

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
AGENDA SETTING MEETING  
AUGUST 29, 2016  
6:30 PM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

District 4 Commissioner John W. Pethel, Sr.

**MEDIA PRESENT:**

Zach Mitcham, Madison County Journal

**STAFF PRESENT:**

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

Chairman Dove called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led in the pledge to the American Flag. He stated that he would like to have a moment of silence for those who have passed away and to pray for their families. He named Jimmy Pridgen, Phillip Jones, Tillman Adams and Terri Seagraves.

**Item No. 1. Approval of minutes:**

**Minutes of the Budget Work Session of July 28, 2016, the Regular Business Meeting of August 1, 2016, the 9:30 p.m. Public Hearing of August 18, 2016 and the 4:00 p.m. Public Hearing and Work Session of August 18, 2016. Minutes have been distributed.**

On motion by Commissioner Bettis and second by Commissioner Escoe the Board voted to approve the minutes of the Budget Work Session of July 28, 2016. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bettis and Escoe voted YES. Commissioner Bond abstained.

On motion by Commissioner Bond and second by Commissioner Thomas the Board voted to approve the minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of August 1, 2016. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Bettis and Escoe voted YES.

On motion by Commissioner Thomas and second by Commissioner Bond the Board voted to approve the minutes of the 9:30 a.m. Public Hearing of August 18, 2016. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond and Escoe voted YES. Commissioner Bettis abstained.

On motion by Commissioner Bond and second by Commissioner Bettis the Board voted to approve the minutes of the 4:00 p.m. Public Hearing and Work Session of August 18, 2016. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Bettis and Escoe voted YES.

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

**Jennifer Ivey, Branch Manager Madison County Library**

Ms. Ivey gave an update of summer activities at the library and planned activities for the fall. She advised the Board that Discover Tech will be at the library from the end of October through February. Library Board Member Mike Moak addressed the Board and stated that the Madison County Library is the only library in the southeast to receive a grant for Discover Tech.

**Item No. 3. Chairman's Report**

Chairman Dove recognized Transfer Station Director Sandra Webb. Mrs. Webb addressed the Board regarding the Transportation and Disposal Service Agreement that is up for renewal. Mrs. Webb stated that she is well pleased with the current company; they go beyond the requirements of the contract and put back into the community. There was discussion regarding bid requirements and provision for the newly elected Board members to have an opportunity to consider the next service agreement.

On motion by Commissioner Bettis and second by Commissioner Bond the Board voted to extend the current contract by four months but terminable with a 30 day notice. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Bettis and Escoe voted YES.

Chairman Dove advised the Board that a Comprehensive Plan meeting will be held with the mayors and Northeast Georgia Regional Commission on Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Public Meeting Room.

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

Chairman Dove announced the agenda item and recognized Marvin White, Executive Director of the Madison County Industrial Development and Building Authority. Mr. White gave a report of the activities of the ID&BA.

**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 restoring Board of Assessors' authority over the Chief Appraiser. (Ralph McCay)**

Chairman Dove recognized Board of Assessors Chairman Ralph McCay. Chairman McCay addressed the Board requesting to have the Board of Assessors' authority over the Chief Appraiser be restored. Chairman McCay stated that this authority is given to all other counties.

Commissioner Bettis made a motion to restore the Board of Assessors' authority over the Chief Appraiser. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion.

County Attorney Mike Pruett asked Chairman McCay for clarification on whether the request also includes authority over the entire staff. Chairman McCay said that the request does include the staff.

On substitute motion by Commissioner Escoe and second by Commissioner Bettis the Board voted to restore the Board of Assessors' authority over the Chief Appraiser and full staff. Commissioner Bettis seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Bettis and Escoe voted YES.

Commissioner Bettis withdrew her motion. Commissioner Thomas withdrew his second.

**Item No. 7. Consider application for annexation into the City of Danielsville. (Chairman Dove)**

Chairman Dove presented the application for annexation of the Madison County Agricultural Center located on Map 54 Parcel 82-01 into the City of Danielsville. The annexation of this property is a combined city and county effort to align the tax maps used by the Tax Assessors' Office. The Board had no objections.

**Item No. 8. Consider County Millage Rate. (Chairman Dove)**

On motion by Commissioner Bond and second by Commissioner Escoe the Board voted to set the millage rate at 10.724 for the unincorporated area and 12.152 for the incorporated area. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Bettis and Escoe voted YES.

**Item No. 9. Consider resolution to combine the School Board, ID&BA and County Millage Rate. (Chairman Dove)**

On motion by Commissioner Escoe and second by Commissioner Bond the Board approved the resolution to combine the School Board, ID&BA and County Millage rate. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Bettis and Escoe voted YES.

**Item No. 10. Consider Juvenile Court Judge Intergovernmental Agreement. (Chairman Dove)**

County Attorney Mike Pruett discussed the agreement with the Board. Chairman Dove recognized Juvenile Judge Warren Caswell. Judge Caswell addressed the Board regarding the agreement, the acceptance by the other counties in the circuit and the substantial improvements in the juvenile court system.

On motion by Commissioner Thomas and second by Commissioner Bettis the Board voted to accept the Juvenile Court Judge Intergovernmental Agreement. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Bettis and Escoe voted YES.

**Item No. 11. Roads Update**

Chairman Dove stated that the Road Department is working overtime to get grass cut. He also stated that we have received the check for road striping from the LMIG Safety Program. Chairman Dove stated that the D.O.T. is working on the roughest portion of Highway 98 leading to the Jackson County line. Commissioner Thomas requested that the grass be cut at the corner of Crabapple Hollow and Sanford Road.

Commissioner Thomas also requested information regarding road closures during the widening of Highway 72.

Commissioner Bettis asked about the striping at the Ingles traffic light.

Commissioner Escoe said that he received a card of thanks from the people in Kingston Greens subdivision for the recent road work.

**Item No. 12. Urgent Matters**

There were no urgent matters.

**Item No. 13. Review September 12, 2016 agenda for Regular Business Meeting.**

Mrs. Wooten read the September 12, 2016 agenda items.

**Item No. 14. Statements and Remarks from Citizens.**

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

**Item No. 15. Executive Session to discuss land acquisition, personnel matters and/or potential litigation (if needed).**

County Attorney Mike Pruett said that executive session was needed to discuss new litigation.

On motion by Commissioner Bond and second by Commissioner Thomas the Board unanimously agreed to go into executive session at 7:30 p.m. to discuss litigation. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Bettis and Escoe voted YES.

The Board returned from executive session at 7:52 p.m.

On motion by Commissioner Escoe and second by Commissioner Bettis the Board unanimously agreed to accept the minutes of the executive session. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Bettis and Escoe voted YES.

**Item No. 16. Adjourn.**

On motion by Commissioner Bond and second by Commissioner Bettis, the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn at 7:54 p.m.