

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
AGENDA SETTING MEETING
DECEMBER 21, 2015
6:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commission Chairman Anthony Dove
District 1 Commissioner Stanley Thomas
District 2 Commissioner Dewitt "Pete" Bond
District 3 Commissioner Theresa Bettis
District 4 Commissioner John W. Pethel, Sr.
District 5 Commissioner Jim R. Escoe, Sr.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

MEDIA PRESENT:

Zach Mitcham, Madison County Journal

STAFF PRESENT:

Rhonda S. Wooten, County Clerk
Mike Pruett, County Attorney

Chairman Dove called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm, led in the pledge to the American Flag and read the Christmas story of Christ's birth.

Item No. 1. Approval of minutes:

Minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of December 7, 2015. Minutes have been distributed.

On motion by Commissioner Bond and second by Commissioner Thomas the Board approved the minutes of the December 7, 2015 Regular Business Meeting. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Bettis, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

Due to another engagement, Chairman Dove recognized Marvin White, Executive Director of the Madison County Industrial Development and Building Authority, at this time. Mr. White gave a report of the activities of the ID&BA.

Item No. 2. Business Involving Guests, Groups or Multiple Visitors.

None

Item No. 3. Chairman's Report

Chairman Dove stated that today is his mother's 85th birthday and he had County Attorney Mike Pruett write a proclamation honoring his mother, Jeanette Dove. Chairman Dove called his mother during the meeting and read the proclamation to her over the phone. On motion by Commissioner Bond and second by Commissioner Bettis the Board approved the proclamation. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Bettis, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

Chairman Dove presented an application for a permit for utility facility encroachment on Old Harrison School Road for a water line to run from the road to a pasture. On motion by Commissioner Pethel and second by Commissioner Thomas the Board approved the application. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Bettis, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

Chairman Dove stated that he has received requests to close the Government Complex for early release on Wednesday, December 23rd and Thursday, December 31st. Commissioner Bond made a motion to close the Government Complex at 12:30 p.m. on December 23rd. On substitute motion by Commissioner Bettis and second by Commissioner Bond the Board voted to close the Government Complex at 1:00 p.m. on December 23rd. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Bettis, Pethel and Escoe voted YES. Chairman Dove asked for the Board's decision regarding December 31st. Commissioner Bond made a motion to close the Government Complex at 1:00 p.m. on December 31st. The motion failed for a lack of a second.

Chairman Dove stated that Commissioner Thomas had a matter to discuss with the Board. Commissioner Thomas read a letter from the Neese Sanford Fire Chief John Seagraves requesting extension of approximately 1900 feet of water line to the fire department to install a fire hydrant and lower ISO ratings. The Board agreed with the need but wanted to gather information regarding the cost and to receive SPLOST projections for the ID&BA. Commissioner Escoe stated that he would like for the ID&BA to handle the water line extension.

Item No. 4. Report from Industrial Development and Building Authority. (Marvin White)

This agenda item was handled earlier in the meeting.

Item No. 5. Statements and Remarks from Citizens on agenda items.

Chairman Dove asked if there were any statements or remarks on an agenda item. No one came forward.

Item No. 6. Consider appointment of a successor Public Defender for the probate traffic court. (Judge Cross)

Judge Cross and Judge Patton addressed the Board requesting a new appointment of a Public Defender for the Probate and Magistrate Courts. The previous Public Defender, Warren Caswell, resigned to take a full time position as Juvenile Judge of the Northern Judicial Circuit. The Board requested that County Attorney Mike Pruett contact Mr. Caswell to get his input on possible candidates for the position.

Item No. 7. Request from Sheriff's Office to use old Fine Finish building for investigator offices. (Sheriff Thomas)

Sheriff Thomas addressed the Board regarding the use of the old Fine Finish building. Sheriff Thomas stated that a structural engineer has evaluated the building and said that it is safe. Sheriff Thomas said that he might need some materials for the work detail crew to do some concrete work in front of the building. On motion by Commissioner Bettis and second by Commissioner Thomas the Board voted to allow Sheriff Thomas to use the old Fine Finish building for investigator offices. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Bettis, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

Item No. 8. Consider 2016 Drug Task Force Agreement. (Sheriff Thomas)

Sheriff Thomas addressed the Board regarding the 2016 Drug Task Force Agreement. The Board and County Attorney Mike Pruett discussed the concerns with insurance coverage and the need for better protection than the original agreement allowed. In a previous meeting, the Board voted to allow Chairman Dove to sign an agreement that was drawn up by Mr. Pruett based on a draft prepared by the Criminal Justice Coordinating and Georgia Sheriffs' Association and ACCG. Sheriff Thomas stated that the GBI did not accept that agreement. The Board advised Sheriff Thomas that he may present the 2016 agreement previously drawn up by Mr. Pruett and signed by Chairman Dove, providing better protection.

Item No. 9. Consider allowing Chairman Dove to sign service agreement with Philips Healthcare. (Chairman Dove)

On motion by Commissioner Bettis and second by Commissioner Thomas the Board voted to allow Chairman Dove to sign the annual service agreement with Philips Healthcare. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Bettis, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

Item No. 10. Discuss the 2016 General and Personnel policies. (Chairman Dove)

The Board reviewed and discussed policy changes submitted by Human Resource Director Tracy Dake. The changes pertain to sections 15 and 16 of the Personnel Policy and sections 1, 2 and 3 of the General Policy. The Board requested County Attorney Mike Pruett to clarify the wording of the requested changes.

Item No. 11. Roads Update

Commissioner Thomas requested that chevrons be added on Nowhere Road and that the embankment at Hanley and Nowhere Road be checked.

Commissioner Bettis requested the history of the decision of the speed limits on Glenn Carrie Road and Charlie Bolton Road.

Commissioner Escoe requested the status of the road striping.

Item No. 12. Urgent Matters

None

Item No. 13. Review January 4, 2016 agenda for Regular Business Meeting.

Mrs. Wooten read the January 4, 2016 agenda items.

Item No. 15. Statements and Remarks from Citizens.

Chairman Dove asked if there were any statements or remarks. No one came forward.

Item No. 16. Executive Session to discuss land acquisition, personnel matters and/or potential litigation (if needed).

There was no need for executive session.

Item No. 17. Adjourn.

On motion by Commissioner Bettis and second by Commissioner Thomas, the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.