

**NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
February 6, 2007
MINUTES**

**Newton County Historic Courthouse
1124 Clark Street
Covington, Georgia
Chairman Aaron Varner, Presiding**

Present: Chairman Aaron Varner, Commissioners Mort Ewing, Ester Fleming, Jr., J.C. Henderson, and Monty Laster, Administrative Officer John Middleton, County Attorney Tommy Craig, Jenny Carter, James Griffin and County Clerk Jackie Smith
Note: Commissioner Earnest Simmons was absent due a medical problem.

Newspaper: Covington News – Rachel Osborn
Newton Citizen – Crystal Tatum
A few citizens

Chairman Varner called the meeting to order, extended a welcome and read the thought for the day. Commissioner J.C. Henderson gave the invocation and Chairman Varner led the Pledge of Allegiance to our great Flag.

APPROVAL OF BOC MINUTES DATED JANUARY 15, 2007

Motion: To approve the minutes dated January 15th with corrections.
Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five
Second by: Commissioner
Motion Carried

APPOINTMENT TO PLANNING COMMISSION – DISTRICT 2- DR. KENNETH EASTMAN

In the absence of Commissioner Simmons, Chairman Varner addressed the board with Commissioner Simmons recommendation for Dr. Kenneth Eastman's appointment to serve the second district on the Planning Commission.

Motion: To appoint Dr. Kenneth Eastman to represent the second district on the Newton County Planning Commission. His term will expire on December 31, 2008.
Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One
Second by: Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four
Motion Carried

RESOLUTION- ROW ENCROACHMENT – ELKS CLUB ROAD

Attorney Dan Greer addressed the board regarding this request.

- Mr. Singleton developed a subdivision on Elks Club Road and initially called in Rose Down.
- 2nd Phase of Sub – wanted to call Creekside

- Denied sign permit encroaching on ROW
- Resolution permits us to change name to Brookside & acquire a sign permit
- Resolution approved by the county attorney's office.

Commissioner Ewing

- Questioned if current signs would be removed and new signs put up?
- Present signs will say Brookside.
- Where sign is located on the ROW...if permitted on county ROW it could be removed should county need to improve road.
- Provided 2 photos of signs for minutes.

Attorney Dan Greer

- If it encroaches...it would be 6 or 7 inches

Commissioner Fleming

- Requested clarification on changing of the name

Attorney Dan Greer

- Resolves two issues: ROW encroachment and name of Creekside was denied so he named it Brookside.

Motion: To approve the resolution presented by Attorney Dan Greer and approved by our County Attorney's Office as it relates to the ROW Encroachment and name change of subdivision located on Elk's Club Road. Information listed on page one in packet.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion Carried

TAX COMMISSIONER – USAGE OF DEBIT -CREDIT CARD

The board tabled this item until next meeting to have a representative from the Tax Commissioners Office to make this presentation.

Motion: To table until the February 20, 2007 meeting.

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Second by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District Four

Motion Carried

CLEAN COMMUNITY CHALLENGE (CCC) – LITTER PREVENTION PROGRAM

Connie Waller, Director of KCNB and Anne Laster, Treasurer of KCNB came before the board to present the CCC Litter Prevention Program

- Governor Perdue is requesting that the local BOC appoint someone to serve on this board.
- Entire board expressed their support and asked that Connie Waller be appointed to serve.
- Ms. Waller shared upcoming events regarding the Great American Cleanup Activities (copy made part of minutes)

Motion: To appoint Connie Waller, Director of Keep Covington/Newton Beautiful to serve on the Clean Community Challenge (CCC) Board as requested.

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

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

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

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

- EMA has provided public dollars o us for HMP.
- Group specializes in this type project
- Expect to receive \$25,000 grant
- Broken down: \$18,750.00 Federal money & \$6,250.00 for InKind Service
- Request support of project.

Motion: To approve the Hazard Mitigation Plan as outlined by Mr. Middleton and included on pages 7-10 in Board Book. To award the contract to North Georgia Consulting Group for a not to exceed contract of \$25,000.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

SALE OF TIMBER ON GAITHER PLANTATION

PULP WOOD SALE:

RESOURCE IMPROVEMENTS-\$19,775.00

GAY WOOD COMPANY - \$17,348.00

Chairman Varner addressed the board and noted the following:

- Been in contact with Mack Barber
- Cost of timber is down
- Received two bids that we turned down earlier.
- Mack called and said Timber Sale is stable and he received two bids.
- Talked with Mr. Barber the other day and he said we were not getting bids as high as we expected because timber was of a lower grade.
- Mr. Barber looked at Timber at Factory Shoals and said he thought we would get a higher bid there because it is a higher grade of timber.
- His recommendation and mine is to award the contract to Resource Improvements for \$19,775.00.

Commissioner Henderson

- Questioned where the money would be applied?

Mr. Middleton

- 10% goes to Mack Barber Consultant
- Water Fund

Motion: To approve Mack Barbers recommendation and award the contract o Resource Improvements of \$19,775.00.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion Carried

SAW TIMBER SALE:

GEORGIA PACIFIC - \$60,848.00

- Mr. Barber thought this was an acceptable bid.

Motion: To approve Mack Barbers recommendation and accept the bid of \$60,848.00 from Georgia Pacific.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING W/NCW&SA -RE: EAST NEWTON SEWER SERVICE AREA

Administrative Officer John Middleton presented this to board for consideration. He noted the following:

- Worked with Scott Cole from County Attorney's Office in formulating this response back to NCW&SA.
- MOU states support of BOC to proceed with planning, permitting, and construction of the necessary sewer infrastructure to serve the East Newton Sewer Service Area.
- Mr. Middleton read the MOU and it is made a part of these minutes.

Commissioner Fleming

- Noted that this approval does not change in the service delivery areas of the North.
- Mr. Middleton confirmed it would not change.

Commissioner Ewing

- Confirmed the area we are talking about is the area that board designated as the East Newton Service Area. That is correct.

Motion: To approve the MOU with the Newton County Water & Sewerage Authority as explained by Mr. Middleton and relative to the East Newton Service Area. A copy of the MOU is made part of these minutes.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion Carried

DEMOLITION OF STRUCTURES-1151 HUNTER STREET

Chairman Varner addressed the demolition of the Hunter Street structures and noted the following:

- Fortunate this board approves money from SPLOST to purchase this property.
- Owner had now vacated premises
- Feel buildings need to be demolished.
- Concerned someone could set them on fire
- Requested that Mr. Middleton get bid on this.

Mr. Middleton

- Two proposals before you.
- Request Landfill Fees to be waived
- Recommend Sunbelt's alternate proposal.

Commissioner Fleming

- Suggested in the future to have a checklist so all would be adding or deleting the same.

Commissioner Ewing

- Appears that Sunbelt is more comprehensive than other bidder.

Motion: To award the demolition of structures @ 1151 Hunter Street to Sunbelt Builders for a not to exceed price of \$61,100.00.

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Second by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Motion Carried

APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR EMERGENCY REPAIRS TO EDWARDS ROAD BRIDGE OVER GUM CREEK

Chairman Varner told the board he had received a letter from GDOT requesting that bridge be closed until the repairs were done. County Engineer Kevin Walter received a bid from Bellamy Bros., Inc. This was a sole-source bid based on their unique ability to both perform this type of emergency repair work and their immediate availability to begin the project.

Motion: To approve a not to exceed cost of \$151,500.00 and award the contract to Bellamy Brothers, Inc. for the emergency repair work to Edwards Road Bridge over Gum Creek.

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

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

APPROVAL OF TASK ORDER #6 TO TRANSPORTATION CONSULTANT STREETSMARTS

County Engineer Kevin Walter addressed the board and noted the following:

- Task Order #6 for our Transportation Consultant Street smarts for Utility Location @ Dearing Street & Covington Bypass Intersection.
- Large diameter gas main & two large diameter sewer force mains that must be relocated prior to construction.
- Vacuum excavation of holes over these utilities to precisely locate them vertically.
- Cost: \$8,299.45

Commissioner Ewing

- Commented that utilities are mostly owned by City of Covington and wondered why they were not handling this.
- Mr. Walter said they know where the utilities lie laterally, but not vertically and this is critical.

Motion: To approve Task Order #6 to Transportation Consultant Streetsmarts for Utility Location @ Dearing Street & Covington Bypass Intersection for a not to exceed amount of \$8,299.45.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Ester Fleming, District Three

Motion Carried

APPROVAL OF TASK ORDER #6 FOR TRANSPORTATION CONSULTANT PBS&J

County Engineer Kevin Walter presented Task Order #6 to the board. He noted the following:

- Task Order # 6 for our Transportation Consultant PBS&J
- Construction Management Assistance for the Construction of the Relocation of the Intersection of Dearing Street & the Covington Bypass.
- Manage on a daily basis
- Will save a lot of money by doing this.
- Overseeing contractor on roads
- Verification of quantities during construction
- Inspection of the work.

Motion: To award Task Order #6 for Transportation Consultant to PBS&J for the Dearing Street && the Covington Bypass project for a not to exceed price of \$40,300.00.

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

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

Motion Carried

ALCOHOL LICENSE: NONE

COUNTY CHECKS:

Motion: To approve county checks as read by the chairman

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Second by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Motion Carried

STREETLIGHTS:

Lincoln Estates

Hwy. 81 South

District One

Motion: To approve the Streetlight request for Lincoln Estates located on Hwy. 81 South as requested.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

Swan Landing Subdivision

Off Christian Circle

District Two

Motion: In the absence of Commissioner Simmons, move to approve the Streetlight request for Swan Landing Subdivision located off of Christian Circle as requested.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion Carried

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mr. Dennis Horian

Concerned about teenagers

Has an Adopt A Horse Program

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Time: 7:55 p.m.

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

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

REGULAR SESSION

Time: 9:10 p.m.

Motion: To enter into Regular Session.

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

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

Motion Carried

ADJOURN

Time: 9:10 p.m.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Jackie B. Smith

County Clerk