

**NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
June 3, 2008**

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

Newspaper: Covington News – Rachel Oswald
Newton Citizen - Crystal Tatum
Citizens

Chairman Varner called the meeting to order, extended a welcome and read the thought for the day. Reverend Ronny Brannen, Prospect Methodist Church gave the invocation and Chairman Varner led the Pledge of Allegiance to our great Flag.

APPROVAL OF W/S MINUTES - MAY 20, 2008

Motion: To approve the Work Session Minutes dated May 20, 2008 as printed.
Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One
Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five
Motion Carried

APPROVAL OF BOC MINUTES - MAY 20, 2008

Motion: To approve the BOC Minutes dated May 20, 2008 as printed.
Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One
Second by: Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four
Motion Carried

SENIOR SERVICES ANNUAL UPDATE

Tommy Hailey and other members of the Senior Service Board (Jane Atkinson, Ann Brewer, Marcia Allen) and Director Josephine Brown came before the commissioners to give their annual update. Mr. Hailey spoke at the request of Chairman Benny Phillips who was unable to attend the meeting.

Members of the Commission expressed appreciation for Mrs. Brown, and the Senior Service Board Members for all their work on behalf of Newton County.

R-060308 – CSBG PROGRAM – FFY 2008 INCREASE

Administrative Office John Middleton presented this resolution for approval.

- Housekeeping
- Additional funding for meals on wheels

Motion: To approve Resolution R-060308 – CSBG Program FFY2008 increase in funds of \$29,516.00 as outlined in board packet and presented by Mr. Middleton.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

RFP #08-11 CORNISH CREEK WATER TREATMENT FACILITY EXPANSION

President of Infratec, Jim Mathis, Engineer Karl Kelley and Purchasing Director Tina Malone appeared before the board to present this request.

- Provided a hand-out that is made part of these minutes
- Went over legal procedures
- Funded: Revenue Bonds

Commissioner Simmons

- Clarified that just because a company is the low bidder that does not mean they automatically receive the bid. Correct. Selection is based on a criterion of points.
- Questioned date of completion? 15 months

Chairman Varner

- Noted that the county now requires bidder to sign form stating they understand they fully understand our bid process.

Motion: To approve the RFP #08-11 for the Cornish Creek Water Treatment Facility Expansion and award to Choate Construction Company for a not to exceed cost of \$12,144,000.00.

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

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

N.C. RETIREMENT PROGRAM UPDATE

Chairman Varner addressed the board and requested that he be allowed to appoint a committee to review other counties retirement programs and come back to board with a report.

Commissioner Henderson questioned to would serve on committee?

Chairman Varner suggested the following:

2 members from BOC

1 Constitutional Officer

1 Employee

Human Resource Director

Administrative Officer

Board gave their approval.

FY2009 GSWCC OPERATING AGREEMENT #NC-480-09-17-2001

Administrative Office John Middleton presented this agreement for approval.

- Yearly housekeeping item
- Full time employee
- \$45,000 is 100% of employee cost.
- Answers to state as well as Engineer Karl Kelley.

Motion: To approve the FY2009 GSWCC Operating Agreement #NC-480-09-17-2001, not to exceed \$45,000.00 and outlined in board packet and presented by Mr. Middleton.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

ACCG – GROUP HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM – INMATE MEDICAL SAVINGS PROGRAM

Motion: To table ACCG - Inmate Medical Savings Program.

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

Second by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Motion Carried

GDOT REQUEST: SIGNAL WARRANT ANALYSIS–SR212/OAK HILL

County Engineer Kevin Walter appeared before the board and presented this request.

- Commissioner Simmons requested that speeding issues be looked into on SR212
- 2 years ago this board asked state to reduce the speed limit and that complied with request.
- Merits request to GDOT to perform signal warrant analysis.

Commissioner Simmons

- Concerned for safety of people driving in this corridor.
- Place urgency on state to address situation because of the safety of the people.

Motion: To approve sending the GA Department of Transportation a request for a Signal Warrant Analysis for SR212 & Oak Hill Road.

Proposed by: Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

Second by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Motion Carried

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH FEES

Environmental Health Director Kerry Wright appeared before the board to present the revised fees.

- The fees have not been increased only revised due to the new food regulations.
- Board of Health has approved the revised fee schedule.

Motion: To approve the Revised Environmental Health Fees as outlined in board packet and explained by Director Wright with the understanding that there will be no increase in fees.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion Carried

PROPERTY SALE

Administrative Officer John Middleton presented this for approval.

- Industrial Development Property owned by City & County
- City agrees to a 50/50 split for cost of appraisal
- City agrees to a 50/50 split for survey fee.
- Purchase Price is: \$257,850.00

Motion: To approve the sale of property to the City of Covington as explained by Mr. Middleton for \$257,850.00 less county's part for appraisal and survey fee.

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

Second by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Motion Carried

MANSFIELD WATER LINE EXTENSION

Commissioner Ewing addressed the board requesting approval for this extension.

- BOC originally approved 15% funding for extension on Lloyd Road due to drought problems.
- Estimated cost of project: \$102,451.00 with Mansfield paying 75% of cost.
- Project completed, but encountered a lot of rock.
- Extra cost due to rock and another portion of road was added to project.
- Additional cost: \$91,847.35.
- City of Mansfield requesting county to pay 25% of additional cost.
- County's Additional Cost: \$22,961.84
- Funding: Water Fund
- Recommends approval

Motion: To pay 25% of additional cost for Mansfield Water Line Extension for a not to exceed amount of \$22,961.84.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion Carried

COUNTY CHECKS:

Motion: To approve the county checks as printed and read aloud by Chairman Varner.

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

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

ADJOURN

Time: 7:45 p.m.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

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

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Jackie B. Smith
County Clerk