

The Newton County Board of Commissioners regular board meeting was held on Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners meeting room on the 3rd floor in the Historic Courthouse. This meeting was open to the public and live streamed on the Newton County YouTube Channel.

**<https://www.youtube.com/NewtonCounty> Government**

Present: Chairman Banes, Commissioners Edwards, Mason, Sanders, Henderson and Cowan, County Manager Harold Cooper, County Attorney Patrick Jaugstetter and Deputy Clerk Susan Nolley. The media staff and other administrative personnel were also in attendance.

Chairman Banes called the meeting to order and read the thought for the day. Commissioner Edwards gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Henderson.

Adoption of the Agenda with changes to remove items 10 & 15a and addition of item I) to the consent agenda. **Motion:** Commissioner Edwards motioned to approve adoption of the agenda as amended, seconded by Commissioner Mason and was approved unanimously.

Citizens Comments - There were no citizen comments.  
Reports from Chairman Banes - None to report

### **Reports from County Manager Harold Cooper**

Acknowledgement and introduction of Michael Bodine, Information Systems Director, Newton County Government.

Power Point presentation - Washington Street Community Center  
Appropriation process/relevant history of appropriations use/financial reviews

The floor was opened to representatives of the Washington Street Community Center, Ms. Bea Jackson, Director, and Ms. LeKeyia Reid, Esq., Board President.

Ms. Jackson gave an update on the programs, services and activities that are currently offered at the center. Handouts with statistical data was provided to the board.

WSSCC is seeking board approval of the appropriation funds to which they applied.

Chairman Banes called for a motion to amend the agenda to add the request of WSSCC for discussion and consideration.

**Motion:** Commissioner Mason made a motion to amend the agenda to add the request, seconded by Commissioner Henderson and was passed unanimously.

Chairman Banes stated he would now use his privilege and called for a motion to approve the appropriation funding for WSSCC. This item will be placed on the agenda as item #10.

## **Board Discussion**

Commissioner Henderson - how much appropriation funding was due to WSCC. Brittany White, Finance Director - advised she didn't not have an exact amount, stating that she will give her best estimate. For FY 2023 they are owed for the months of April, May and June and the appropriation is roughly \$3,300 monthly, an approximate total of \$10,000.00. For FY 2024 they are owed for the months of July, August and September, an approximate of \$10,000.00 to total an approximate of \$20,000.00.

Patrick Jaugstetter - advised once the board authorizes release of the monthly allocations, Brittany will be authorized to issue the funds appropriately. And going forward she will be authorized to release their monthly allocations without further action.

## **9. CONSENT AGENDA**

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- a) Regular BOC Meeting Minutes - September 5, 2023
- b) NCSO approval to accept the FY22 SCAPP State Criminal Alien Assistance Program award in the amount of \$6,553.00
- c) Approval to renew contract with Pitney Bowes for use of postage machine. Cost: billed quarterly @ \$210.18/Funding Source: Rental of Equipment/Budgeted: Yes
- d) Newton County Senior Services approval to accept the FY 2024 Transportation Memorandum of Understanding Agreement with Northeast Georgia Commission. MOU Agreement is for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.
- e) Newton County Senior Services approval to partner with Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (NEGRC) and Care to accept grant funding of \$10,000.00. **Resolution #R091923** - A Resolution to partner with Northeast Georgia Regional Commission and Care Source and to accept the grant funding of \$10,000.00.
- f) Approval of **Resolution #091923a** - A Resolution to approve the FY 2024 Aging Services contract with Northeast Georgia Regional Commission. Contract period July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. (Newton County Senior Services)
- g) Approval of Amendment #2 for Sunbelt Builders, Inc. Construction Management/Design Build Contract for Various Projects- Senior Services Phase 2 (Project Number RFP 22-20). Increase amount: \$19,942.22 for all the additional work as described in amendment. Increasing overall agreement to \$1,270,722.99.
- h) Approval of Sunbelt Builders, Inc. Change Order #1 for construction at Stone Road Concessions. Time Sensitive: No/Cost: \$38,031.37 Funding Source: Impact Fees Fees/Budgeted: Yes/Match: No (Parks & Recreation Department)
- i) Approval of Memorandum of Understanding with Henry County for radio interoperability. (Covington-Newton County 911)
- j) Approval of TUSA Change Order #4. Reason for Change Order Request: Motorola Solutions is requesting a three-month extension. TUSA has included a retainer to support Newton County for the next year. Cost: \$54,460.00/Funding Source: 911 Budget/ Budgeted: Yes/Time Sensitive: Yes (Covington-Newton 911)
- k) Approval of a reimbursement agreement with Snapping Shoals EMC for utility relocation on Davis Ford Road. Cost: \$8,480.91. Impact Fee Funds (Public Works)

Newton County Board of  
Commissioners Regular Meeting  
Minutes  
Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at  
7:00 p.m. Historic Courthouse -  
1124 Clark Street Covington,

- I) Approval of Motorola Change Order #9 - Motorola reduced their contract by \$25,000.00 to help cover cost of TUSA. (Covington-Newton 911) **Motion:** Commissioner Edwards motioned to approve consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Mason and was passed unanimously.

## **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION**

### **10. Appropriation Funds for Washington Street Community Center**

Approval for WSCC to receive appropriation funds due for FY 2023 and FY 2024. Finance is authorized to release all allocated appropriation funding appropriately.

**Motion:** Commissioner Mason motioned to approve the appropriation funding for WSCC, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and was passed unanimously.

### **11. Proposed Annexation of Map & Parcels 0083-012, 0083-013/0083-014 located at 10593 & 10701 Highway 36.**

The City of Covington is requesting to annex approximately

2.45 acres total of land off Highway 36, north of Piper Road. The request compromises three properties.

**Motion:** Commissioner Cowan motioned to approve the proposed annexation request of the City of Covington to annex 2.45 acres of land off Highway 36, north Piper Road, seconded by Commissioner Cowan and was passed unanimously.

### **Proposed Annexation of Map & Parcels 0079- 009B located at Flat Rock Road.**

The City of Covington is requesting to annex approximately 15.28 acres of a 125 total acre tract off Flat Rock Road and south of Gregory Road.

**Motion:** Commissioner Cowan motioned to approve the proposed annexation request of the City of Covington to annex approximately 15.28 acres of 125 total acre tract off Flat Rock Road and south of Gregory Road, seconded Commissioner Henderson and was passed unanimously.

### **12. FY23 Year End Budget Amendments**

**#1** FY23 Budget New position - Probate Court Deputy Clerk IV

**Motion:** Commissioner Henderson motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Cowan and **#2** Establish budget for the DA's office Gun and Gang Violence position. Funding was split by Covington, Monroe, Walton and Newton (BOC approved 12/6.22).

**Motion:** Commissioner Edwards motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Cowan and was passed unanimously.

**#3** Correct over budget departments.

**Motion:** Commission Henderson motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and was passed unanimously.

**#4** Use of prior year fund balance for claims.

**Motion:** Commissioner Edwards motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Mason and was passed unanimously.

### **13. Approval of Deputy Clerk II position for Magistrate Court.**

Annual Salary and benefits will be \$64,767.71. As of September 5, 2023 the cost for the remainder of FY2024 is \$53,557.92. Court is requesting that the contingency fund be utilized to fund this position.

**Motion:** Commissioner Mason motioned to approve the Deputy Clerk II position for Magistrate Court as requested, seconded by Commissioner Edwards.

**Substitute motion:** Commissioner Henderson made a motion to approve two Deputy Clerk II positions, seconded by Commissioner Cowan.

Commissioner Cowan exits the boardroom 8:13 p.m.

**Board Discussion**

Wait to see the impact of the one  
position. Eviction increase  
Current workload  
How will 2 positions affect the budget/Can we afford two  
positions Are other departments in need of additional  
positions

Chairman Banes called for the vote. **Vote 2-2.**

Chairman Banes break tie vote to deny.

**Original motion now stands. Vote 3-1.** Commissioner Henderson opposed.

Commissioner Cowan enters the boardroom 8:16 p.m.

14. **McGriff Insurance Services Property & Casualty Insurance Policy Renewal  
2023/2024**

Renewal amount-\$1,201,209.00

**Motion:** Commissioner Edwards motioned to approve the McGriff Property &  
Casualty Insurance Policy Renewal 2023/2024, seconded by Commissioner Mason.

**Board Discussion**

Automobile liability coverage/claims

Retention amounts

Are we currently shopping for  
insurance? Amount paid for accidents

Insurance consultant

Mr. Cooper stated the proposals are out now and they conclude on September  
28<sup>th</sup>. There are about thirty-one potential applicants and no one has actually  
submitted their proposal. Chairman Banes called for the vote.

Motion failed. **Vote 2-3.** Commissioners Sanders, Henderson and Cowan opposed.

15. Newton County citizen Mr. Ralph Ivey requests the BOC to waive all penalties and  
interest on unpaid taxes for years 2020/2021/2022 and 2023. Interest/Penalties -  
\$1,904.97 This property is located in District 5.

**Motion:** Commissioner Cowan motioned to deny, seconded by Commissioner  
Henderson and was passed unanimously. Motion denied.

16. **NOVA Change Order #1**

Project (PI 0015096) CR 511/Brown Bridge Road @ Yellow River Bridge  
Replacement & Project (PI 0015097) CR 511/Brown Bridge Road @  
Snapping Shoals Creek

Bridge Replacement including realignment, construction materials  
testing. Change order amount: \$49,410.00.

**Motion:** Commissioner Mason motioned to approve NOVA Change Order #1  
amount of \$49,410.00, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and was  
passed unanimously.

**17. iParametrics Amendment #1 ARAP Consultant Contract**

Approval of iParametrics Amendment #1 contract amount of \$420,000.00 with total contract price not to exceed \$840,000.00. Funding Source: ARPA Funds

Patrick Jaugsetter read the request into record and Chairman Banes called for the vote. **Motion:** Commissioner Edwards motioned to approve, seconded by Commissioner Mason. **Board Discussion**

Will this be the final amount?

Patrick stated if the consultants are asked to administer additional programs, there will be an increase of 10% of the program cost.

Passed. Vote 3-2. Commissioners Sanders and Henderson opposed.

**5/16/2023 BOC approved this amendment and the original vote Passed - 3-1.**

Commissioner Henderson abstained, said his reason to abstain is a change in the allotment of ARPA funds.

**Citizens Comments**

Joseph Reed- inquired about the Small Business Grant Program

**Board Comments**

Commissioner Edwards - Expressed concerns regarding tax penalties to be forthcoming  
Commissioner Mason - GABCO Do's & Don't's 10/17/23/

Congressman Hank Johnson - USDA Healthy Food Financing 11/3/2023

Commissioner Sanders - Formal Dress Donation - 9/30/2023 Ladies Retreat 10/6/2023 Ladies Prom 10/7/2023 /Attended the Local Progress Conference -

St. Louis MO Commissioner Henderson - Voting/Early voting

**Executive Session 8:52 p.m.**

**Motion:** Commissioner Edwards motioned to enter into Executive Session to discuss land acquisition, seconded by Commissioner Mason and all agreed.

**9:44 p.m.** Chairman Banes called the regular meeting back to order.

Commissioner Henderson motioned to reconvene the regular meeting, seconded by Commissioner

Mason and was passed unanimously.

There was no further discussion.

Chairman Banes called for a motion to adjourn.

**Adjournment** Commissioner Mason made a motion to adjourn at **9:45 p.m.**, seconded by Commissioner Sanders and all agreed to adjourn.

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Marcello BanesChairman

Respectfully submitted:

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Susan G. Nolley Deputy Clerk