

**NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
August 7, 2007
MINUTES**

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

Newspaper: Covington News – Rachel Osborn
Newton Citizen
Small group of citizens

Chairman Varner called the meeting to order, extended a welcome and read the thought for the day. Reverend Ronnie Brannen from Prospect Methodist Church gave the invocation. Chairman Varner thanked Rev. Brannen for his eloquent prayer and also asked special remembrance for Newton County, some negative things happening right now with a tragic murder over the weekend. He asked that life long residents as well as newcomers pray for our county. He then led the Pledge of Allegiance to our great Flag.

APPROVAL OF BOC MINUTES DATED JULY 17, 2007

Motion: To approve the minutes with a correction on page 7. Should read Pine Grove Community. Duly noted and corrected by clerk.

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Second by Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Motion Carried

Erik Oliver, on behalf of Newton Trails, was on hand to invite the commissioners and citizens to a special event held at Old Church in Oxford on Thursday at 6:00 p.m. He noted there would be a trail walk to celebrate the new trail of 1-1/2 miles.

PRESENTATION BY ARC – ENVISION 6

Jane Hayes and Rita Hammond from the ARC were on hand to present a power point presentation that is attached and made part of these minutes.

The board had several questions and comments about Envision 6 and expressed their strong concern about road funding. They thanked Ms. Hayes for the presentation and no official action was taken.

BRIDGE REPAIRS ON ALCOVY ROAD BRIDGE AND DIAL MILL ROAD BRIDGE

County Engineer Kevin Walter appeared before the board to present request for approval. He noted the following:

- Repair of two bridges
- Routine repair that will extend the life of bridge

- Replace columns on Dial Mill Road bridge
- Alcovy Road Bridge will be closed for four (4) months
- Gum Creek Road will not be closed during repairs and should be completed within six weeks.

Commissioner Laster

- Questioned if repairs will be similar to that done on Edwards Road Bridge.
Ans. Yes

Commissioner Ewing

- Closing the bridge for four (4) months.... questioned if there would be an alternate route for people who travel the bridge daily.
Ans: Mr. Walters said it was necessary to close the bridge for these repairs and noted that people will have to detour about five (5) miles, but the route will be easily accessible. He said it would be dangerous to the workers and the drivers and it would increase the work time if kept open. Project signs will be posted well in advance along with detour signs.

Commissioner Simmons

- Questioned maintenance on bridges?
Ans: The D.O.T. reviews bridges every two-three years and sends a report to the county. We review their report, look at their recommendations, and comply.

Engineer Kevin Walter

- Commented that bridges were last reviewed in January/February of this year and county is waiting for report from GDOT.
- Noted that Tanner Construction Company is the lowest bidder at a cost of \$562,097.46 and recommended approval.

Motion: To approve Bid #07-010 and award contract to Tanner Construction Company for Bridge Repair on Alcovy Road over Cornish Creek and Dial Mill Road over Gum Creek for a not to exceed amount of \$562,097.46.

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Second by Commissioner Ester Fleming, Jr., District Three

Motion Carried

TO #8 FOR PBS&J – CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT FOR BRIDGE REPAIRS (ALCOVY ROAD BRIDGE & DIAL MILL ROAD BRIDGE)

County Engineer Kevin Walter appeared before the board to present request for approval. He noted the following:

- Assist daily in the daily construction inspection of the work
- Assist in verification of quantities during construction to assist in billing approval.
- Hold monthly meetings and preconstruction conference
- Task Order information is made part of these minutes

Motion: To approve Task Order #8 for our Transportation Consultant PBS&J for Construction Management Assistance for the Bridge Repair on Alcovy Road Bridge over Cornish Creek and the Dial Mill Road Bridge over Gum Creek for a not to exceed cost of \$56,657.00.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by Commissioner Ester Fleming, Jr., District Three

Motion Carried

TO #9 FOR PBS&J – CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT FOR RESURFACING OLD ATLANTA HIGHWAY FROM COVINGTON CITY LIMITS TO INTERSTATE 20

County Engineer Kevin Walter appeared before the board to present request for approval.

He noted the following:

- Specifications
- Bidding
- Contractor Selection
- Construction Management
- Resurfacing 1.5 miles on Old Atlanta Highway
- Will use Gilsonite due to heavy truck traffic @ Cook Road & Old Oxford Intersection
- Saved county a lot of money having them daily in the field.

Commissioner Simmons

- Asked what Gilsonite was?

Ans: Additive to make more durable asphalt or concrete

Chairman Varner

- Added that Gilsonite stabilizes the asphalt or concrete and doesn't cost that much more. It is used where there is heavy traffic, i.e. intersection.

Commissioner Fleming

- Noted in years past MAAI (Moreland, Altobelli) had done some work in Newton County. MAAI is Gwinnett County's transportation consultant and has done an excellent job for them. Understands there was an earlier problem in the first district, but that has been resolved and would like to see them do some more work for us again as they do a good job.

County Engineer Kevin Walter

- The Crowell Road & Brown Bridge Rd project was the last work Moreland did for us and that project was finished this summer. (2007)
- Will certainly consider them for work on future projects.

Motion: To approve Task Order #9 for our Transportation Consultant PBS&J for Construction Management Assistance for the Resurfacing of Old Atlanta Highway from Covington City Limits to I-20 for a not to exceed cost of \$34,584.00.

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

Second by Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

Motion Carried

EQUIPMENT FOR VOTER REGISTRATION

Administrative Officer John Middleton addressed the board regarding this request and noted the following:

- Upgrade of needed equipment
- Equipment is for automated vertical storage
- Federal Contact so there is a 42.3% discount on equipment from commercial pricing.
- Funding: General Fund, Voter Registration

Motion: To approve the purchase of Equipment from Kardex/Southern Business Systems, Inc. for a not to exceed purchase price of \$22,934.46.

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

Second by Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

Motion Carried

ALCOHOL LICENSE:

First Reading

McDonald Grocery Store

1820 Hwy. 11

Covington, Georgia 30014

Owner: Tommy McDonald (100%)

District One

BP Magnet

5343 Hwy. 20 South

Covington, Georgia 30016

Owner: Mehrunisa Hussain (100%)

District One

Southfork Chevron

10571 Flat Shoals Road

Covington, Georgia

Owner: Barkath Barde (100%)

District Five

COUNTY CHECKS:

Motion: To approve the county checks as read by the chairman.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

STREETLIGHTS:

French Manor Subdivision

District 5

Motion: To approve the streetlight request for French Manor Subdivision located in the fifth district.

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Second by Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

Motion Carried

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Time: 8:20 p.m.

Motion: To enter into Executive Session for the purpose of land acquisition.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four

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 J.C. Henderson, District Four

Motion Carried

LAND ACQUISITION

Motion: To approve the purchase of land presented by Attorney Scott Cole.

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

Second by Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Motion Carried

R080707 – CONDEMNATION OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2006 BAILEY CREEK DRIVE, COVINGTON, GA.

Motion: To approve R080707 to begin condemnation proceedings of property located at 2006 Bailey Creek Drive, Covington, Georgia.

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Second by Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

Motion Carried

Note: The original resolution is contained in file number R080707, incorporated herein by reference and expressly made a part of these minutes.

ADJOURN

Time: 8:55 p.m.

Motion: To Adjourn the meeting.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Jackie B. Smith
County Clerk