

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

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

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

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

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DISASTER RELIEF UPDATE

Tray Polk, EMA Director & Jody Nolan, Assistant Director was in attendance to present the Emergency Management Disaster Relief update for the county.

- Information made part of these minutes
- PowerPoint Presentation
- Recapped Flood of 2009
- 71 families have registered so far with FEMA for assistance.
- First assessment of property damage is \$3.5 million in the county
- Board expressed appreciation to Mr. Polk, Mr. Nolan, Public Works, Sheriff Department and others who worked so hard during the flood of 2009.
- Such great team effort benefited the citizens speedily and effectively.

BUY LOCAL – SMALL BUSINESS INITIATIVE

Gena McClendon and Lisa Oglesby and Rick Burnett were in attendance to make a presentation regarding BUY LOCAL.

- Information made part of these minutes
- Education to buy locally
- Board expressed appreciation on how so many were working collaboratively to encourage this goal.

GEORGIA FORESTRY/NEWTON COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT

Chief Ranger Mike Sapp was in attendance to present the Georgia Forestry/Newton County Annual Report.

- Information made part of these minutes.
- Board expressed appreciation to Ranger Sapp for the excellent report and for the tremendous job the Forestry does, year-round, for the citizens of Newton County.

NSP UPDATE (NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION PROGRAM)

Commissioner Schulz gave the board a brief update on the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. She noted the following:

- Met with members of the community after the BOC meeting on 9/15/09 (that night)
- Scott Sirotkin, Jenny Carter, Representatives from IECDG, Commissioner Schulz and Chairman Morgan met with residents of Fairview Estates.
- Met again on October 1st with representatives from the community.
- Residents provided a list of guidelines for consideration
- Meeting was very productive. Building a sense of community.
- Sheriff Brown attended and told the group that he would increase the patrol in their neighborhood.
- Future meetings with Fairview Estates and surrounding neighborhoods.
- Expressed appreciation to Scott Sirotkin & Jenny Carter for their excellent, informative presentations.

E-911 RADIO SYSTEM UPDATE

E911 Director Mike Smith, Tom Ecleberry, Project Manager, Thomas Fiesthumel, Manager Harris Corporation appeared before the board to present an update on the E911 Radio System.

- PowerPoint Presentation made part of these minutes
- Commissioner Ewing expressed concern about coverage for the southern end of the county. (Jackson Lake).
- Harris is visiting areas, riding with deputies, identifying areas in need.
- Working diligently with county to get coverage.
- Harris has anywhere from one to five people on the ground in Newton County.
- BOC requested another update in 30 days. Agreed.

REQUEST TO AMEND AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Henderson, and seconded by Commissioner Simmons to amend the agenda to rescind his vote regarding the District Four/Nelson Heights Community Center at the Commission Meeting dated September 15, 2009.

Motion failed 3 to 2 with Commissioner's Ewing, Schulz, and Fleming voting in opposition to the motion.

APPROVAL OF BOC W/S MINUTES DATED SEPTEMBER 15, 2009

Motion made by Commissioner Ewing, and seconded by Commissioner Fleming to approve the Work Session Minutes dated September 15, 2009 as printed.

Motion carried unanimously

APPROVAL OF BOC MINUTES DATED SEPTEMBER 15, 2009

Motion made by Commissioner Ewing, and seconded by Commissioner Simmons to approve the BOC Minutes dated September 15, 2009 with the scribes error duly noted and corrected to read IECDG under General Administration/NSP Partners Introduction.

Motion carried unanimously

R100609 – CORRECTION OF ZONING MAP

Chairman Morgan declared the Public Hearing open at 8:46 p.m. and recognized Zoning Administrator Scott Sirotkin.

- Presented resolution to correct zoning map
- County Attorney's office is notifying property owners of mistake.
- Will present other properties in the future for correction.
- Resolution R100609 is made part of these minutes.
- No opposition
- With no comments Chairman Morgan declared the Public Hearing closed at 8:50 p.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Henderson, seconded by Commissioner Simmons to approve Resolution R100609, Correction of the Newton County Zoning Map as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

DISTRICT FOUR – APPOINTMENT TO DFACS BOARD

Motion made by Commissioner Henderson, seconded by Commissioner Simmons to appoint Mary Reed who lives at 8194 Geiger Street, Covington, GA 30014 to serve a five year term on the Newton County Department of Family & Children's Services Board.

Term will expire on June 30, 2014.

Motion carried unanimously.

Note: Commissioner J.C. Henderson excused himself from the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

GAITHER PLANTATION PASTURE AGREEMENT

Motion made by Commissioner Ewing, seconded by Commissioner Simmons to table the Agreement for further review until October 20, 2009 meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

ABILITA SERVICE AGREEMENT/TELECOMMUNICATIONS

IT Director Tim McCart appeared before the board to preset this request.

- Professional Services Agreement
- Agreement made part of these minutes.
- They do not sell service; they recommend qualified vendors at no cost.
- They look for the best deals nationwide.
- 24 month Agreement
- BOC feels there is a savings in this program for county.

Motion made by Commissioner Ewing, seconded by Commissioner Fleming to approve The ABILITA Service Agreement/Telecommunications as presented.
Motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE – GRANT ACCEPTANCE - \$23,556.00

Newton County Sheriff Ezell Brown and April Jones appeared before the board to present this Grant Acceptance.

- Bureau of Justice Grant
- No matching funds required.

Motion made by Commissioner Simmons, seconded by Commissioner Ewing to accept a Grant in the amount of \$23,556.00 on behalf of the Newton County Sheriff's Office.

Motion carried unanimously.

R100609a – ACCESS TO GREENSPACE

Attorney Jenny Carter was on hand to present this resolution.

- Ms. Carter sounded the resolution.
- Resolution is made part of these minutes.
- Resolution will be re-written to include all other properties owned by county.

Commissioner Fleming

- Noted he became involved at the request of constituent who was concerned about safety of family members.
- Constituents' property (about 400 acres) adjoins the property in question.
- People riding ATV's
- Alcohol bottles scattered on property.
- Illegally dumping trash
- Shooting of guns.
- Criminal trespassing
- Important to pass this resolution
- Questioned if we could include all property purchased by county? Yes, and resolution will reflect that.
- All county property will be posted with "No Trespassing" signs.

Motion made by Commissioner Fleming, seconded by Commissioner Ewing to approve Resolution R100609a, Access to Greenspace/County Property as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

COUNTY CHECKS

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

Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Time: 9:30 p.m.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR SESSION

With no further business, a motion by Commissioner Simmons, seconded by Commissioner Fleming the meeting adjourned at 10:12 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie B. Smith, County Clerk

Kathryn G. Morgan, Chairman