

NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
March 19, 2013
MINUTES

Present: Chairman Keith Ellis, Commissioners John Douglas, Lanier Sims, Nancy Schulz, J.C. Henderson, Levie Maddox; County Manager John Middleton, Attorney Tommy Craig, & Clerk Jackie Smith

Newspaper: Newton Citizen
Citizens

Chairman Ellis called the meeting to order, extended a welcome, and read the thought for the day. The invocation was given by Pastor Ronny Brannen, Prospect United Methodist Church. Local fire service heroes Lt Keith Hyde, engineer Andy Holcombe, engineer Steven Frazier, and firefighter Jacob Olds led the Pledge of Allegiance to our great flag.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION:

Chairman's Report

- Due to team effort we have received an additional \$200,000 from the state for Alcovy Road & I-20 Intersection to relocate Alcovy Trestle Road @ I 20 /Hwy. 11 interchange
- \$25,000 on bridge repairs at yellow river
- Additional \$35,000 (unaware that it was in reserves for use).
- We will use dollars for bridge repairs (from 2009 flood)
- Will bring more solid numbers back to board in near future.
- KCNB, Sheriff's Department, Public Works, community service workers and the general public will join together to help get our roads cleaned-up.
- KCNB will take the lead in heading this project up. Everyone is invited to join them.
- 1st kick off of BOC meetings being televised.
- Appreciate Covington News volunteering to be a help in televising programs.
- Live recording as well as putting on the internet.

County Manager's Report

- Website review completed and will bring back to board for consideration
- Financial Software RFT – received three proposals
- Target date to bring back for board action is April 16
- Departmental budgets underway
- Introduced Michelle Kelly who gave a brief overview of the monthly financial report.
- Financial Report is attached and made part of these minutes.

CITIZEN COMMENTS (3 minutes each)

Alan Verner, Chairman of the JDA

- Appreciate the privilege of being involved with the Joint Development Authority since its inception.
- Very fortunate to have Baxter here.
- Baxter will have a tremendous impact on the lives of our counties and citizens.
- Very appreciative of the type of business Baxter brings to the county. Has been a personal recipient of their product as Baxter helped to save his life.
- Understand concerns of changing the zip code from Social Circle to Covington, however much research has gone into this, met with postal service, and survey went out last fall and now ballots have been mailed out and waiting results.
- Makes sense to have a Covington address as Baxter is recognized internationally it will be known as Baxter of Covington.
- Appreciates all the work Newton County has done over the years to help make this such a success.

APPROVAL OF BOC MINUTES DATED FEBRUARY 19, 2013

Motion by Commissioner Douglas, and seconded by Commissioner Schulz to approve the BOC Minutes dated February 19, 2013 as printed in the board book.

Motion carried unanimously

APPROVAL OF ES MINUTES DATED FEBRUARY 19, 2013

Motion by Commissioner Henderson, and seconded by Commissioner Sims to approve the Executive Session Minutes dated February 19, 2013 as printed in the board book.

Motion carried unanimously

APPROVAL OF SCM MINUTES DATED FEBRUARY 26, 2013

Motion by Commissioner Maddox, and seconded by Commissioner Sims to approve the Special Called Meeting Minutes dated February 26, 2013 as printed in the board book.

Motion carried unanimously

APPROVAL OF WS MINUTES DATED MARCH 5, 2013

Motion by Commissioner Maddox, and seconded by Commissioner Sims to approve the Work Session Minutes dated March 5, 2013 as printed in the board book.

Motion carried unanimously

APPROVAL OF BOC MINUTES DATED FEBRUARY 5, 2013

- Minutes previously tabled from the February 19th BOC Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Douglas, and seconded by Commissioner Sims to approve the BOC Minutes dated February 5, 2013 with the portion regarding the Lawn Care Contract being omitted from the minutes.

Motion carried 4-0

Note: Commissioner Henderson abstained from the vote

SUPERIOR COURT: SUPPORT LETTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH COURT

The Honorable Samuel Ozburn, Judge Superior Courts appeared before the board seeking a support letter for a newly proposed Mental Health Court.

- Funding provided by State of Georgia covering basic expenses
- Applying for a grant from Department of Justice which would allow for greater Supervision of and treatment for court participants.
- Goal is to identify people with mental health problems who are in jail or subject to being sentenced to jail and to supervise them and provide treatment so they can safely function in society.
- Handout: Mental Health Court Fact Sheet – March 19, 2013
- Court begins: July 1, 2013

Motion by Commissioner Douglas, and seconded by Commissioner Sims to approve a letter of support for the proposed Mental Health Court as presented by Judge Ozburn

Motion carried unanimously

KCNB: APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL GRANTS (MIRACLE LEAGUE)

KCNB Director Laurie Riley appeared before the board seeking approval to apply for two grants for the Miracle League project.

- KCNB is partnering with the Miracle League to apply for two Keep America Beautiful grants.
- #1 Lowe's grant in the amount of \$20,000
- #2 UPS grant in the amount of \$5,000
- No match required for either grant
- No cost to Newton County

Motion by Commissioner Henderson, and seconded by Commissioner Sims to approve KCNB's request to apply for two Keep America Beautiful Grants funded by Lowe's and UPS as presented by Ms. Riley and printed in board book.

Motion carried unanimously

KCNB: APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL GRANT (RESTORE OXFORD TRAIL)

KCNB Director Laurie Riley appeared before the court seeking approval to apply a grant to restore Oxford Trail.

- KCNB is partnering with Newton Trails to apply for a Keep America Beautiful grant.
- Lowe's Grant: \$5,000 Improvement Grant
- Project has four goals:
 1. to complete concrete and brickwork repair;
 2. to replace a vehicle barrier;
 3. to install new signage and posts;
 4. to repair a split-rail fence
- No cost to Newton County

Motion by Commissioner Sims, and seconded by Commissioner Henderson to approve KCNB's request to apply for a Keep America Beautiful Grant, funded by Lowe's, as presented by Ms. Riley and printed in board book.

Motion carried unanimously

SHERIFF'S OFFICE: APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR THE FEDERAL EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM (JAG) (TRANSITION FROM INTOXILYZER 5000 TO THE INTOXILYZER 9000)

Sheriff Ezell Brown and grant administrator Apryle Jones appeared before the board seeking approval to apply for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance grant.

- 2013 Law Enforcement Intoxilyzer Instrument Transition Program Grant
- If awarded, the funds will replace the current outdated system allowing transition from the Intoxilyzer 5000 to the Intoxilyzer 9000.
- Grant Award: Will not exceed \$9000
- Funded: JAG (serviced by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC))

Motion by Commissioner Douglas, and seconded by Commissioner Sims to approve a request to apply for the 2013 Law Enforcement Intoxilyzer Instrument Transition Program Grant as presented by Sheriff Brown and printed in board book.

Motion carried unanimously

SENIOR SERVICES/DFACS: APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR FY2014 CSBG GRANT

County Manager John Middleton addressed the board seeking approval to apply for the FY2014 CSBG grant.

- Senior Services: Meals on Wheels program
- DFACS: Rent/Utility assistance
- No cost to county
- Funding: Georgia Department of Human Services (Community Service Block Grant)

Motion by Commissioner Sims, and seconded by Commissioner Henderson to approve a request to apply for the 2014 CSBG Grant as presented by Mr. Middleton and printed in board book.

Motion carried unanimously

BOARD OF ELECTIONS: DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

County Manager John Middleton presented the following for surplus property to be sold on GovDeals.

- All equipment is inoperable
- Money goes back into the general fund.

Motion by Commissioner Douglas, and seconded by Commissioner Schulz to declare the items listed below as surplus property to be sold on GovDeals as requested by the Board of Elections:

- (1) Ricoh Copier
- (2) OKI Printers
- (1) Midland Digital Weather Monitor
- (1) Postage Scale
- (1) Sharp Calculator

- (1) EnGenius Phone
- (2) CN Netcom Answering Device
- (3) Keyboards
- (1) Mouse
- (1) Computer Monitor
- (1) Frigidaire refrigerator

Motion carried unanimously

ANIMAL CONTROL: DECLARATION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

County Manager John Middleton presented the following for surplus property to be sold on GovDeals.

- Equipment is inoperable and has been replaced by a Gas Fired Series 5181 Pressure Sprayer
- Money goes back into the general fund.

Motion by Commissioner SchulZ, and seconded by Commissioner Henderson to declare as surplus property to be sold on GovDeals:

- (1) 1990 Aikota Model 5181 Gas Fire Pressure Sprayer

Motion carried unanimously

HVAC MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Chairman Ellis made a request of the board to table contract which will be brought back to board for consideration at a later date.

Motion by Commissioner Douglas, and seconded by Commissioner Henderson to table the HVAC Maintenance Program contract as requested by the chairman.

Motion carried unanimously

MASTER WATER SUPPLY PLAN PHASE II – KREBS ENGINEERING

Ron Harris, President of Krebs Engineering appeared before the board to answer any questions the board might have regarding the Master Water Supply Plan contract.

- Briefly gave an overview of proposal
- Proposed scope of work for Phase II of the Master Plan is attached and made part of these minutes.
- Agreement for Performance of Engineering Services associated with Master Water Supply Plan is attached and made part of these minutes.
- Cost not to exceed: \$239,000.00

Motion by Commissioner Maddox, and seconded by Commissioner Henderson to approve the Agreement for Performance of Engineering Services associated with the Master Water Supply Plan between Newton County, Georgia and Krebs Engineering for an amount not to exceed \$239,000.00.

Motion carried unanimously

NCFS: ANNUAL REPORT

Newton County Fire Chief Kevin O'Brien addressed the board and gave an overview of the 2012 Annual Report.

- 2012 Annual Report is made part of these minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Douglas, and seconded by Commissioner Sims to accept the Newton County Fire Services 2012 Annual Report as presented by Chief O'Brien and made part of these minutes.

Motion carried unanimously

ENGINEERING: APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS ON 2013 LMIG PROJECTS

County Engineer Tom Garrett addressed the board seeking approval to advertise for bid the 2013 LMIG projects.

- Includes patching/paving of over 7 miles of roadways.
- Jack Neely Road (Windsong to Fairview) – District 3
- McGiboney Road (Brown Bridge to Salem Road) – District 2 & 4
- Oak Hill Road (SR 212 to SR 20) – District 2
- Malcom Road – District 1
- Mote Road (Lower River to SR 162) – District 5
- Dixie Road (CR213 to Henderson Mill Road) – District 5
- Estimated Cost: \$1,285,968.26
- GDOT's portion: \$846,495.53
- County's portion: To be funded by 2011 SPLOST

Motion by Commissioner Henderson, and seconded by Commissioner Sims to approved the engineer's request to advertise for bid the above mentioned roads for the 2013 LMIG Projects as presented by Mr. Garrett and printed in board packet.

Motion carried unanimously

ENGINEERING: AWARD OF 2013 CULVERT REPLACEMENT PROJECT

- 7 bids received
- Bids were reviewed and A&S Paving, Inc. was the lowest, qualified bidder.
- Bid amount: \$55,230.00
- Received very favorable references from Gwinnett, DeKalb & Snellville on A&S Paving's work as well as the ability to deal with affected residents.
- Funding: General Fund

Motion by Commissioner Schulz, and seconded by Commissioner Sims to award the 2013 Culvert Replacement Project to A&S Paving, Inc. for a not to exceed amount of \$55,230.00 as presented by the county engineer and printed in the board book.

Motion carried unanimously

R031913 – PUBLIC HEARING ON TRANSMITTAL RESOLUTION CIE & STWP

Public Hearing opened.

Chairman Ellis presented this Resolution R031913 for approval.

- Housekeeping measure
- Required by the Department of Community Affairs (DCA)
- CIE (Capital Improvements Element) & STWP (Short Term Work Program).
- Resolution will be mailed to the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission for further processing and then to DCA for approval.
- No comments
- Public Hearing closed

Motion by Commissioner Douglas, and seconded by Commissioner Sims to approve R031913 Transmittal Resolution for CIE (Capital Improvements Element) & STWP (Short Term Work Program).

Motion carried unanimously

R031913A – TO PURSUE ABANDONMENT PROCEEDINGS FOR A PORTION OF HOLMES ROAD

Commissioner Douglas addressed the board and noted that Kevin Holmes had contacted him to see if the board would consider abandoning Holmes Road. Mr. Holmes and his mother are the only two houses on the road. After research it was discovered that only a portion of the road could be abandoned (property is partly bank-owned), therefore the present request is to begin abandonment proceedings for a portion of Holmes Road.

- R031913a – To pursue abandonment proceedings for a portion of Holmes Road.
- Map attached

Motion by Commissioner Douglas, and seconded by Commissioner Henderson to approve R031913a – A resolution to pursue abandonment proceedings for a portion of Holmes Road.

Motion carried unanimously

DISCUSSION OF CHANGING THE ZIP CODES OF EAST NEWTON

Commissioner Maddox

- Expressed excited that Baxter was coming to “home-town”. Great compliment to our county.
- Expressed thanks to Alan Verner for speaking to the board regarding this issue.
- Talked to many leaders and people who support the change, i.e., hospital, public service providers, the sheriff’s office.

Commissioner Henderson

- BOC went through a lot to attract Baxter to our community.
- So much more goes into the process than people realize, and so much must be kept confidential during that process.
- It is a very long drawn out ordeal, but necessary.

Commissioner Schulz

- Echoed Commissioner Henderson’s comments

- Honor for us that Baxter would like to have our zip code.

Chairman Ellis

- Member of JDA and as a member of JDA and Chairman of BOC fully supports the change.
- It will increase our efforts and efficiency of emergency services.
- Asked people to vote yes for the zip code change.

Commissioner Sims

- BOC have already summed up how we feel.
- Excited that the State of Georgia landed Baxter, let alone our own Newton County.

Commissioner Douglas

- Only board member whose actual address will change.
- Didn't know about this until ballot (from post services) showed up in mailbox.
- Feels Baxter's address should be Covington.
- Did research with Congressman Paul Broun to see if something could be worked out, but
- I found out today that he and the House (as a whole) consider this a local bill, an earmark, and neither the Congressman nor the House would allow earmarks.
- Explored several other alternatives, but unfortunately nothing would work.
- Certainly does not want any citizen to be negatively affected by the change, but unfortunately some will if changed.
- Delighted to have Baxter as part of our community. Earthshaking development for us to get a company of this size. They made the request for a zip code change, but the only way we can do that is to vote for.

Chairman Ellis

- Noted that it is a unanimous voice of support from the Board of Commissioners to change the zip code to Covington, 30014.
- Did not require board action.

DISCUSSION OF ROTATING COMMISSION MEETINGS THROUGHOUT THE COMMISSION DISTRICTS

At the request of first District Commissioner John Douglas the board agreed to have some of the 2013 work sessions throughout the five districts. The commissioners felt that by doing this it would allow citizens to attend meetings who ordinarily do not get to attend, as well as, provide an opportunity to become involved and have interaction between the board and the citizens.

The decision was to begin with the 2014 budget work sessions. The budget work session dates will be determined by the county manager and duly advertised, with the first budget work session to be held at the Mansfield Community Center. Ordinarily the board does not take citizen comments at the work sessions, but decided not only to allow comments on the budget, but other topics the citizen might choose.

Motion by Commissioner Douglas, and seconded by Commissioner Sims to approve rotating the 2014 budget work sessions throughout the five districts.

Motion carried unanimously

7:30 P.M. - ZONING:

County Attorney Tommy Craig addressed the board and requested an executive session for the purpose of discussing threatened litigation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

7:30 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Henderson, and seconded by Commissioner Sims to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing threatened litigation.

Motion carried unanimously

REGULAR SESSION

7:40 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Douglas, and seconded by Commissioner Schulz to enter into regular session.

Motion carried unanimously

Chairman Ellis called the meeting back to order and noted the board would now hear the zoning petitions.

- A public hearing will be held on each ordinance.
- Usually 10 minutes are allowed for comments, but for the Salem Overlay Ordinance 15 minutes will be allowed for both those in favor and those in opposition to the ordinance.
- He reminded the speakers to state their name and address for the record.

O-031913 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE NEWTON COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING PROVISIONS; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR FURTHER PURPOSES (SALEM OVERLAY)

Director of Planning & Development Scott Sirotkin addressed the board.

- These are proposed amendments through the Newton County zoning ordinance regarding the Salem Overlay and the alcoholic beverage licenses.
- Noted 2 things:
 - 1) the amendments regarding the alcoholic beverage license are incorporated into the adopting resolutions so what this will do is that if the overlay is adopted, these amendments would add Tier 2 and Tier 3 to those areas where qualifying hotels and restaurants could apply for an alcoholic beverage license.
 - 2) Memo dated from yesterday (March 18) regarding some additional recommendations from staff that are based on some additional comments we received late last week and I will go through those recommendations very quickly. (memo is made part of these minutes.)
- Mr. Sirotkin went over each proposed change with the board. (Information is attached and made part of these minutes.)

The Collaborative Firm

- Mr. Sirotkin introduced Jahnee Prince and Alex Fite-Wassilak with The Collaborative Firm who helped develop this overlay.
- Walked the board thru the PowerPoint presentation that is attached and made part of these minutes.

Chairman Ellis called the public hearing to order and invited the citizens to address the board with their comments.

Support

David Berry

12584 Brown Bridge Road

- Attended previous meetings and had all my questions answered
- Wanted to offer support for the Overlay

Dorothy Wooten:

Brown Bridge Road (Neighbor to Mr. Berry)

- Wants to see the area grow and businesses brought in.
- Concerns about road widening – when businesses come – roads will be improved.

Linda Shell

3797 Salem Road

- Expressed thanks to the board for listening to the people.
- Expressed thanks for working w/The Collaborative Firm
- Expecting great changes that will benefit the area

Jonathan Paschal:

Conyers Street

downtown Covington

- Spoke on behalf of the executive board of Smart Growth Newton County
- First hand seen how an overlay works (example: Greenville, South Carolina)
- Took a town that was in complete decay and brought it back to life.
- We all want better shopping, better restaurants, better industry...the very best way to put all that into motion, is with good overlay planning.

Hunter Hall

Newton Chamber of Commerce

- Remind everyone that the target industry study that board jointly funded with the chamber and the city of Covington some years ago actually benchmarked Greenville, S.C. as our comparison model.
- Here tonight representing the chamber, its board and its members in support of the 2050 Plan and in support of the Salem Overlay. Our board of directors as did this body, as did the city of Covington and all participants in the leadership collaborative some years ago unanimously passed and supported the 2050 Plan.
- Requested board to vote in favor of this overlay because we believe it is critical to help execute the 2050 Plan.
- Question — will building materials deter that development? NO
- Regarding the real estate world, when you are looking at commercial sites, the question, really there are three criteria that you are looking for in site selection of a location. It is household median income, per capita income, and traffic counts. Those are the questions that are driving developers to determine where they locate a site.
- Building materials are secondary or tertiary issues.
- We need the quality development.
- One recommendation to this body is to be fair; be consistent with your design material,

Cindy Abbot:

Dunning Keep

- County has come a long way in developing the 2050 Plan, making sure the county is growing in the right way.
- Wants to see it passed.

Jenny Cartledge:

Fieldstone resident.

- Salem overlay is critical.
- It's already being done in Rockdale and it just needs to flow and mesh.
- It needs to be where counties are working together for the betterment of everybody.

Sue Chapel:

Fieldstone Estates

Rockdale resident

- Fully supports overlay
- Gave a brief reflection of what an overlay does to a community in a positive way.

Ronnie Johnston

Covington Mayor

- City of Covington is trying to move forward with many of these things and ordinances Complete fan and have bought into the 2050 Plan.
- Time is right for developments to come here
- Encouraged board to move forward and adopt the ordinance.

Opposition

Matt Dobson

Greensboro, North Carolina

- Not opposed to Salem Overlay
- Opposed to totally limiting vinyl siding from commercial structures.
- Vinyl Siding has been in existence for 50 years
- Provided board an amendment and asked they consider making this change. (attached and made part of these minutes)
- Suggested it be allowed as a mixed use material

Vernon Smith

Commercial Realtor/ReMax

Augusta, Georgia

- Not against overlay...done wonders for Columbia County, South Carolina
- Needs tweaking
- Represents acreage in overlay area
- National tenants look at traffic counts
- Encouraged board to work with developers to tweak ordinance

Tracey White

McDonald Development Company

- Owns acreage in proposed overlay
- One size does not fit all for an overlay
- Has serious concerns regarding economic damage to property in area.
- Concerns that overlay will be deterrent to commercial development.
- Concerned about regulations on building materials, designs and the limited zoning uses.
- Traffic study for every curb cut is burdensome.
- Would like to see changes to the proposed ordinance.

Greg Hecht

McDonald Development Company

- 35 pages of burdens to developers
- Challenged the board to hesitate before approving the ordinance and to be careful and considerate as they do.

Chairman Ellis closed the public hearing

Note: All information presented is made part of these minutes.

Commissioner Schulz commented that based on her review of proposed ordinance, the information previously presented, and the information presented here tonight she would move for the following:

Motion by Commissioner Schulz, and seconded by Commissioner Sims to approve Ordinance-O-031913 as contained in the Board of Commissioners book and with the duly noted changes. Motion carried unanimously

Note: The original ordinance is contained in file number O-031913, incorporated herein by reference and expressly made a part of these minutes.

AMD12-0004 – PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE NEWTON COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE – TOPIC: ALMON OVERLAY

Director of Planning & Development Scott Sirotkin presented the proposed amendment regarding the Almon Overlay

Chairman Ellis declared the Public Hearing open at 8:55 p.m. and noted the following: The applicant and those in favor of the petition are allowed ten-minutes to address the board. In addition, ten-minutes is allotted for those in opposition to the petition. This ten-minute allotment does not include a response to any questions raised by the commission members.

- Proposed amendments attached and made part of these minutes.
- Recommendation for revision to Almon Overlay Amendment 450-200 D.4 be replaced with the following:
If an existing structure is destroyed by fire or act of God or is moved due to a condemnation, the building may be rebuilt in accordance with the building and site standards of the underlying zoning.

There were no questions or comments from the public.
Chairman Ellis closed the public hearing at 9:00 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Schulz, and seconded by Commissioner Henderson to approve AMD12-0004, proposed amendments to the Newton County Zoning Ordinance as it relates to the Almon Overlay, printed in board book and presented by Mr. Sirotkin, and with section 450-200 D.4 be replaced as follows:

If an existing structure is destroyed by fire or act of God or is moved due to a condemnation, the building may be rebuilt in accordance with the building and site standards of the underlying zoning.

Motion carried unanimously

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES FEE SCHEDULE

Director of Planning & Development Scott Sirotkin presented the Development Services Fee Schedule for approval.

- Fee schedule incorporates a number of changes over the last couple of years.
- Development Services Fee Schedule is made part of these minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Schulz, and seconded by Commissioner Sims to approve the Newton County Development Services Fee Schedule as presented by Mr. Sirotkin and printed in board book.

Motion carried unanimously

COUNTY CHECKS

Motion by Commissioner Sims, and seconded by Commissioner Douglas to approve the county checks as read by the chairman and listed in the board book.

Motion carried unanimously

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Henderson

- Attended a meeting (City of Covington) and cleaning up the entrance area into the city was discussed. Suggested that the county become a partner with this project.
- Nelson Heights Community Center: Some time back board approved to set up a committee similar to the Mansfield Community Center committee.
- Would like for county attorney to use the Mansfield Center Committee as a model for the Nelson Heights Community Center and move forward on this.
- Greenleaf: County pledged \$500,000 for this project.
- Would like to for the county attorney to meet with Randy Vinson regarding how money is spent.
- Suppose to be a workforce development center. Board set aside \$45,000 for attorney fees regarding this.

Commissioner Sims

- Bad weather alerts: Would like to look into the Nixol (free program) System. It is used in neighboring counties.
- With this system all citizens would be alerted...working with public safety personnel

Commissioner Douglas

- Shared that we may be getting a Bank of America in Newton County.
- Announced Town Hall Meeting on Tuesday, March 26th @ 7:00 p.m., Mt. Pleasant Methodist Church @ Hwy. 278 & Hwy. 229.
- Reiterated that we have tried everything we could regarding the zip code change. Encouraged everyone to work together and extend our Newton County hospitality.

Commissioner Maddox

- Real exciting to see how board can come together on issues of differences for the betterment of the community especially the Salem Overlay.
- Expressed appreciation to Commissioner Sims and Schulz for all their hard work and for leading the efforts to get this done.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Time: 10:20 p.m

Motion by Commissioner Schulz, and seconded by Commissioner Sims to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel and pending litigation.

Motion carried unanimously

REGULAR SESSION

Time: 10:40 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Maddox, and seconded by Commissioner Sims to enter into regular session.

Motion carried unanimously

With no further business, a motion by Commissioner Sims, seconded by Commissioner Maddox the meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie B. Smith, County Clerk

William K. Ellis, Chairman