

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
AGENDA SETTING MEETING
FEBRUARY 26, 2018
6:00 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commission Chairman John Scarborough
District 2 Commissioner Tripp Strickland
District 3 Commissioner Theresa Bettis
District 4 Commissioner John W. Pethel, Sr.
District 5 Commissioner Jim R. Escoe, Sr.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

District 1 Commissioner Lee Allen

MEDIA PRESENT:

Zach Mitcham, Madison County Journal

STAFF PRESENT:

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

Chairman Scarborough called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., led in the pledge to the American Flag and gave the invocation.

Item No. 1. Approval of minutes:

Minutes of the February 5, 2018 Regular Business Meeting. Minutes have been distributed.

On motion by Commissioner Pethel and second by Commissioner Bettis the Board voted to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2018 Regular Business Meeting. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Strickland, Bettis, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

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

County Extension Agent Adam Speir and the Senior Horse Quiz Bowl Team

Mr. Speir recognized the achievements of the Senior 4-H Quiz Bowl Team; first place winners of the State Horse Quiz Bowl competition. Coach Shannon McBride introduced Team Captain Tori Branyon and members Bethany Lance, Sophia Merka and Tess Branyon. Coach McBride explained that the competition is a trivia contest regarding equine and the equine industry. She said that it was a time based, double elimination contest and gave examples of the questions. The commissioners and audience applauded the team for their achievement.

Item No. 3. Chairman's Report

Chairman Scarborough gave the following Industrial Development and Building Authority update:

- A Family Dollar Store and Urgent Care Center will be coming to the Dogsboro intersection which should move water and sewer lines to that location.
- There was a Madison County ID&BA meeting with Franklin County and Georgia Renewable Power last Friday regarding financing and funding options for the needed water project.
- Members are looking to fill a vacant seat on the ID&BA Board.

Chairman Scarborough said that he is preparing an advertisement for the grant writer position.

Chairman Scarborough advised the Board that the Georgia Department of Transportation has awarded Madison County in excess of \$500,000.00 for road safety projects.

Item No. 4. Statements and Remarks from Citizens on agenda items.

Chairman Scarborough asked if there were any statements or remarks on an agenda item. County Attorney Mike Pruett pointed out that agenda item number five is a public hearing and will be open for comment at that time as well.

Angela Bush, Lisa Mathis, Winola Swinks, Carolyn Smith, Charles Nix, Hoke Strickland, Robert Perry and Dianne Satterfield spoke in opposition to agenda item number seven, non-partisan elections.

Melissa Tufts, David Ramsey, Conolus Scott and Maggie Shuberg spoke in favor of agenda item number seven, non-partisan elections.

OLD BUSINESS:

Item No. 5. Consider abandonment of Cane Road, Hill Morris Road and a portion of M&S Lane.

Chairman Scarborough asked for public comment regarding the abandonment of Cane Road. No one came forward. On motion by Commissioner Pethel and second by Commissioner Strickland the Board voted to abandon Cane Road. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Strickland, Bettis, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

Chairman Scarborough asked for public comment regarding the abandonment of Hill Morris Road. No one came forward. On motion by Commissioner Strickland and second by Commissioner Escoe the Board voted to abandon Hill Morris Road. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Strickland, Bettis, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

Chairman Scarborough asked for public comment regarding the abandonment of a portion of M&S Lane. Karen Whelchel, Lee Whelchel and Beth Harmon spoke in favor of the abandonment of a portion of M&S Lane. Brett Smith, Carolyn Smith and Vicki Kilpatrick spoke in opposition to the abandonment of a portion of M&S Lane.

Hoke Strickland requested clarification on the location of M&S Lane.

The Board discussed the property owners' concerns and the feasibility of maintaining the washed out portion of the road. On motion by Commissioner Pethel and second by Commissioner Escoe the Board voted to postpone voting until the last meeting in March in order to gather more data. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Strickland, Bettis, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

On motion by Commissioner Pethel and second by Commissioner Strickland the Board voted to approve the Resolution to Abandon and Dispose of Roadways pertaining to Cane Road and Hill Morris Road and to strike the language regarding M&S Lane. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Strickland, Bettis, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

Item No. 6. Consider bids for NG 911 Call Taking System.

E911 Director David Camp addressed the Board regarding the bids received for a Next Generation 911 Call Taking System. Mr. Camp recommended going with WestTel International for a purchase price of \$118,750.00 plus an annual maintenance fee of \$21,600.00.

Commissioner Bettis made a motion to accept the bid from WestTel International. Commissioner Strickland seconded the motion.

On substitute motion by Commissioner Escoe and second by Commissioner Bettis the Board voted to authorize Chairman Scarborough to negotiate with WestTel International and bring back, to the Board, their total finance package including the interest rate. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Strickland, Bettis, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

Commissioner Bettis withdrew her motion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Item No. 7. Consider non-partisan elections. (Commissioner Escoe)

Chairman Scarborough turned the floor over to Commissioner Escoe.

Commissioner Escoe said that he asked County Attorney Mike Pruett to research the procedures for changing to non-partisan elections. He then turned the floor over to Mr. Pruett.

Mr. Pruett explained the difference between consolidated and non-consolidated governments, read from state law and explained the steps required to seek a change in general law and local law to make Madison County B.O.C. seats non-partisan.

After considerable discussion, on motion by Commissioner Escoe and second by Commissioner Bettis the Board voted to take no action. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Strickland, Bettis, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

Item No. 8. Roads Update

Commissioner Escoe requested trash pick-up on Farm Road.

Commissioner Bettis requested that White Fence Road be scraped and graveled.

Commissioner Pethel requested the status of the widening of Jones Chapel Shiloh Road.

Chairman Scarborough said that he is asking D.O.T. for assistance with bridge replacement on Frank Bird Road and he is looking into pipe replacement for Lem Edwards Road. He also stated that Georgia Renewable Power is requesting speed bumps on a side road called Office Drive.

Item No. 9. Urgent Matters

There were no urgent matters.

Item No. 10. Statements and Remarks from Citizens.

Chairman Scarborough asked if there were any statements or remarks.

Jane Hertz Keen addressed the Board regarding her concern with Georgia Department of Transportation receiving a portion of her property on Highway 98 due to the relocation of the Dollar General in Ila.

Conolus Scott addressed the Board regarding his dissatisfaction with the Board not taking action to pursue non-partisan elections. Commissioner Strickland and Commissioner Bettis each responded with their belief in the partisan elections. Commissioner Bettis spoke about her strong conviction to help all people, regardless of their party affiliation.

Item No. 11. Executive Session to discuss land acquisition, personnel matters and/or potential litigation (if needed).

County Attorney Mike Pruett advised the Board of a need for executive session regarding pending litigation. On motion by Commissioner Bettis and second by Commissioner Pethel the Board voted to go into executive session at 8:30 p.m. to discuss pending litigation. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Strickland, Bettis, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

The Board returned from executive session at 8:40 p.m.

On motion by Commissioner Strickland and second by Commissioner Bettis the Board voted to approve the minutes of executive session. The vote was as follows: Commissioner Strickland, Bettis, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

Item No. 12. Adjourn.

On motion by Commissioner Pethel and second by Commissioner Strickland the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn at 8:41 p.m.