

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2012
6:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commission Chairman Anthony Dove
District 1 Commissioner Stanley Thomas
District 2 Commissioner John Pethel, Sr.
District 3 Commissioner Mike Youngblood
District 4 Commissioner Dewitt Bond
District 5 Commissioner Jim Escoe

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

MEDIA PRESENT:

Zach Mitchem, Madison County Journal

STAFF PRESENT

Linda Cox, County Clerk

Chairman Dove called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Wayne Douglas, Chairman of P&Z gave the invocation.

Item No. 1. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of Regular Business Meeting of December 5, 2011 and Agenda Setting Meeting of December 27, 2011.

On motion by Commissioner Bond and second by Commissioner Escoe, the Board unanimously approved the minutes.

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

None

Item No. 3. Chairman's Report (Chairman Dove)

Chairman Dove stated that the Board had previously approved four (4) vehicles for the Sheriff's Office and placed \$130,000 in capital outlay for the purchase. Chairman Dove recognized Sheriff Thomas who stated they would purchase Tahoes which have better crash

ratings, dual batteries and warranties for approximately \$128,000. The Board and Sheriff had previously discussed using some confiscated funds for the vehicles and the Sheriff using a portion of the vehicle funds to supplement Watson Mill if an agreement was made.

On motion by Commissioner Bond and second by Commissioner Youngblood to purchase four (4) vehicles opened the motion for discussion. The Board discussed in length the purchase and using a portion of the funds to supplement Watson Mill. Sheriff Thomas agreed to purchase one K-9 unit and 2 vehicles now and would determine later if any funds would be available for Watson Mill if any agreement is reached.

On motion by Commissioner Bond to authorize the Sheriff to purchase one (1) K-9 and two (2) vehicles, the Board approved the motion by a vote of three (3) YES votes to two (2) NO votes. Commissioners Escoe and Pethel voted NO.

Commissioner Bond made a motion to withdraw his motion to purchase four (4) vehicles with no objection from the Board.

Chairman Dove presented a right-of-way request from Transco.

On motion by Commissioner Escoe and second by Commissioner Bond, the Board unanimously approved the request.

Chairman Dove presented a right-of-way request from Atlanta Gas.

On motion by Commissioner Bond and second by Commissioner Pethel, the Board unanimously approved the request.

Chairman Dove presented a Resolution to set the qualifying fees for the 2012 election.

On motion by Commissioner Youngblood and second by Commissioner Pethel, the Board unanimously approved the Resolution.

Chairman Dove presented a request from Charles Temple, Road Superintendent, to re-hire Jason Blalock as an equipment operator.

On motion by Commissioner Pethel and second by Commissioner Thomas, the Board unanimously approved to re-hire Jason Blalock.

Chairman Dove informed the Board that he has spoken with Bobbie Rooker, Food Bank, and she is running out of space. The Board needs to consider finding more space for the county food bank and one option would be the old forestry office. They will be looking at other buildings in order to give relief and additional space.

Chairman Dove stated that citizens have stated they need to purchase an occupation tax certificate in order to conduct business outside of the county. Mike Pruett, county attorney, will research to determine if there is anything the Board could do for those needing a certificate since the county does not require an occupation tax certificate.

Chairman Dove informed the Board that our agreement with Graham Office Equipment for our copiers expired in December 2011. The amount would remain the same with the exception of the color printer in the Property Valuation Dept. which would add a few hundred dollars. Chairman Dove stated that the Board could approve this agreement or request new bids.

On motion by Commission Bond and second by Commissioner Youngblood, the Board unanimously agreed to keep the agreement with Graham Office Equipment the same as last year with the additional cost of the printer in the Property Valuation Dept.

Chairman Dove gave an update on SPLOST and LOST.

Chairman Dove said some citizens had inquired about loud booms that shook houses. Chairman Dove check with E-911 director, David Camp, as well as the University of Georgia and neither could determine any source for the sound.

Chairman Dove informed the Board that a proposal was received regarding Watson Mill. The State does not want our in-kind offer. The State must hire the clerks and is seeking \$26,760 annual contribution for the two clerks and office expense.

Chairman Dove asked the Board to consider a one (1) time bonus for employees in lieu of a raise. If the Board agrees, a roll-back on taxes would need to be made. This will be on a later agenda for consideration.

Chairman Dove said the General Assembly will address metal theft legislation and the BOC would enhance it for the county.

**Item No. 4. Hearings and Actions on Rezone Matters, Special Use Permits, Etc.:
(Linda Fortson and Wayne Douglas)**

1. Dale Kenner is requesting to rezone .97 ac. from A2 to A1 with the remaining 1.5 ac. going to R-1. The property is located on Buddy Moore Rd. on Map 44 Parcel 193 in District 4.

Chairman Douglas explained the rezone and stated that the P&Z Board voted 5 to 0 to approve.

No one spoke in favor or in opposition to the rezone.

On motion by Commissioner Youngblood and second by Commissioner Bond, the Board unanimously approved the rezone.

2. Chairman Wayne Douglas for the Planning and Zoning Board is requesting to amend the Zoning Ordinance to allow private schools in all zones other than industrial.

Chairman Douglas explained the rezone and stated that the P&Z Board voted 5 to 0 to approve.

No one spoke in favor or in opposition to the rezone.

On motion by Commissioner Escoe and second by Commissioner Bond, the Board unanimously approved the rezone.

3. Chairman Wayne Douglas for the Planning and Zoning Board is requesting to amend the Zoning Ordinance to allow campers and RVs under certain conditions in R-1; RR; A-2 and A-1 zones.

Chairman Douglas explained the amendment to the Zoning Ordinance and stated that the P&Z Board voted 5 to 0 to approve.

The Board discussed this item in great length. Mike Pruett, county attorney, said he would research how this proposal would comply with the state building codes.

On motion by Commissioner Bond and second by Commissioner Youngblood, the Board unanimously agreed to postpone this request until further information can be obtained.

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

There were no statements or remarks.

Item No. 6. Consent Agenda:

There were no items for the consent agenda.

OLD BUSINESS:

Item No. 7. Consider changes to the General and Personnel Policies for 2012. (Donna Sisk)

Ms. Sisk had given copies of the proposed changes to the Board on January 27, 2012 for their review. There were no questions from the Board.

On motion by Commissioner Youngblood and second by Commissioner Bond, the Board unanimously approved the changes for the General and Personnel Policies for 2012.

Item No. 8. Consider 2011 and 2012 budget amendments. (Chairman Dove)

Chairman Dove recognized Frank Edwards, First Responder instructor who stated that the Volunteer Fire Departments provide radios for their volunteers. Most the First Responders are members of a department. Mr. Edwards stated that ten (10) new First Responders are not with fire departments and are need of radios. He can purchase the radios at a cost of \$425 each which is lower than the average cost.

On motion by Commissioner Youngblood and second by Commissioner Bond, the Board unanimously approved the purchase of seven (7) radios at \$425 each and the funds to come out of cash reserves.

Item No. 9. Consider Ordinance for Indigent Burials. (Chairman Dove)

Chairman Dove presented the Ordinance which allows up to \$500 for costs when an indigent citizen has no relatives to provide burial.

On motion by Commissioner Escoe and second by Commissioner Bond, the Board unanimously approved the Ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

Item No. 10. Roads Update.

Chairman Dove took requests from the Board for maintenance on roads in their districts.

Item No. 11. Urgent Matters.

Commissioner Pethel questioned the redistricting map change he requested.

Item No. 12. Statements and Remarks from Citizens.

Gene West expressed his appreciation to the Board for agreeing to purchase new cars for the Sheriff's Office.

Item No. 13. Executive Session to discuss land acquisition, personnel matters and/or potential litigation (if needed).

There was no need for executive session.

Item No. 14. Adjourn.

On motion by Commissioner Pethel and second by Commissioner Youngblood, the Board unanimously approved to adjourn at 8:45pm.