

**NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
December 7, 2010
MINUTES**

Present: Chairman Kathy Morgan, Commissioner's Mort Ewing, Earnest Simmons, Nancy Schulz, J.C. Henderson, and Tim Fleming; Administrative Officer John Middleton, Attorney Andrea Gray, & Clerk Jackie Smith

Newspaper: Covington News-Gabe Khouli
Newton Citizen- Crystal Tatum
Large group of citizens

Chairman Morgan called the meeting to order, extended a welcome, and read the thought for the day. Pastor Ronnie Brannen of Prospect UMC gave the invocation and Chairman Morgan led the Pledge of Allegiance to our great flag.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE TO COMMISSIONER EARNEST SIMMONS

Chairman Morgan presented Commissioner Simmons with a plaque on behalf of the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia. This plaque represents the completion of required training for commissioners from The University of Georgia Carl Vinson Institute of Government.

She extended congratulations and recognized expressed appreciation for his work and dedication as a commissioner.

KEEP COVINGTON/NEWTON BEAUTIFUL – RIVER OF WORDS CONTEST WINNERS – LAURIE RILEY

Laurie Riley (KCNB) was on hand to present the winners of the River of Words Poetry and Art Contest. After presenting the winners with gift-certificates they had their picture taken with the Board of Commissioners and received certificates recognizing their work.

MOODY'S RATING UPDATE - JOHN MIDDLETON

Administrative Officer/CFO John Middleton gave the board a brief overview of Moody's Rating

- Previously provided board with copy of Moody's correspondence (11/19/2010)
- Conference all with Moody's (Mr. Middleton, Michelle Kelly, County Attorney's Office, Merchant Capital)
- Annual affair
- County is fortunate to have such a good rating.
- Moody's Investors Service Management Strategies of U.S. Local Governments In the Economic Downturn provided and attached

EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING AWARD - JOHN MIDDLETON

Administrative Officer/CFO John Middleton apprised the board of Newton County receiving an award for Excellence in Financial Reporting, noting we are one of 32 counties out of the 159 counties in Georgia to receive the award. He had high praise for the hard work by the employees of the Administrative Service Department.

PBS&J – GUM CREEK ROAD/ELLIS ROAD TO DIAL MILL ROAD

Chairman Morgan briefly went over correspondence she had received from PBS&J on the successful negotiation of additional mile of deep patching, paving, stripping, grassing, and shoulder grading on Gum Creek Road from Ellis Road to Dial Mill Road. She had requested that PBS&J provide a cost to get this done. Chairman Morgan expressed appreciation for PBS&J working to get this worked out. This extra mile will benefit the citizens greatly She asked, and received a consensus to move forward with project.

RINI CORAN, PC – SPECTRUM VALUATION

Administrative Officer/CFO John Middleton briefly went over correspondence received and made part of these minutes from RINI CORAN regarding Spectrum Valuation. (Educational Broadband Service (EFS) license held by the Newton County Board of Commissioners (Call Sign WLX867)

APPROVAL OF W/S MINUTES DATED NOVEMBER 10, 2010

APPROVAL OF W/S MINUTES DATED NOVEMBER 13, 2010

APPROVAL OF PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES DATED NOV. 16, 2010

APPROVAL OF BOC MEETING MINUTES DATED NOV. 16, 2010

APPROVAL OF W/S MINUTES DATED NOVEMBER 18, 2010

Motion by Commissioner Ewing, and seconded by Commissioner Fleming to approve the Work Session Minutes dated November 10, 2010, Work Session Minutes dated November 13, 2010, Public Hearing Minutes dated November 16, 2010, BOC Meeting Minutes dated November 16, 2010, and Work Session Minutes dated November 18, 2010 as printed.

Motion carried unanimously

LIBRARY TO EASTSIDE TRAIL – RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE MATCHING FUNDS FOR POSSIBLE TE FUNDING AWARD

Special Projects Coordinator Cheryl Delk was on hand to present this resolution to the board for approval.

- Power Point presentation
- Grant requires 20% match from county (\$100,000)
- Federally funded
- If approved county's total commitment is \$228,304 for project.
- When trail is completed it will connect four schools.
- Chairman Morgan noted project qualifies as a transportation project.
- Information is made part of these minutes
- Resolution made part of these minutes

Motion by Commissioner Simmons, and seconded by Commissioner Henderson to approve the resolution for application for Transportation Enhancement Funding Grant. This grant is for FY2011 Federal Funding through the Georgia Department of Transportation Newton Library to Eastside High School Trail with a \$100,000 match commitment for said grant if awarded.

Motion carried three to two with Commissioner Ewing and Fleming voting in opposition to the motion.

R120710 – A RESOLUTION TO PURSUE ABANDONMENT PROCEEDINGS FOR TOWNS LANE

Commissioner Ewing addressed the board regarding this request.

- Requesting abandonment proceedings to begin for Towns Lane
- Will advertise in paper
- Will conduct Public Hearing after advertised in paper
- Dead-end road
- One house on road
- No other land owners involved
- Serves no public purpose.
- Read aloud correspondence requesting abandonment.
- Information made part of these minutes
- Resolution R120710 made part of these minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Ewing, and seconded by Commissioner Simmons to approve Resolution R120710 – a resolution to pursue abandonment proceedings for Towns Lane as presented and listed on page 12-15 in board packet.

Motion carried unanimously

R120710A-JUVENILE-A RESOLUTION TO AGREE TO ENTER A WRITTEN CONTRACT WITH THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES DFACS NEWTON COUNTY FOR THE PROVISION OF GIRLS STEPS PROGRAM STARTING OCTOBER 1, 2010 AND ENDING SEPTEMBER 15, 2011

Administrative Officer/CFO John Middleton apprised the board required resolution for agreement with DHS (DFACS) for the Girls Steps Program.

- R120710a is attached and made part of these minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Schulz, and seconded by Commissioner Simmons to approve Resolution R120710 a– a resolution to agree to enter a written contract with the Georgia Department of Human Services /DFACS Newton County for the provision of Girls Steps Program starting on October 1, 2010 and ending on September 15, 2011 as listed on page 16 in board packet.

Motion carried unanimously

APPOINTMENT TO ELECTION BOARD/N.C. REPUBLICAN PARTY

Motion by Commissioner Ewing, and seconded by Commissioner Fleming to appoint Mr. Stanley Edwards, Sr. to serve on the Newton County Elections Board for a term of four years. Term will end on December 31, 2014.

Motion carried unanimously

APPOINTMENT FOR CHAIRMAN OF ELECTION BOARD

Motion by Commissioner Simmons, and seconded by Commissioner Fleming to appoint Mr. Hugh Steele to serve on the Newton County Elections Board for a term of four years. Term will end on December 31, 2014.

Motion carried unanimously

RECYCLE CENTER MANAGEMENT CONTRACT

Administrative Officer/CFO John Middleton briefly went over the renewal contract for management of the Recycle Centers in Newton County.

- Term: December 1, 2010 – November 30, 2011
- Contract for 11 Recycle Centers
- Hourly Rate: \$11.29 per contract
- Yearly Contract Amount: \$412,331.00

Motion by Commissioner Fleming, and seconded by Commissioner Henderson to approve the Recycle Center Management Contract with L.D. Hilliard, Jr. with a not to exceed hourly amount of \$11.29, and total yearly amount not to exceed 412,331.00. Contract to expire on November 30, 2011. Also, to authorize the chairman to execute letter of renewal agreement.

Motion carried unanimously

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING HANDICAP ACCESS PROJECT

Chairman Morgan apprised the board of this request.

- Contact for county: Jason Johnson, Facilities Manager
- Handicap Parking for County Administration Building
- Handicap Entrance (Push button entrance)
- Wheelchair Ramp
- Received four quotes
- Chairman read aloud information
- Low bid: SteelCo Buildings, Inc.: \$19,550.00
- Additional work expense: Public Works (resurfacing & striping)
- Funding: Contingency Fund

Motion by Commissioner Ewing, and seconded by Commissioner Fleming to approve the Administration Building Handicap Access Project with a not to exceed amount of \$35,328.00. SteeleCo Buildings, Inc. will provide Wheelchair Ramp and Pushbutton Access per Entrance for a not to exceed amount of \$19,550.00 and Newton County Public Works will provide parking lot resurfacing and restriping. The total project amount must not to exceed \$35,328.00.

Motion carried unanimously

ALCOHOL LICENSE

Chairman Morgan read aloud the alcohol request.

First Reading

Texaco Food Mart

3633B Salem Rd

Covington, GA 30016

Owner: 50% Rishi Bector

50% Sachin Malhotrr

District Two

BEER AND WINE RENEWALS 2011

Motion by Commissioner Simmons, and seconded by Commissioner Fleming to approve the 2011 Beer and Wine Renewals as listed on pages 19-23 in board book.

Motion carried unanimously

COUNTY CHECKS:

Motion by Commissioner Ewing, seconded by Commissioner Fleming to approve the county checks as read aloud by Chairman Morgan and printed in the board book.

Motion Carried

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Time: 8:40 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Ewing, seconded by Commissioner Fleming to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of land acquisition.

Motion carried unanimously

REGULAR SESSION

Time: 9:00 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Ewing, seconded by Commissioner Fleming to enter into Regular Session.

Motion carried unanimously

R120710c – RESOLUTION TO PURSUE AGREEMENT TO GRANT AN ACCESS EASEMENT AND INVESTIGATE A REAL PROPERTY EXCHANGE

- Copy of resolution is made part of these minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Ewing, seconded by Commissioner Henderson to approve Resolution 120710c – A Resolution to Pursue Agreement to Grant an Access Easement and Investigate a Real Property Exchange as outlined by Attorney Andrea Gray from the County Attorney’s Office.

Motion carried unanimously

With a motion to adjourn by Commissioner Fleming, and a second by Commissioner Henderson the meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie B. Smith, County Clerk

Kathryn G. Morgan, Chairman