

**NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
March 17, 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  
Large group of citizens

Chairman Morgan called the meeting to order, extended a welcome, and read the thought for the day. Reverend Ronny Brannen, Prospect UMC gave the invocation and Chairman Morgan led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**

Metro East Chapter of the Women's Council of Realtors (Did not attend)

Adopt- A- Stream Presentation

State Coordinator Robert Phillips gave a brief PowerPoint presentation of three years of stream information.

KCNB: 2009 River of Words Contest

A list of the Poetry & Art contest winners are attached and made part of these minutes.

Laurie Riley made the presentations and the commissioners extended congratulations to each winner.

**APPROVAL OF BOC MINUTES DATED MARCH 3, 2009**

Motion: To approve the BOC Minutes dated March 3, 2009 as printed.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Tim Fleming, District Five

Motion Carried

**FINGERPRINT SYSTEM FOR SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Sheriff Ezell Brown appeared before the board and requested a deferral on this request until a later date to be determined by the sheriff.

Motion: To accept the recommendation of Sheriff Brown and defer this request until such time the sheriff brings back to the board for action.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

Motion Carried

## **DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY TO BE SOLD ON GOVDEALS**

- Items to be declared are attached and made part of these minutes.

Motion: To accept and declare the property as surplus to be sold on GovDeals.

Proposed by: Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

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

Motion Carried

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT W/CITY OF OXFORD FOR E-911 DISPATCH SERVICES**

Director Mike Smith appeared before the board to present this agreement.

- BOC previously approved agreement between BOC & City of Covington, now requesting approval for City of Oxford.
- City will pay a fee to the Center based on the average percentage of calls for service for the previous fiscal year.
- Cost: \$18,282.00
- City will make 12 monthly payments to the Center.
- Term of agreement is for five (5) years with nine (9) future renewal terms of (5) years.
- Same level of service is provided to each city.
- We will revisit call volume each year.
- Intergovernmental Agreement is attached and made part of these minutes.

Motion: To approve and accept the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Oxford for E911 Dispatch Services as presented.

Proposed by: Commissioner Nancy Schulz, District Three

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

Motion Carried

## **REQUEST FOR ROAD CLOSURE/ROSEDOWN SUBDIVISION**

Roger Singleton appeared before the board to request a temporary closing of roads in Brookside @ Rosedown Subdivision on Elks Club Road.

- Developed second phase of Rosedown Subdivision (Brookside) two years ago.
- 39 lots and none have been sold.
- Requesting approval for a gate to be placed at the entrance of Brookside and would like to take the lots off the market until a later time.
- All streets are dead-end and will have no affect on traffic.
- Copy of plat attached to these minutes.
- Will leave present covenants in place.
- Will provide Newton County with a key to the gate.
- Putting the gate up would help to prohibit people from using property as a dump.

County Attorney Tommy Craig

- To place a gate at the subdivision on a temporary basis and provide chairman of commission and Mr. Singleton a key to gate would be a wise action for board to take. He stated that board has police power to protect its property.

Motion: To approve the request for a temporary road closure (until further notice) of Brookside @ Rosedown Subdivision located on Elks Club Road. A copy of plat of roads is made part of these minutes.

Proposed by: Commissioner Tim Fleming, District Five

Second by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Motion Carried

### **DENNY DOBBS PARK @ OAK HILL**

Chairman Morgan noted the work session that was held last night with the Recreation Commission regarding moving forward with the park.

- All bids received were over budget.
- Recreation Commission recommended hiring a Project Manger and recommended Randy Vinson who was the Project Manager for Turner Lake Complex. They explained how this would save the county money without putting the quality of the park in jeopardy.
- Some commissioners felt that a selection process should be followed if a project manager (in-house or by agreement) was approved.
- Chairman Morgan made a recommendation to the board which is attached and made part of these minutes.
- Commissioners Ewing and Fleming voiced their concern over the lack of finances for the park. They questioned if the park was built how the Recreation Commission would manage the cost of maintenance and operation.
- Commissioner Ewing noted for the record that he is in favor of the park, but cannot approve to build a park and not have the money to build it with.
- Chairman Morgan noted that the county public works department could be utilized for grading and other work. If public works is utilized, the park fund will be billed accordingly for their work.
- Commissioners Simmons and Henderson voice strong support for moving forward with the park at this time. Commissioner Henderson noted this project first started about ten years ago and was time to see it completed.
- Commissioners noted that thousands of people in the second district would be using the park and was very concerned that the park is continually being delayed.
- Commissioner Schulz told the board she would like to see a budget set for \$1.38 m million dollars and have a contingency of \$100,000.00 for additional costs. She suggested the project begin after the new fiscal year begins (July 1<sup>st</sup>).
- Commissioner Simmons spoke strongly in favor of approving and moving forward with the park for the families in the second district. He noted that over

25,000 people like in the second district and these people have patiently waited long enough for this park to be build.

Motion: To approve Chairman Morgan's recommendation as printed below with the following stipulations:

Chairman Morgan's Recommendation:

1. Cancel current RFP
2. Prepare a new RFP to contract for In-House Project Manager (similar to the agreement the Board of Commissioners made with Ray McFadden for the Administration Building). Request that each project manager submit an estimation of cost breakdown for the project including recommendations for changes to the plans to bring the park in at budget \$1.48 million including a contingency amount. This should include an estimate time-line for completion.
3. A small group will review the proposal and submit the project manager for approval (consisting of the County Attorney, BOC Chairman and one (1) Commissioner, Tommy Hailey and one (1) representation from the Recreation Commission.
4. Once the Recreation Commission has approved the project manager and scope of work, the project will come before the BOC to approve the funding of the project.
5. Utilizing the Project Manager, the county will divide the project into specific RFP's to solicit bids to complete the park, The County purchasing department will work with the project manager to facilitate the bidding process. Any in-kind work from the public works department will be bid as well to determine there is no a local resource available.

Commissioner Schulz' Stipulations:

6. Not to exceed \$1.38Million plus \$100,000 contingency fund to be deposited in a secure interest bearing account.
7. Guaranteed timeline from start to finish of 6 months with an additional 30 day extension in the event of inclement weather.
8. Define the county's role including man hours, time duration, equipment and monetary amount.
9. Not to commence grading until July 1, 2009 so as to give the BOC an opportunity to assess the constraints of the FY2010 budget.

Commissioner Henderson's stipulation:

10. To review expenditures (\$217,000.00) charged to the Oak Hill Park fund account. If expenditures are for anything other than Oak Hill Park (i.e. library or fire station) then money should be repaid to the Oak Hill Park fund account.

Proposed by: Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

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

Motion Carried with Commissioners' Ewing and Fleming voting in opposition to the motion.

**COUNTY CHECKS:**

Motion: To approve the county check as printed in the board packet and read aloud by the chairman.

Proposed by: Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

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

Motion Carried

Chairman Morgan announced the following news:

1. Congressman Jim Marshall reported that Newton County would receive nearly \$1 million dollars for county projects. (Press Release attached)
2. Georgia Department of Community Affairs reported Newton County and the City of Covington would receive money for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. (Press Release attached).

**ADJOURN**

TIME: 8:55 P.M.

Motion: To adjourn the meeting

Proposed by: Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

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

Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

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Jackie B. Smith, County Clerk

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Kathryn G. Morgan, Chairman