

**NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**July 7, 2009**  
**MINUTES**

**Present:** Chairman Kathy Morgan, Commissioners Mort Ewing, Earnest Simmons, Nancy Schulz, J.C. Henderson, and Tim Fleming. Attorney Tommy Craig, Administrative Officer John Middleton & Clerk Jackie Smith

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

Chairman Morgan called the meeting to order, extended a welcome to those in attendance and read the thought for the day. Commissioner Mort Ewing gave the invocation and Chairman Morgan led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION:**

**HWY. 278 NAME CHANGE PRESENTATION**

The Honorable Senator John Douglas and the Honorable Representative Doug Holt appeared before the board to make a presentation changing the name of a section of Highway 278 to honor the late Jack and Davis Morgan. Jack and Davis Morgan served as Chairmen of the Board of Commissioners and under their leadership many wonderful things were accomplished for Newton County. Both father and son were dedicated public servants, business men and farmers during their lives. They touched the lives and hearts of all who knew them. Members of the Morgan family were on hand for this great honor.

**WATER RESTRICTIONS**

Administrative Officer John Middleton provided the board with an update on Water Restrictions.

**LEADERSHIP COLLABORATIVE REPORT**

Third District Commissioner Nancy Schulz addressed the board and gave a brief recap of the Leadership Collaborative. Information is attached and made part of these minutes. Commissioner Schulz noted that she will be providing a report to the BOC monthly.

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE – PURCHASE OF 2 VEHICLES FROM DRUG SEIZURE FUNDS**

Administrative Officer John Middleton advised the board that the Sheriff's Office received funds from a drug seizure and would be utilizing some of these funds to purchase two vehicles. Information is attached and made part of these minutes.

**APPROVAL OF P/H MINUTES – JUNE 16, 2009**

Motion made by Commissioner Ewing, and seconded by Commissioner Fleming to approve the Public Hearing Minutes dated June 16, 2009 as printed.

Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF BOC MINUTES – JUNE 16, 2009**

Motion made by Commissioner Ewing, and seconded by Commissioner Fleming to approve the BOC Meeting Minutes dated June 16, 2009 as printed.

Motion carried unanimously.

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE: ACCEPTANCE OF THE EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG) - \$155,917.00**

- Information made part of these minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Simmons, and seconded by Commissioner Henderson to accept the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) in the amount of \$155,917.00 on behalf of the Newton County Sheriff's Office

Motion carried unanimously.

**NSP: SELECTION OF PARTNERS**

Chairman Morgan advised the board that the NSP Selection of Partners was moved to the July 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

**GA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION AMENDMENT TO EXTEND AGREEMENT TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2009**

Administrative Officer John Middleton appeared before the board to present this agreement.

- Standard housekeeping issue.
- Agreement is made part of these minutes.

Motion made by Commissioner Ewing, and seconded by Commissioner Fleming to approve the Amendment to the Georgia Soil & Water Conservation Commission, Number NC-480-09-17-2001 extending the Agreement to September 30, 2009 by written agreement of both parties.

Motion carried unanimously.

**GA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION FY 2010 – AGREEMENT FOR JULY 1, 2009 – JUNE 30, 2010**

Administrative Officer John Middleton appeared before the board to present this agreement.

- Standard housekeeping issue.
- Yearly Agreement
- Agreement is made part of these minutes.

Motion made by Commissioner Ewing, and seconded by Commissioner Fleming to approve the Agreement, Number NC-480-10-17-3001, with the Georgia Soil & Water Conservation Commission for FY 2010 - July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010.

Motion carried unanimously.

**NRCS – SOIL CONSERVATION TECHNICIAN – APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE**

Administrative Officer John Middleton appeared before the board to present this agreement.

- Standard housekeeping issue.
- Application made part of these minutes.

Motion made by Commissioner Simmons, and seconded by Commissioner Ewing to approve the Application for Federal Assistance for the NRCS – Soil Conservation Technician as outlined on pages 40-50 in board packet.

Motion carried unanimously.

**JUVENILE DEPARTMENT: GRANT APPLICATION – EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG)**

Juvenile Judge Sherry Roberts and Assistant Judge Liza Mantz appeared before the board to present their request for approval to submit an application for a JAG Grant. Judge Roberts also gave the board a brief update on the programs and grants their department have received and participate with.

- Information is made part of these minutes
- The board expressed appreciation for their hard work and dedication in helping troubled teens and their respective families with these programs.

Motion made by Commissioner Ewing, and seconded by Commissioner Fleming to approve the submittal of the application for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) on behalf of the Newton County Juvenile Department.

Motion carried unanimously.

**R070709 - ADVANCED BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE DEPLOYMENT/THE PIEDMONT PROJECT**

Joe Sheehan, CEO of Bulldog Cable, LLC and IT Director Tim McCart appeared before the board to present this project.

- Commissioner Fleming recused himself from the issue and left the boardroom as he is employed by Bulldog Cable.
- After discussion the board decided more time and information was needed to have the county attorney review the request. Afterwards a work session will be scheduled and the matter will be considered at the first BOC meeting in August.

Motion made by Commissioner Ewing, and seconded by Commissioner Henderson to table Resolution R070709 for the Advanced Broadband Infrastructure Deployment/the Piedmont Project until the Commission Meeting to be held on August 4, 2009.

Motion carried unanimously.

Note: Commissioner Fleming returned to the boardroom for the remainder of the meeting.

### **R070709A – CIE UPDATE ADOPTION**

- Required by DCA/housekeeping measure.
- Resolution is made part of these minutes.

Motion made by Commissioner Ewing, and a second by Commissioner Schulz to approve Resolution R070709a for the adoption of the CIE Update and provide a copy to the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission within seven days as required.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **DENNY DOBBS PARK**

Recreation Director Tommy Hailey, other commission members and Steve Kapp & Mike McCrory (Sunbelt Builders) appeared before the board to present this information.

- Within budget
- Have contingency dollars available and feels the contingency fund will just get better.
- Mr. Hailey went over the Options regarding the playground equipment.
- Noted Option 2 will save a lot of money for M&O
- Concept Approval: A copy of the concept is made part of these minutes.
- Requesting permission for Newton County Arborist Debbie Bell to work with Sunbelt regarding the landscaping of the project. Granted approval.

Motion by Commissioner Simmons, and a second by Commissioner Henderson to approve the concept presented by Mr. Hailey and Sunbelt Builders and move forward with the Denny Dobbs Park with a not to exceed amount of \$1,485,000.

Motion carried unanimously

Motion by Commissioner Simmons, and a second by Commissioner Henderson to approve Option #1 as presented and attached and made part of these minutes for a not to exceed amount of \$193,990.00, and with the understanding that Rubber Walk Pour-N-Place will be considered at a later date should money become available.

Motion carried unanimously

### **COUNTY CHECKS**

Motion made by Commissioner Ewing, and seconded by Commissioner Schulz to approve the county checks read aloud by Chairman Morgan and listed in board packet.

Motion carried unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Time: 9:03 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Ewing, and seconded by Commissioner Schulz to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing land acquisition and personnel.

Motion carried unanimously.

**REGULAR SESSION**

Time: 10:05 p.m.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

Having no further business, motion was made by Commissioner Ewing and seconded by Commissioner Simmons to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jackie B. Smith, County Clerk