

**NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
July 1, 2008  
MINUTES**

**Present:** Chairman Aaron Varner, Commissioners Mort Ewing, Earnest Simmons, Ester Fleming, Jr., J.C. Henderson, and Monty Laster, Administrative Officer John Middleton, Attorney James Griffin, & County Clerk Jackie Smith

**Newspaper:** Covington News – Rachel Oswald  
Newton Citizen - Crystal Tatum  
Small group of citizens

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

**APPROVAL OF P/H MINUTES – JUNE 17, 2008**

Motion: To approve the Public Hearing Minutes dated June 17, 2008 as printed.

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Second by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Motion Carried Unanimously

**APPROVAL OF BOC MINUTES – JUNE 17, 2008**

Motion: To approve the Commission Minutes dated June 17, 2008 as printed with technical error corrected as duly noted.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

**ACCG – INMATE MEDICAL SAVINGS PROGRAM**

Administrative Officer John Middleton addressed the board regarding this program noting the following:

- No premiums
- Only additional cost to county is administrative fee to ACCG @ 8-1/2 % per claim.
- No claims, no administrative fee
- ACCG will provide agreement in 30 days.

Commissioner Fleming

- Concerned about castrapohic inmate health insurance. Questioned if we need this now or in the future? This is basic need insurance? Yes.
- Feels county needs to look into castrapohic health insurance in the future.

Commissioner Ewing

- Agrees with Commissioner Fleming on castrapohic health insurance.

- Questioned if this program allows for local doctors and hospital to participate?  
Yes, if they are in the BCBS program.

Motion: To approve the ACCG-Inmate Medical Savings Program as outlined by Mr. Middleton and presented in board packet on pages 33-39.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

### **ACCG – WORKERS’ COMPENSATION**

Administrative Officer John Middleton addressed the board regarding the ACCG Workers’ Compensation Plan, noting the following:

- 169 members across State of Georgia providing Workers’ Comp coverage.
- Ms. Heisten met with ACCG and the effective date will be August 1, 2008.
- Visited with other counties (similar to our county) who utilize this program and they are very pleased with it.

Motion: To approve the ACCG Workers’ Compensation Insurance Plan as outlined by Mr. Middleton and listed on pages 40-48 in board packet.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried Unanimously

### **INMATE FOOD SERVICE AGREEMENT**

Administrative Officer John Middleton addressed the board regarding this request. He said that Michael Castellana was on hand to answer any questions and that information had been provided to substantiate this request. He noted the following:

- Request is due because of the increase in food costs.
- Requesting to increase to \$1.75.
- Current cost is \$1.70.

Motion: To approve the request from Michael Castellana (Frank’s Restaurant), Inmate Food Service Provider, and increase program cost from \$1.70 to \$1.75 for food.

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

Second by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Motion Carried Unanimously

### **SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS AGREEMENT**

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

- Sheriff Nichols present to comment or answer questions
- Program will be fully funded by the Board of Education
- Yearly contract cost: \$839,056.00
- 3-year agreement
- Sheriff’s office will manage program

- Program provides officers to be paid for 195 days of service (school calendar)  
Commissioner Simmons
- Questioned chain of command? Works under the supervision of the 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant.

Motion: To approve the School Resource Officers Agreement between the Newton County Board of Commissioners' and the Newton County Board of Education (referred to as Newton County Schools) and Sheriff Department as outlined by Mr. Middleton and Sheriff Nichols. Also, listed on pages 59-70 in agenda packet.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

### **BID#08-19 – CR213 & JACK NEELY ROAD RESURFACING PROJECT**

Chairman Varner addressed the board and noted the following:

- Received three bids
- E.R. Snell was low bidder
- Cost: \$1,133,181.00
- Funding: SPLOST
- Repaving 0.9 miles of Jack Neely Road and 2.4 miles of County Road 213

Motion: To approve Bid #08-19 CR213 & Jack Neely Road resurfacing project and award bid to E.R. Snell Construction Company for a not to exceed cost of \$1,133,181.00.

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

### **RESOLUTION R070108 ADOPTION OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Administrative Officer John Middleton addressed the board regarding this request.

- Housekeeping item
- CIE (part of Comp Plan) approved on April 18<sup>th</sup>.

Motion: To approve Resolution R070108 Adoption of the Capital Improvement Plan as outlined by Mr. Middleton and printed on page 74 in agenda packet.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried Unanimously

## **DISTRICT ONE APPOINTMENT TO DFACS BOARD**

Motion: To reappoint Dr. Steve Aldridge of 2061 Elks Club Road, Covington to serve on the Department of Family and Children's Services representing district one.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried Unanimously

## **COUNTY CHECKS:**

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

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Time: 7:40 p.m.

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

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried Unanimously

## **REGULAR SESSION**

Time: 7:50 p.m.

Motion: To enter into Regular Session.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried Unanimously

## **ADJOURN**

Time: 7:50 p.m.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried Unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jackie B. Smith  
County Clerk

