillman and seconded by Commissioner Rentz to approve the funding request made by the City of Baxley of the paving of Deerfield drive out of the 2001 SPLOST Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

LETTER OF SUPPORT TO RETAIN RDC OFFICE

A motion was made by Commissioner Dyal and seconded by Commissioner Tillman to approve the signing by the Commissioners of a letter addressed to Governor Sonny Perdue of support to retain the RDC office in Baxley, Georgia. Motion carried unanimously.

(Insert Letter)

HOTEL/MOTEL TAX AMENDMENT (a) (2.2)

A motion was made by Commissioner Dyal and seconded by Commissioner Tillman to approve the amendment of the Hotel/Motel Tax Ordinance recommended by the Department of Community Affairs to incorporate a code section. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Dyal questioned whether this could be done without holding Public Hearings because of a previous approval by the Board of the Process for Adopting Ordinances.

County Attorney Bob Highsmith explained that the board is only amending an existing Ordinance to incorporate a code section and not adopting a new Ordinance.

(Insert Ordinance)

TWO REAPPOINTMENTS TO SEVEN RIVERS RC & D

A motion was made by Commissioner Boatright and seconded by Commissioner Dyal to reappoint Karen Glynn and Karen Tharpe to the Seven River's RC & D Board. Motion carried unanimously.

ROADS/BUILDING AND GROUNDS

ROADS-TOMMY DAVIS

Road Superintendent Tommy Davis informed the Board that there would be a balance of \$ 43,531.25 of the DOT LARP money left over. The two roads listed on the DOT LARP list are Buckhead Road and Pretty Ford Road. The Commissioners can submit another road to the DOT LARP list within the cost range of the balance.

Commissioner Dyal made a motion seconded by Commissioner Rentz to submit Miles Chapel Road to the DOT LARP list. Motion carried with Commissioners Dyal, Rentz, Boatright, and Tillman voting for the motion. Commissioner Wilkerson voted against this motion.

Mr. Davis added that the Commissioners need to submit three more roads to the DOT LARP waiting list to replace Buckhead, Pretty Ford, and Miles Chapel roads.

Mr. Davis also reported that both motors have gone out on the CAT 330 B (40 ton) Excavator. A price in the amount of \$10,249.99 was given by CAT to replace these motors on site. This does not guarantee that this is all the work that is going to be needed on this equipment. The cost for the repairs is in the Road Department's Budget but since the amount of repairs is so high, the Board's approval is needed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilkerson and seconded by Commissioner Boatright to allow CAT to repair the motors on the CAT 330 B Excavator in the amount of \$10,249.99. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Davis reported that the welder at the County Shop is in need of repair and he has obtained four prices to repair the machine, the prices are as follows:

\$ 2,665	<i>Local bid</i>
\$ 2,795	<i>Internet bid</i>
\$ 2,860	<i>Internet bid</i>
\$ 2,975	<i>Local bid</i>

A motion was made by Commissioner Boatright and seconded by Commissioner Dyal to go with the local low bid of \$2,665 to repair the welder. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Davis reported that DOT has contacted Dykes Grassing to do additional deep patching and resurfacing of Red Oak Road. The County's part for this work will be \$ 39,512.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rentz and seconded by Commissioner Dyal to approve the deep patching and resurfacing by Dykes Grassing of Red Oak Road with the County's portion being \$39,512. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Davis informed the Board that Mill Pond Road off of Piney Grove Church Road is in need of repair. The road is a pond dam for the Mill Pond. The road is not a dead end road and it is used by the mail carrier.

The Commissioners asked Mr. Davis to find out the cost of the repair for this road and they would discuss this issue further at the Work Session scheduled for next Tuesday night.

Commissioner Boatright reported that she had talked with DOT Commissioner Harold Lennonkohl at the ACCG Conference in Atlanta about the funding for the paving of Hilton Baxley Road. Mr. Lennonkohl instructed Commissioner Boatright to set up an appointment with him at his office to discuss the funding for the paving of the Hilton Baxley Road. Commissioner Boatright, Chairman Carter and Road Superintendent Tommy Davis met with Mr. Lennonkohl concerning the funding for the paving of this road on October 15th in Atlanta. Mr. Lennonkohl agreed to fund the paving of Hilton Baxley Road one hundred percent. The funds for the paving will not come out of the money allocated for Appling County.

Commissioner Dyal and Commissioner Wilkerson expressed their disappointment of not being informed of the meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Boatright and seconded by Commissioner Tillman to approve the paving of Hilton Baxley Road at no cost to the County. Motion carried unanimously.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS-TROY RUSHING

Building and Grounds Superintendent Troy Rushing addressed the board concerning problems with the Doctor's Office Building owned by the County. There is a mold problem in the building. Air Management System can do an Air Quality Test in the building for \$300-\$400 to a study of the mold in the building.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rentz and seconded by Commissioner Dyal to approve Air Management System to conduct an Air Quality Test in the Doctor's Office Building. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Rushing also reported that painting and adding and removing doors and walls is being done at the old Commissioners Complex getting ready for the Agricultural Office to move into the building.

(the following has been inserted)

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

Due to my absence from the October 16th meeting, more detailed written information is being provided since I will not be available to respond to questions.

Don Webb noted that a fungus is growing in the Medical Office Building beside the Old Commissioners Building. They suspected dampness on the inside walls. There has been some sickness reported, possible due to the fungus spores in the air handling system. After review and location sampling, the spores seem to be coming from the vent system. The roof system seems in good shape and there is no evidence of water on the inside

walls. The dampness may be from condensation inside the building around the air conditioning units and vent pipes. Troy Rushing is checking for better filters and/or some way to kill the spores in the vent pipes. The air conditioning units are being repaired/replaced as need by the Building and Grounds.

Preparations and progress is being made on the renovations of the County Extension Agent Building (painting, wiring, etc.), shifting those offices in and renovating the Agricultural Building later for the two Ombudsmen and CASA. (Be reminded of the special request for office space by Right-from-the-Start Medicaid Supervisor Kelly Floyd.)

The County Manager is trying to locate and complete the drawings of the storm water drainage large ditch and canal system, and see what related needs there are (retention ponds, increased lake depth, additional canals, access roads, clearing of canal walls, and ditching of canals). The recent flooding was only minor when compared to what could have happened in a major storm or inland hurricane.

The County Manager and the Roads Director will be working on mapping paved roads in the county to establish and/or verify a series of paved linking roads to all parts of the County and to key parts of neighboring Counties.

The County Manager and Roads Director had recommended three individuals to be hired as employees for the Roads Department. Because of the delay in processing the three potential employees and getting approvals to hire, they have been hired by other businesses, all three. The Roads Department currently has 5 vacancies, and two employees on sick leave. The County Manger recommends that the Board of Commissioners motion to allow the county Manager and the Department Head and the Personnel Clerk to fill all positions within the Departments with the exception of the County Manager position, the Department Head position and the County Clerk position who will be hired and work solely at the discretion of the Board of Commissioners. This will not take away any control by the Board, but will allow the County to hire and fill line positions without delay, and without losing potential candidates to other job offers.

A number of complaints have come in earlier in the month about heavy mosquito infestations and the need for general spraying in some locations. Although, the Roads Department has a spraying truck left over from a previous West Nile Virus incident, there is no funding allocation in the budget for mosquito spraying, so it is not an option in the current year. There are apparently no known local resources for pellets that residents could spread in standing water, etc. to kill larvae. The fall season is starting and the mosquitoes seem to be abating, so complaints have dropped off.

The County will be working with the Heart of Georgia/Altamaha RDC in the 2010 Census process, anticipating that they will act as our liaison with the U. S. Census Bureau, and assist in identifying and updating addresses and coordinating reporting of those addresses by the various County agencies (Tax Assessor, E911, municipalities, etc.). There is no charge for their services. We are suggesting to the municipalities and cooperating agencies to attend training session and work with the HOGARDC in this effort.

Discussed with Jeff Baxley, City Manager of Baxley, how the change-out of trash containers works when properties are annexed into the City. He notes that they send a notice to Sullivan Environmental to drop off a City-owned trash container, and that Sullivan's picks up the old container at that address (it is one of Sullivan's containers) and holds it for redistribution. This being the case, we need to account for those picked up, by container number, to know what is "in" and what is "out" (which ones and how many). In the process, we have determined that many of the containers do not have a "number" on them. Also, working on the discussions with the City of Baxley, as properties are 50% plus annexed into the City, they should shift to City maintenance responsibility for roads, services, etc. Recent letter sent to Sullivan's to propose their taking over the billing for the residential customers, as a consideration in November contract renewal.

A letter has been sent to the Fire Departments asking that they provide, to the Board of Commissioners, financial information and information about services provided on a quarterly basis in the coming year. An effort is also being made for a meeting with the Fire Chiefs to discuss County payments and reimbursements for fire department expenses and major repairs, and to establish some guidelines for what expenses should be covered. Notice has been sent to the Fire Departments to ensure that their volunteers have been properly certified to avoid County liability during emergency responses.

A letter was sent to David DeLoach of GA DOT to request confirmation of work to be done on Zoar Highway Bridge in Jeff Davis County, and verify if that is the same bridge that has been previously discussed with DOT in Appling County. David DeLoach called October 9 and noted that info about the Appling side of this project is in the works and should be received soon.

Letter sent to Clinch County requesting a copy of their vendor contract for solid waste pickup, which we could study and consider in our discussions and negotiations with Sullivan's Environmental.

A request has been made to Jim Crowdis of DCA to determine whether or not the County would have to own the Old Junior High School property in order for the Boys and Girls Club to get approval for a CDBG grant, or whether we could obtain a long term lease on the property, and how long that lease would have to be. Jim has confirmed by email that a 20-year lease would be adequate.

Chamber and County Website. Note new additions to website. Other items are to be added in the near future.

ACCG-IRMA (Interlocal Risk Management Agency) has advised that we will receive a dividend of \$30,201 due to savings from the past year. It will be received as a premium credit against this year's premium due for 2007-2008. That is \$ 30,000 less (and available) out of the new budget that will not have to be spent for that purpose. Any plans for using those funds would require shifting them to another line item as justification to the auditors.

Eight tables were set up in the Annex for Community Groups to display on. Used one table for Treasures of Appling County, Food Bank, Lions Club, Pilot Club, the Heritage

Center, and the Appling Grays. Two extra tables had other information about the County, so that they would not be empty. As business visitors to the Annex passed through, they were taking time to stop and look. The table and displays will be taken down on or before Thursday, October 18th.

A letter has been prepared for the Board's consideration and change to recommend that the State retain the current Heart of Georgia/Altamaha RDC region (9), office and branch location in Baxley.

Upcoming Meetings:

The regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners meeting on Tuesday, October 2, 2007 was cancelled by the Commissioners at the September 18, 2007, meeting due to a conflict with another scheduled meeting.

The next regularly scheduled Board of Commissioners Meeting is the first Tuesday, November 6, 2007, with Public Input at 5:30 pm.

Chamber of Commerce Business after Hours is scheduled for Tuesday, October 23, 2007, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at the Park Avenue Bank.

Representative Tommy Smith has indicated that he is trying to set up a regional meeting of the counties, probably in Appling, to discuss issues and concerns about the Speaker's GREAT Plan. No date has been set, but November is an anticipated time. Rep. Smith wants to get local input before he decides how he will vote. Chairman Virgil Carter and Karen Glenn of the Chamber of Commerce are assisting Representative Smith with the meeting plans. Some information has been provided for your review and consideration.

For Your Information:

The Port of Savannah reports a 14.5 percent increase in the number of containers in 2007 compared with 2006. The port is the fourth-busiest container terminal in the country.

The GA DOT (Roy Herrington) reported at the Chamber of Commerce meeting on October 9th, that the contracts for US 341 are in place and it is expected to be finished in two years.

Range Fuel, Inc. in Soperton is building a \$225 million cellulosic ethanol plant, and will have the capacity to produce 100 million gallons annually.

What do each of these mean separately for Appling County? Or together?

Four lanes of US 341 completed

More traffic on US 341

More container traffic to the ports

Local farm Corn to Soperton, Sugar a new crop?

Timber and Farm BioMass waste to Soperton? Through or from Appling?

Local transportation businesses increase? New business possibility?

Acids and other chemicals in transport (hazmat?) to Soperton

Georgia (and Appling) a key location in bio-renewable resources?

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commissioners continued the Executive Session from earlier in the meeting to discuss a personnel issue.

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

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman announced that there will be a Called Meeting/Work Session on Tuesday, October 23, 2007.

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