

**NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
November 21, 2006**

MINUTES

**Newton County Historic Courthouse
1124 Clark Street
Covington, Georgia
Chairman Aaron Varner, Presiding**

Present: Chairman Aaron Varner, Commissioners Mort Ewing, Ronnie Dimsdale, Ester Fleming, Jr., J.C. Henderson, and Monty Laster, Administrative Officer John Middleton, Attorney Scott Cole, and County Clerk Jackie Smith.

Newspapers: Rachel Osborn, Covington News; Crystal Tatum, Newton Citizen Small group of citizens.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED NOVEMBER 7, 2006

Motion: To approve the minutes for November 7, 2006 as written.

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Second by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Motion Carried

**APPOINTMENT TO PLANNING COMMISSION –
DISTRICT 1**

Chairman Ewing:

- Has served four years
- Appreciates service to county
- Would like to see him reappointed

Motion: To reappoint Mr. Troy Bledsoe to represent district one on the Planning Commission. Term will expire on December 31, 2008.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion Carried

**APPOINTMENT TO PLANNING COMMISSION –
DISTRICT 2**

Commissioner Dimsdale

- Excellent job
- Appreciates his wiliness to serve

Commissioner Fleming

- Concurs with excellent job Mr. Head has done and hopes the newly elected commissioner will not make a change in January.
- Supports Mr. Head's appointment with the understanding that when the commissioner elect takes office in January he could choose to make new appointments.

Motion: To reappoint Mr. Johnny Head to represent district two on the Planning Commission. Term will expire on December 31, 2008.

Proposed by: Commissioner Ronnie Dimsdale, District Two

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

APPOINTMENT TO ELECTION BOARD – CHAIRMAN (AT LARGE)

Chairman Varner presented Mr. Steele's name for reappointment as Chairman of the Election Board. This is an appointment at large to serve for five years.

- Excellent job
- Mr. Steele would like to continue serving on this board.

Motion: To reappoint Mr. Hugh Steele as Chairman of the Newton County Election Board with term expiring on December 31, 2011.

Proposed by: Commissioner Ronnie Dimsdale, District Two

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

TASK ORDER#5 PBS&J RE: ELKS CLUB ROAD

Purchasing Director Tina McDonald presented this request to the board.

- Temporary traffic signal
- Cost: \$16,610.00
- This will cover bidding and construction management assistance for the construction of a temporary traffic signal at Elks Club Road & GASR 278 Intersection.

Chairman Varner

- Dangerous intersection
- Fatality as late as last year

Commissioner Ewing

- Project long-time coming
- Working on this project for past six years
- Appreciates work of chairman and county engineer

Motion: To approve Task Order #5 for Consultant PBS&J regarding Elks Club Road and GASR 278 temporary traffic signal for a not to exceed cost of \$16,610.00.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

RFP#07-08 FIRE STATION #6

Purchasing Director Tina McDonald presented this request.

- Received three proposals (Sunbelt Builders, DSI Construction Group & Headley Construction)
- Low Proposal: Sunbelt Builders for \$682,158
- Displayed color drawing of fire station
- Brick with wood frame instead of steel/wood (presented by Sunbelt)
- Closer to keeping in line with budget

Commissioner Henderson

- Questioned cost with steel building -- \$716,913.

Commissioner Ewing

- 30 year roof
- Last station constructed was about \$500,000
- Lots of problems with roof
- Brick should make this maintenance free
- Minimal maintenance on windows and soffit per Sunbelt
- Confirmed \$682,158 is turnkey job. Yes

Motion: To award RFP#07-06, Fire Station #6 to Sunbelt Builders for a not to exceed amount of \$682,158.00.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

CONTRACT AMENDMENT TO GTARC

Administrative Officer John Middleton presented this request to the board noting this was an extension of the presented contract. He introduced 911 Director Mike Smith who addressed the board regarding this need.

- Keep consultant on hand
- Contract Cost is increased by \$14,934.00
- Proposal for project oversight for the deployment of the countywide communications system for public safety.
- Orderly & timely installation of the new technologies

Motion: To approve the contract amendment with GTARC for a not to exceed cost of \$14,934.00 as presented.

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

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

APPLICATION PERSISTENCE SOFTWARE FOR E911

E911 Director Mike Smith presented this request.

- Increases level of security
- Tested four different systems
- Only one certified to run software
- Has real world applications
- E911 will be reimbursed by individual jurisdictions for their seat charges. The seat charges per system will offset the full cost
- Client cost per MDC is \$440.00
- 100 mobile units over open sky
- Usage of standardized protocols
- Hardware-software solution, support & endorsement by M/A Com & cost effectiveness

Commissioner Ewing

- Questioned breakdown among departments relative to the 100 units?
- Response from Mr. Smith: Purchased 100 seats and this should get everybody started and will continue for at least 2 years.
- Clarified that the 100 seats would include every sheriff car, fire truck and ambulance. Yes, and it includes the cities
- Reiterated that board does not want to leave anybody out.
- Response from Mr. Smith: Inclusive of every public safety agency in Newton County.
- Questioned annual maintenance of \$10,200 being included in contract?
- Mr. Smith said they were evaluating this presently.
- Feels there is a significant cost savings in “pay as you go” plan.
- Questioned warranty? One Year. During this time committee will evaluate if a maintenance contract is needed.

Motion: To approve the Application Persistence Software for E911 and award the bid to Radio IP for a not to exceed cost of \$72,900.00.

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

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

Motion Carried

ZONINGS

NONE

STREETLIGHTS:

The Landings @ Bethany Church

District Two

Motion: To approve the streetlight request for The Landings @ Bethany Church as requested.

Proposed by: Commissioner Ronnie Dimsdale, District Two

Second by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Motion Carried

ALCOHOL LICENSE:

First Reading:

Chapman's Convenience Store

5590 Hwy. 81 South

Covington, Georgia 30016

Navshad Kolsawala (100% Owner)

First Reading:

BP Food Mart

2536 Hwy. 81 South

Covington, Georgia 30016

Naimsha Patel (33.33% Owner)

Niten Parikh (33.33% Owner)

Vimal Patel (33.33% Owner)

COUNTY CHECKS:

Motion: To approve county checks as read by Chairman Varner.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion Carried

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Motion: To enter into Executive Session for the purpose of personnel, land acquisition and threatened litigation.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion Carried

REGULAR SESSION

Time: 9:40 p.m.

Motion: To enter into regular session.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

ADJOURN

Time: 9:40 p.m.

Motion: To adjourn.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Jackie B. Smith, County Clerk

Aaron Varner, Chairman

