

**NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
April 1, 2008  
MINUTES**

**Present:** Chairman Aaron Varner, Commissioners Mort Ewing, Earnest Simmons, Ester Fleming, Jr., J.C. Henderson, and Monty Laster, Administrative Officer John Middleton, Attorney Jenny Carter, & County Clerk Jackie Smith

**Newspaper:** Covington News – Rachel Oswald  
Newton Citizen - Crystal Tatum  
Large group of citizens

Chairman Varner called the meeting to order, extended a welcome and read the thought for the day. Reverend Ronnie Brannen gave the invocation and Chairman Varner led the Pledge of Allegiance to our great Flag.

**APPROVAL OF BOC MINUTES DATED MARCH 18, 2008**

Motion: To approve the BOC Minutes dated March 18, 2008 as printed.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Ester Fleming, Jr., District Three

Motion Carried

**RIVER OF WORDS POETRY AND ART CONTEST AND NAME  
THE WATER DROP CONTEST WINNERS RECOGNIZED**

Laurie Riley appeared before the board to present the winners of the River of Words Poetry & Art Contest, and the winner of the Name the Water Drop contest. The winners were congratulated by the board and were presented with savings bonds, prizes, and certificates, along with having a group picture.

**JJ&G – GAITHER PLANTATION MASTER PLAN**

Charlotte Webber and Andrea Greco from JJ&G appeared before the board and gave a power point presentation of the Gaither Plantation Master Plan.

- Working to have Gaither Plantation listed on the national register of historic places.
- Submitted nomination to DNR
- Provided 2 booklets regarding Gaither Plantation Master Plan that is made part of these minutes.
- Presented power point presentation (copy attached and made part of these minutes)

Chairman Varner

- Told the board JJ&G's position is to present the plan to the board. The nuts & bolts will have to be worked out through the Friends of Gaithers committee and apply for grants.

- FOG needs to be a 501c3 and then form a board of directors.
- Board of Directors would be the ones who would actively seek funding
- This board would appoint the Board of Directors and form the by-laws.

#### Commissioner Ewing

- Gaither's is a work in progress
- Was a member of the Friends of Gaithers committee before ever being elected commissioner.
- Everyone has worked hard for the past ten years to get Gaither's to where it is today.
- Expressed appreciation to FOG Committee for working so hard to keep this dream alive.

#### Commissioner Fleming

- Need short term as well as long term plan
- FOG Committee has done a splendid job.
- There are counties throughout Georgia that would love to have a Gaither Plantation.

#### Commissioner Henderson

- Beautiful property for people to enjoy...like other places in the county i.e., Washington Street, Clark Street Park, etc.

#### Commissioner Laster

- Expressed appreciation to FOG's for all the work done over the years as well as the collaborative work effort with the Historical Society. Thank you.

#### Cheryl Delk

- The FOG request that the master plan be approved with the appendix and their comprehensive long-rang plans.

The board expressed thanks to JJ&G for their work and presentation.

### **SPECIAL PROJECTS UPDATE**

Special Projects Coordinator Cheryl Delk appeared before the board to give an update on some projects.

- Went over each project listed.
- Copy of presentation is attached and made part of these minutes.
- Noted that DARE is looking for office space and she attended a meeting with Commissioner Henderson, Sheriff Nichols and Steve Horton regarding space at the Laster Street Community Center. Looks like a good marriage.

#### Commissioner Henderson

- Expressed thanks to Ms. Delk for all her hard work.
- Works on lots of different projects for county.
- Would like to see more parks for children to have a safe place to play.

#### Commissioner Laster

- Thanked Ms. Delk for the work she does for us. Don't know how you keep up with all the different projects.
- Does an outstanding job and appreciates all she does.

## **TAX ASSESSORS SOFTWARE PROGRAM**

Chief Appraiser Tommy Knight appeared before the board to present this request and noted the following:

- Provided copy of agreements
- Reviewed with board a year ago about needing new software
- Provided current data to several companies allowing them to convert giving us an opportunity to see just how we could use program.
- Responsible for 14 different digest
- Recommended company has made two personal visits and four different conversions of our data.
- Recommends Government Systems, Inc. (GSI)
- Been in business for 38 years
- Company has great reputation. Good reports from other counties.
- Company is responsible for 32 different counties in Georgia.
- Discussed training
- Need to purchase server and it is already covered in Tax Assessor budget.
- Asking board to approve Support & License Agreement
- Commissioners questioned training cost. Answer: Built in training cost to allow him to come here and train one on one. Feels 80 hours is sufficient to train all of his employees.

### Commissioners

- Appreciated details Mr. Knight submitted to board to review.
- Questioned if company went out of business would we still be able to utilize software? Answer: Yes and contract was reviewed by county attorney's office (Attorney Scott Cole).
- Questioned if warranty of 90 days was standard in industry? Answer: Yes
- Voiced concern over what "reasonable is" actually means. Answer: This was brought up and discussed. Agreement first said 14 days, but a lot of the time when I call for a special report it might take 60 days. Reasonable time depends on what we are requesting.
- Both parties agreed upon reasonable time.
- Concerned voiced about 30 day cancellation clause with no refund? Answer: Standard in industry.

Motion: To approve the Software Support Agreement and The License Agreement with Government Systems, Inc. (GSI) for a not to exceed cost of \$36,524.00 and as outlined by Chief Appraiser Tommy Knight.

Proposed by: Commissioner Ester Fleming, Jr., District Three

Second by: Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four

Motion Carried

## **SCRAP METAL @ RECYCLING CENTERS & LANDFILL**

Administrative Officer John Middleton presented this request to the board and noted the following:

- Received 3 quotes for scrap metal collected at the recycling centers & the landfill.
- Current vendor is Oconee Metal Recovery & they provide all equipment, hauling & boxes.
- Bids were from Oconee Metal Recovery @ \$.06 per lb, Allied @ \$.04 per lb, & L.B. Recycling @ \$.06 per lb.
- Recommendation: Renew the contract for another year with Oconee Metal Recovery @ \$.06 per lb. They will continue to provide all equipment & hauling of boxes.
- Tarp will cover front to back

Commissioner Henderson

- Questioned if company was local? Answer: Yes

Motion: To award the Scrap Metal contract to Oconee Metal Recovery for \$.06 per pound with the contractor providing all equipment and hauling including the boxes. This contract will be for one year.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried with Commissioner Henderson abstaining from the vote.

## **BID #08-14 – REPLACEMENT OF TARP SYSTEMS ON LANDFILL ROLL-OFF TRUCKS**

Administrative Officer John Middleton presented this request to the board and noted the following:

- Replacement of tarp systems on landfill roll-off trucks
- Item was approved in FY08 budget process for \$27,848.00
- Received 3 bids
- Low bidder was Envirowaste Equipment, Inc., Mableton, GA
- Funding: Fund 540, Solid Waste Fund
- Passed out photo of truck with tarp system designed to minimize amount of refuse flying out of the trucks.

Commissioner Ewing

- Expressed thanks to Mr. Middleton for being so persistent on getting this done.
- Noted that each year we give awards for helping to Keep Newton County Beautiful and sometimes we have been our own worse enemies because of the tarps. Glad to see this handled.

Motion: To award Bid #08-14, Replacement of Tarp Systems on Landfill Roll-Off Trucks, to Envirowaste Equipment, Inc., located in Mableton, Georgia for a not to exceed cost of \$27,268.00 and outlined by Mr. Middleton.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Ester Fleming, Jr., District Three

Motion Carried

### **SIA AGREEMENT – WORKERS COMP**

Administrative Officer John Middleton addressed the board and noted the following:

- Company relocated their offices
- Difficult time in meeting our requests and needs.
- Contract is up for renewal
- Would like to give them a termination letter for non-performance of contract.

Board unanimously gave their approval to send letter of termination.

Motion: To approve a letter of termination being immediately sent to SIA Agreement regarding Workers Compensation.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

### **ALCOHOL LICENSE**

#### **Final Reading**

Elks Club Chevron - Mahamooda Lakhani (100% Owner)

10946 Hwy 278 East

Covington, GA 30014

District One

Motion: To approve the Alcohol License for Elks Club Chevron located at 10946 Hwy. 278 East, Covington, GA as requested.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

Motion Carried

### **COUNTY CHECKS**

Motion: To approve the checks as printed and read aloud by the chairman.

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Second by: Commissioner Ester Fleming, Jr., District Three

Motion Carried

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Time: 8:40 p.m.

Motion: To enter into Executive Session for the purpose of pending litigation.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

### **REGULAR SESSION**

Time: 8:50 p.m.

Motion: To enter into Regular Session.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

**ADJOURN**

Time: 8:51 p.m.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Proposed by: Commissioner Ester Fleming, Jr., District Three

Second by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jackie B. Smith, County Clerk