

**NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**September 2, 2008**  
**MINUTES**

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

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

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

**APPROVAL OF BOC W/S MINUTES DATED AUGUST 19, 2008**

Motion: To approve the Minutes dated August 19, 2008 as printed.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried Unanimously

**APPOINTMENT TO NEWTON COUNTY PUBLIC FACILITIES BOARD**  
**DISTRICT ONE**

Motion: To appoint Dixon Hays of 1554 Woodlawn Road, Covington, Georgia to serve on the Newton County Public Facilities Board. The term on this board runs concurrent with the appointing commissioner.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

**APPOINTMENT TO NEWTON COUNTY PUBLIC FACILITIES BOARD**  
**DISTRICT TWO**

Motion: To appoint Charles King of 4175 Emory Street, Oxford, GA 30054 to serve on the Newton County Public Facilities Board. The term on this board runs concurrent with the appointing commissioner.

Proposed by: Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

**APPOINTMENT TO NEWTON COUNTY PUBLIC FACILITIES BOARD  
DISTRICT THREE**

Motion: To appoint Lou Passarella of 730 Crowell Road, Covington, GA 3001 to serve on the Newton County Public Facilities Board. The term on this board runs concurrent with the appointing commissioner.

Proposed by: Commissioner Ester Fleming, Jr.  
Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five  
Motion Carried Unanimously

**APPOINTMENT TO NEWTON COUNTY PUBLIC FACILITIES BOARD  
DISTRICT FOUR**

Motion: To appoint Flemmie Pitts of 45 Stewart Drive, Covington, GA 3001 to serve on the Newton County Public Facilities Board. The term on this board runs concurrent with the appointing commissioner.

Proposed by: Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four  
Second by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One  
Motion Carried Unanimously

**APPOINTMENT TO NEWTON COUNTY PUBLIC FACILITIES BOARD  
DISTRICT FIVE**

Motion: To appoint Mr. George Stamps of George Stamps P.O. Box 1299, Oxford, GA 30054 to serve on the Newton County Public Facilities Board. The term on this board runs concurrent with the appointing commissioner.

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five  
Second by: Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four  
Motion Carried Unanimously

**PURCHASING CARD PROGRAM – BANK OF NORTH GEORGIA**

Administrative Officer John Middleton addressed the board regarding this request.

- Thomas Kephart from Bank of North Georgia present to answer any questions.
- Expressed thanks to Ms. Allen and Ms. McDonald for pulling this together.
- System will be more user friendly
- Better tracking system
- 34 cards issued presently
- Excellent control system in place
- Presenting this as administrative change with chairman's signature.
- Immediate turn-around time for lost cards
- A limit on cards for department heads or appointee is \$500.00 per day.
- Department Heads monitor employee spending.
- Effective in 30 days
- 

Motion: To approve the Purchasing Card Program with the Bank of North Georgia as outlined by Mr. Middleton.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One  
Second by: Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four  
Motion Carried Unanimously

**PURCHASE OF FIRE SAFETY HOUSE – GRANT FROM HOMELAND SECURITY & FIRE FUND.**

Chief Mike Satterfield and Purchasing Director Tina Malone presented this request to the board for approval.

- Mobil unit will be used as part of fire safety with City of Covington
- Used as another educational tool for children.
- Comes with a Severe Weather Package
- Only two companies manufacturer this house
- Low bidder is Surrey Fire Safety House & Mobil Command for \$57,100.00
- GRANT: \$45,680.00
- FIRE FUND: \$11,420.00

Motion: To approve the purchase of a Fire Safety House with grant funds from Homeland Security of \$45,680.00 and Fire Funds of \$11,420.00 for a total purchase price of \$57,100.00.

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

Second by: Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

Motion Carried Unanimously

**R090208 – ADOPTION OF GAITHER’S MASTER PLAN**

Commissioner Mort Ewing addressed the board regarding adoption of the Master Plan for Gaither Plantation.

- Gaither’s holds a special place in my heart.
- Wife & I have the privilege of serving on first committee formed for Friends of Gaither’s.
- Expressed appreciation to committee for working so hard to keep the dream alive.
- Committee raised money for JJ&G to prepare Master Plan
- Board of Commissioners reviewed plan earlier this year.
- Noted that while a member of the Friends of Gaither’s, committee advertised a need for a building (known as a tenant house).
- Worked since 1999 to secure this tenant house.
- Delighted to present to chairman a letter from the Georgia FFA-FCCLA Center in Newton County donating the old farmhouse to Gaither Plantation. (Letter attached and made part of these minutes).
- Told the board that another dream is to have Gaither Plantation permanently protected.
- Promised to continue work with Gaither Plantation and to also work with Newton County Land Trust Board to accomplish this dream of preserving Gaither’s for future generations.

Motion: To approve Resolution R090208 adopting the Master Plan for Gaither Plantation as outlined on page 32 in our board packet and presented and discussed at an aforementioned meeting.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

**Note: The original resolution is contained in file number R090208, incorporated herein by reference and expressly made a part of these minutes.**

**R090208A – MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN ADOPTION**

Administrative Officer John Middleton addressed the board regarding the adoption of plan.

- Several months ago plan was presented to BOC.
- Plan has been reviewed and approved by DCA
- This is formal action that is required by DCA.

Motion: To approve Resolution R090208a – Adoption of the Newton County Multi-Jurisdictional Solid Waste Management Plan.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

**Note: The original resolution is contained in file number R090208a, incorporated herein by reference and expressly made a part of these minutes.**

**ALCOHOL LICENSE:**

Final Reading

Pit Stop Convenience Store

1313 Hwy. 11

Social Circle, Georgia 30025

Owner: Daniel Paul Bearden (100%)

District One

Motion: To approve the Alcohol License for the Pit Stop Convenience Store at 1313 Highway 11, Social Circle, GA as requested.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Earnest Simmons, District Two

Motion Carried Unanimously

**First Reading**

Logan's Grocery  
2299 Hwy. 212  
Covington, Georgia 30016  
Owner: Wendy Jacques (100%)  
District One

**COUNTY CHECKS:**

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

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Second by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Motion Carried Unanimously

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Time: 7:25 p.m.

Motion: To enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing threatened 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,

---

Jackie B. Smith  
County Clerk