

**NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
April 4, 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, Attorney James Griffin, and Acting County Clerk Kellie Lundy.

Newspapers: Caroline Huenke, 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. Pastor David Payne from the Church of Covington gave the invocation and the Chairman led the Pledge of Allegiance to our great flag.

APPROVAL OF BOC MINUTES DATED MARCH 21, 2006

Motion: To approve the minutes as printed.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion carried unanimously.

**PROCLAMATION – “APRIL AS PREVENT CHILD ABUSE MONTH IN
NEWTON COUNTY”**

Motion: To approve the proclamation.

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

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion carried unanimously.

- Chairman Varner asked the representatives for the proclamation to stand and he thanked them for their involvement and efforts put forth for the cause of prevention of child abuse.

**PROCLAMATION – “NATIONAL PUBLIC-SAFETY
TELECOMMUNICATIONS WEEK”**

Motion: To approve the proclamation.

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

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

Motion carried unanimously.

- Chairman Varner presented Director Mike Smith with the proclamation and thanked them for all of the hard work and dedication.

- Commissioner Dimsdale commends Newton County voters for approving and upgrading our radio system in SPLOST. He also commented on the good leadership and increased safety for citizens and responders.
- Mike Smith extends an invitation to the Board to come to the facility and see the dispatchers at work. He also thanks them for all of their support.

RFP#06-17 DRAINAGE FOR WELLS MOBILE HOME PARK

- Purchasing Director Tina McDonald and Attorney James Griffin presented.
- Due to the fact that County Attorney Tommy Craig was unable to review this document, it (awarding of the contract) will be postponed until the April 18, 2006 regular Board meeting.
- The postponement will not affect the timetable for the completion of the job or deadline.

Motion: To table RFP#16-17 Drainage for Wells Mobile Home Park until next regular meeting.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion carried unanimously.

RFP#06-19 CONCRETE INSTALLATIONS AT FIRE STATION #1

- Purchasing Director Tina McDonald presented to the board.
- Lowest bidder is Complete Concrete from Conyers for demolition and concrete is \$71,185.
- Good Recommendation from Potts Construction Company.
- On Purchasing Agenda Item Summary the total is listed as \$71,185. On the Requisition for purchase it is listed as “not to exceed \$91,116”. The reason the price went down was the quantity of concrete was decreased. The correct price is \$71,185.
- Commissioner Dimsdale had some questions about the project.
- Chairman Varner responded to the questions by explaining the area to be covered and that due to the weight and turning of the large fire truck (@ 60,000 lbs) it causes a twisting action that the asphalt cannot withstand. If we replace with asphalt we will have this problem again.
- Chairman Varner is going to try to coordinate with public works during the demolition phase to reduce the cost of the demolition (\$28, 000).
- Commissioner Ewing asks if the funds would come from the County Fire Fund.
- Mr. Middleton replies that is correct, the Fire Fund would pay for this project.
- Commissioner Henderson inquires as to what the balance of the fire fund is.
- Mr. Middleton states that the fund balance is around \$1 million.

Motion: To approve RFP#16-19 Concrete Installation at Fire Station #1 in an amount not to exceed \$71,185 with the understanding that the money comes from the county Fire Fund

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion carried with Commissioner Dimsdale in opposition.

MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT ON CARD KEY SYSTEM

- Purchasing Director Tina McDonald and Systems Informations Director Tim McCart presented the agreement to the Board.
- Request is for maintenance agreement and replaces equipment that is @ 8 yrs old.
- Contract price goes down after first year. The first year's price is due to certain repairs that are to be made to bring the system up to standards. After that maintenance costs will decrease.
- Commissioner Ewing raises questions regarding what is included in the contract price and about equipment that needs replacing and the current equipment.
- Mr. McCart responds by saying everything except wiring and acts of God. The basic insurance clause. Mr. McCart explains the equipment is being replaced to bring the system up to standards. There are @40 panel readers in the judicial center and historical courthouse, @5 controls, and 100's of cards. Captain Morris Jones is in charge of the cards. He could get an exact count if needed.
- Commissioner Dimsdale summarizes by stating that having no maintenance agreement has cost us in time and money and Mr. McCart agrees.

Motion: To approve the maintenance agreement on the card key system for the Judicial Center awarded to Johnson Controls for the amount not to exceed \$36,648.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

Motion carried unanimously.

WRECKER SERVICE ROTATION

- Administrative Officer John Middleton presented this information to the Board and no action was required by the board.
- The County will now rotate wrecker services between B&H Wrecker Service and K-2 Towing effective April 1, 2006.
- Commissioner Ewing raises questions about K-2 Towing.
- Mr. Middleton responds by saying they are following the recommendations from the Sheriff's office on the two available vendors.
- Commissioner Ewing asked why the County is going to a rotation system instead of the contract system used in the past.
- County Attorney's Office, Scott Cole answers that this has been considered for a number of years. The main problem has been lack of vendors. We now have enough qualified vendors to go to a rotation.

FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR A MIXED USE PROJECT

- Administrative Office John Middleton presented this request to the Board.
- Net Costs \$27,000 plus reimbursable expenses (\$40,000 - \$13,000 to be paid by Noble Investment Group).
- Commissioner Fleming asks how this will affect the executive building progress.
- Mr. Middleton responds by saying that the construction of the office building will go forward as soon as the RFPs are issued and a contractor selected.
- Commissioner Dimsdale asks when the Feasibility Study would be executed and information given back to the Board.
- Mr. Middleton states that the timeline is about 2 months (8 weeks). Close out as quickly as possible.
- Commissioner Dimsdale asks if work would begin as soon as the Board approved it and Mr. Middleton said it would.
- Commissioner Ewing asks what might be included in reimbursable expenses.
- Mr. Middleton replies that it would be a fee amount such as cost of printing, drawings, etc.

Motion: To approve Feasibility Study for a Mixed Use Project as proposed by Lyman Davidson Dooley, Inc. for Civic Center and Hotel for amount not to exceed \$27,000 plus reimbursable expenses.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion carried unanimously.

- Commissioner Henderson asks where the money will come from to pay for it.
- Mr. Middleton responds that SPLOST money was set aside for such costs.

GIS LICENSE AGREEMENT MOU

- Josh Knight presented the agreement to the Board.
- Worked with County Attorney's office to develop a "copyright" to protect the time and money put into their projects.
- Put in writing what is currently in place verbally: purchase requirements, etc.
- Amount contributed
 - County 40%
 - City of Covington 30%
 - NCWSA (Newton County Water Authority) 30%
- Commissioner Ewing asks about the effective date of the fees schedule and asks if they will be reviewed and updated July 1, 2006.
- Mr. Knight states they will and are now being reviewed annually, but the County is in line with other counties in regards to the fees.
- Commissioner Fleming asks if the special revenue account created will be encumbered each at the end of each year. Mr. Middleton said it would.

Motion: To approve the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Board of Commissioners, City of Covington and the Water and Sewage Authority and the GIS License Agreement

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

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

Motion carried unanimously.

ANNE FRANK EXHIBIT

- Projects Coordinator Cheryl Delk presented information regarding the exhibit to the Board
- Reminds Board about the Dedication April 10th at 5:45 and gives details.
- Had a tree dedication at Library earlier in day.
- Not a large turn out for tour guide volunteers.
- Rep. Holt is lending help with that recruitment.
- School tours will begin next week.
- Good turn out so far : @100 people total for Saturday, Monday & Tuesday.
- Mr. Middleton extends thanks to Cheryl for organizing event.

JULY 4TH FIREWORKS DISPLAY

- Chairman Varner presents the information to the Board.
- Last year first year The Church of Covington and very successful.
- Commissioner Henderson recalls his experience last year.
- Consensus is to proceed with The Church of Covington again this year.
- Once amount is received it will come back to the Board.

NEWTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEEK

- Administrative Officer John Middleton presented the information to the Board.
- April 17th -21st
- Mr. Middleton advised the BOC of the activities planned for the week.
- End week with picnic on Friday, April 21st at Turner Lake

CONDEMNATION PROCEEDINGS – HIGHLAND MEADOWS

- Attorney James Griffin presented the Board with the procedures for condemnation.
- Two structures within the Highland Meadows Subdivision
- The ordinance calls for procedures:
 - Newton County Building Officials to notify to the Board of a nuisance
 - 30 Day letter sent to owner to abate nuisance
 - Re-inspection after 30 days
 - Condemnation filed if not abated
- Development Coordinator Tom Cheatham reports the Board that little to no progress had been done on the homes since October 2005.
- Mr. Cheatham has yet to encounter workers at the structures performing any work.

- Subdivision resident and construction worker Randy Moor expressed interest in purchasing the homes and finishing them. He has been trying to contact the builders. He stated he could have them completed within 60-90 days after closing. He wanted to know how the purchase would affect the condemnation proceedings.
- Commissioner Fleming stated that the Board would move forward with the condemnation proceedings. Too much time has been wasted and the Board has lost creditability by taking so long to get to this point.

STREETLIGHTS

Cambridge Subdivision
District One

Motion: To approve the streetlights for Cambridge Subdivision located in the first district.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion carried unanimously.

ALCOHOL LICENSE

FIRST READING

None.

COUNTY CHECKS

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

Proposed by: Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

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

Motion carried unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENTS/COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

TIME: 8:00 PM

Motion: To approve enter into executive session to discuss land acquisition and personnel.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion carried unanimously

REGULAR SESSION

TIME: 8:50 PM

Motion: To approve enter into regular session.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion carried unanimously

AJOURN

TIME: 8:52 PM

Motion: To adjourn.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

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

Motion carried unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,

Kellie L. Lundy

Acting County Clerk