

**NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
October 3, 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 Jenny Carter and Attorney Scott Cole, and County Clerk Jackie Smith

Newspaper: The Covington News and The Newton Citizen
Small group of citizens

Chairman Varner called the meeting to order, extended a welcome and read the thought for the day. Commissioner J.C. Henderson gave the invocation and Chairman Varner led in the Pledge of Allegiance to our great Flag.

**ACCG LEGISLATIVE SERVICE AWARD – REPRESENTATIVE
DOUG HOLT**

Associate Legislative Director for the Association County Commissioners of Georgia Matt Hicks, was on hand to present a beautiful numbered picture of the State Capitol to the Honorable Doug Holt for his hard work on HB 962 to try and level the playing field between cities and counties regarding annexation.

The Board of Commissioners and others extend congratulations as well. Afterwards Representative Holt expressed thanks to everyone who had a part in this as well as the constituents he represents. All gave a well-deserved applause.

APPROVAL OF W/S MINUTES DATED AUGUST 29, 2006

Motion: To approve the minutes as written.

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Second by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Motion Carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED SEPTEMBER 5, 2006

Motion: To approve the minutes as written.

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

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

Motion Carried

APPROVAL OF W/S MINUTES DATED SEPTEMBER 19, 2006

Motion: To approve the work session minutes as written.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED SEPTEMBER 19, 2006

Motion: To approve the minutes as written.

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

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

Motion Carried

T/O #3A – STREET SMARTS

County Engineer Kevin Walters was on hand to answer any questions. He provided a brief summary of the request.

- Add on T/O 3 (Development Construction Plans for Tabor Forest Drive & Mt. Zion Road Line of Sight Clearing) - \$15,458.62
- Construction Plans are complete
- This adds on provides field surveying and staking necessary for the county forces to construct the intersection sight clearing.
- Cost: \$3,645.49

Motion: To approve T/O#3A – Street Smarts for Construction Staking and Observation for the Mt. Zion Road – Tabor Forest Drive Intersection for a not to exceed cost of \$3,645.59.

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

Second by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Motion Carried

T/O #8 – J.B. TRIMBLE

County Engineer Kevin Walters presented the following:

- Previous cost estimate for bridge board felt was too costly (\$1.4 million)
- Requested a simpler type of bridge replacement estimate
- Many talks between Trimble/County Engineer to get to this recommendation
- Pre-stressed concrete section double arch @42 ft, bridge could be constructed for \$700,000
- Includes engineering design and flood studies of approximately \$115,000
- The approach to the road section is quite steep – suggest speed limit to be 25mph

Commissioner Fleming:

- Voiced concern over steep approach and restricted speed limit of 25 mph
- Engineer suggested that 35mph would be safe and doesn't think it is dangerous and fully supports the 35 mph

Commissioner Laster

- Questioned if it was school bus ready/safe? Yes
- Questioned if it was to be a one lane or two-lane bridge? Two lanes
- Questioned if a traffic study had been done to see usage in area? No, but will take care of having one completed.

Motion: To approve Task Order #8 for J.B. Trimble in an amount not to exceed \$115,166.20 for Hightower Trail Bridge Replacement Design.

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

Second by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Motion Carried

T/O #9 – J.B. TRIMBLE

County Engineer Kevin Walter presented the following:

- Provides for concept design and final survey of Gaithers Road improvements.
- Allows county to begin movement of fences, drainage structures, tree clearing, and other initial construction in the right-of-way previously acquired by the county for the straightening and paving of Gaithers Road.
- Cost: \$60,592.92

Motion: To approve Task Order #9 for J.B. Trimble in an amount not to exceed \$60,592.92 for Gaithers Road Improvements Phase I Concept Design and Phase 2 Database/Survey.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion Carried

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT - MANSFIELD & NEWBORN RE: FIRE SERVICES

Administrative Officer John Middleton and Attorney Scott Cole presented this to the board for approval.

- Worked with Mayors in all municipalities
- Funding: Pledge full amount of fir tax proceeds
- Pledge to pay insurance tax

Commissioner Ewing

- Commented that he considers this the next step towards a paid fire station.
- Noted he and Mr. Middleton had met several times with Mayors over the year and felt meetings were successful.
- Requested boards support of approval for this agreement; however not at tonight's meeting. Wanted to bring this to their attention for future action.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM UPDATE

Administrative Officer John Middleton appeared before the board and presented this report.

- Report made part of minutes.
- Went over report with board
- Presented a power point presentation
- SPLOST FY2006-FY2011
- Went over road projects
- Greenspace
- Landfill
- Mechanic Shop
- Cousins Gym
- Detention Center Pods
- Historic Jail
- Civic Center
- County Office Complex
- Radio System for Public Safety Communication Center
- Data Communication System
- Administrative: Soft Cost for engineering, roads, legal cost
- Judicial Parking Lot (Meadors building)
- Community building in District Four
- Told the board there is a state requirement to advertise where county stands on projects by the end of the year.

No Action Necessary

O-100306 SOLICITATION ORDINANCE

County Attorney Jenny Carter presented the changes in the Solicitation Ordinance that board had previously requested.

Board discussed who be the authority of designating where sales could be held.

- Sheriff and Chairman of Commission will decide on locations

- Locations should be determined by a safety standpoint

Commissioner Fleming

- Addressed his concerns about limiting groups such as the Shriners, Give Burns The Boot, Churches, etc...Not in favor of prohibiting them from raising money like they have in the past.
- One of the Shriners spoke and said they have two per year (Spring and Fall)
- Questioned if they could get a 30-day permit?
- Ms. Carter will insert language as it relates to duration of permit.

Board said,

- Permit times will be Sunrise to Sunset and also instructed attorney to change the time in Sect. 6:A2 from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm.
- Permit fee was discussed. Commissioner Fleming was not in favor of fee nor was Commissioner Henderson.
- Permit Fee for duration of permit will be \$50.00
- After a lengthy discussion it was decided that Ms. Carter would make all the recommended changes and board would approve with changes made.

Motion: To approve O-100206 Solicitation Ordinance with changes requested by Board and noted by Attorney Carter as discussed.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried with Commissioners Fleming and Henderson voting in opposition to motion.

R-100306 UPDATING THE SERVICE DELIVERY STRATEGY ARRANGEMENTS

Attorney Scott Cole appeared before the board and noted this is simply a housekeeping item that is required by the Department of Community Affairs.

Motion: To approve R-100306 to update the Service Delivery Strategy Arrangements as requested by the Department of Community Affairs.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

COUNTY CHECKS:

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

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

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion Carried

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Time:8:00 p.m.

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

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

Second by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Motion Carried

REGULAR SESSION

Time:8:20 p.m.

Motion: To enter into Regular Session.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion Carried

JDA UPDATE

Commissioner Ewing asked to give an update on some good news JDA received regarding Stanton Springs.

- Stanton Springs is one of nine Georgia sites being looked at for this venture.

- Pharmaceutical Company received a great deal of federal dollars.
- Understands two Georgia United States Senators was instrumental in getting things moving.
- It will be a \$385,000,000 investment
- Estimated 300 jobs
- Will know more after meeting on Thursday.
- Looks good.

ADJOURN

Time:8:25 p.m.

Motion: To adjourn.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Jackie B. Smith, County Clerk

Aaron Varner, Chairman