

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
January 6, 2009
MINUTES

Present: Chairman Kathy Morgan, Commissioners Mort Ewing, Earnest Simmons, Nancy Schulz, J.C. Henderson, and Tim Fleming. Attorney's Tommy Craig, Jenny Carter & Acting Clerk Angie Shumate

Newspaper: Covington News-Rachel Oswald
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. Reverend Ronnie Brannen gave the invocation and Chairman Morgan led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF BOC MINUTES DATED DECEMBER 16, 2008

Motion: To approve the BOC Minutes dated December 16, 2008 with corrections suggested by Commissioner Ewing and Commissioner Simmons (corrections made)

Proposed: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second: Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four

Motion Carried

AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

Chairman Morgan made a request to amend the agenda to add the appointments of the County Attorney and the County clerk

Motion: To amend the agenda to add the appointment of the County Attorney and the County Clerk

Proposed: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second: Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four

Motion Carried

Motion: To amend the agenda to add the appointment of District Four Tax Assessor

Proposed: Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four

Second: Commissioner Earnest Simmons District Two

Motion Carried

DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

Tina Malone, Purchasing Coordinator, presented to the Board excess property throughout the county to be declared surplus in order to dispose of it properly. If the property is declared surplus it will be sold on the Internet through a website called Gov Deals which is similar to Ebay but is more specialized to handle government property.

Motion: To move to declare excess property as surplus property

Proposed: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second: Commissioner Nancy Schulz, District Three
Motion Carried

PEST CONTROL SERVICES

Tina Malone presented to the Board a pest control service bid put together by the Leadership Collaborative to come up with similar goods and services that multiple government agencies throughout the county could pull together to get a bid for better prices and savings for all the entities. The entities involved are The Newton County BOC, Newton County Schools systems, Newton County Water and Sewer Authority, City of Covington, and Social Circle City Schools. The lowest bidder was Cox's Mid Georgia Pest Control with a cost of \$11,340.00 to Newton County BOC per year. This is an 18% saving of previous cost and would be \$ 2460.00 in dollar savings. The recommendation is to use this company.

After further discussion among the commissioners regarding participation in the Leadership Collaborative, businesses inside and outside of the county who provide the same service, and who has or has not approved the agreement, the board chose to take more time to review options as it relates to pest control services for Newton County. Commissioner Ewing duly made the following motion:

Motion: To extend current contract with Cleary Pest Control for thirty days to give the Board the opportunity to review the options as it relates to pest control services for Newton County

Proposed: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second: Commissioner Nancy Schulz, District Three

Commissioner Schulz made further Discussion to question whether the new contract can still start on January 31st. Ms. Malone states it will start on February 1st.

Commissioner Henderson agreed with Commissioner Ewing about keeping County tax money in Newton County.

Commissioner Fleming further agreed with keeping taxes local however he stated that the bids from local companies were a great deal higher and question how it would affect Newton County with the City rejecting contract. Commissioner Fleming requested to see the additional information on the local bidders.

Motion Carried

NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION PROGRAM

Scott Sirotkin presented to the Board the Neighborhood Stabilization Program that is part of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act. If awarded, this program will provide the county a grant of 1.7 million dollars to be used in stabilization of neighborhoods that meet the requirements.

➤ Mr. Sirotkin provided a handout to the Board that is made part of these minutes

➤ Application due date Jan 15th

➤ Public hearing scheduled Jan 13th 6pm @ Turner Lake park

➤ Two resolutions:

➤ Move forward with application

➤ Pass resolution supporting City's submittal of application

Commissioner Simmons questioned if 6% was part of 1.7 million dollars and could be used for down payments.

➤ A portion can be used and 6% is part of 1.7 million dollars.

Commissioner Schulz questioned if property falls into default again, is the county responsible or does it fall back on the non-profit agency?

➤ It will fall back on the non profit

Commissioner Fleming questioned who would cover the costs of maintenance?

➤ Non profit agency would handle costs

Time: 8:07 p.m.

Motion: To go into executive session to discuss Neighborhood Stabilization Program

Proposed: Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four

Second: Commissioner Tim Fleming, District Five

Motion Carried

Time: 9:12 p.m.

Motion: To go back into Regular Session

Proposed: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second: Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION PROGRAM

The board is pleased to take part in this important program to help the citizens of Newton County.

Motion: To approve Resolution to authorize Newton County to apply for funding and participate in the Neighborhood Stabilization Program

Proposed: Commissioner Nancy Schulz, District Three

Second: Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

Motion Carried

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE CITY OF COVINGTON'S PARTICIPATION IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION PROGRAM

Motion: To approve a Resolution supporting the City of Covington's decision to apply for funding and participate in the Neighborhood Stabilization Program

Proposed: Commissioner Nancy Schulz, District Three

Second: Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

Motion Carried

APPOINTMENT OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY

Motion: To reappoint Tommy Craig as the County Attorney

Proposed: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second: Commissioner J.C Henderson, District Four

Commissioner Schulz expressed concerns that she was not prepared to make a decision because she has not received any information on the budget or the scope of work for the County Attorney's office. She states that as a new commissioner she would need that information to make an informed decision.

Motion Carried (Commissioner Schulz Abstained) Commissioner Simmons voted in opposition.

APPOINTMENT OF COUNTY CLERK

Motion: To reappoint Jackie Smith as County Clerk

Proposed: Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four

Second: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Motion Carried

APPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT FOUR TAX ASSESSOR

Motion: To reappoint Johnny Blackshear as Tax Assessor to District Four

Proposed: Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four

Second: Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

Motion Carried

ALCOHOL LICENSE FINAL READING

Mountain Express #198

1032 Dixie Road

Covington, GA 30014

Owner Barry Bierenbom (50%) & Gail Bierenbom (50%)

District One

Motion: To approve the Alcohol License

Proposed: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second: Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

Motion Carried

COUNTY CHECKS

Motion: To approve county checks as written and read by Chairman Morgan

Proposed: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second: Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

Motion Carried

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: To adjourn from Regular Session to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues.

Proposed: Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four

Second: Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

Motion Carried

9:40 pm Entered into Executive Session for personnel

Motion: To enter into Regular Session

Proposed: Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

Second: Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four

Motion Carried

Commissioner Henderson made a motion to consider a personnel issue and received a second but after further discussion, Commissioner Henderson withdrew his motion.

ADJOURN – 11:04 p.m.

Motion: To adjourn

Proposed: Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four

Second: Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Angie Shumate, Acting County Clerk
for Jackie Smith

Kathryn G. Morgan, Chairman