

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2009
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 Bruce Scogin

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

MEDIA PRESENT:

Margie Richards, The Madison County Journal

STAFF PRESENT

Linda Cox, Acting County Clerk
Gary Venable, IT Director
Mike Pruett, County Attorney
Kathy Clark, Finance Director
Donna Sisk, Personnel

AGENDA ITEM I: Call to order and the approval of the minutes of the Special Called Meeting of January 7, 2009, and the minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of January 12, 2009.

Chairman Dove asked Commissioner Scogin to lead us in the pledge of allegiance to the American Flag and to give the invocation. Chairman Dove called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of December 22, 2008. Commissioner Scogin made a motion to approve. Commissioner Pethel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was recorded as follows: Commissioner Thomas, YES; Commissioner Youngblood, YES; Commissioner Bond abstain. The motion was approved four (4) YES votes to zero (0) NO votes and one (1) abstain.

Chairman Dove asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Called Meeting of December 22, 2008. Commissioner Scogin made a motion to approve. Commissioner Youngblood seconded the motion. A roll call vote was recorded as follows: Commissioner Thomas, YES; Commissioner Pethel, YES; Commissioner Bond abstain. The motion was approved four (4) YES votes to zero (0) NO votes and one (1) abstain.

Chairman Dove asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Called Meeting of December 29, 2008. Commissioner Youngblood made a motion to approve. Commissioner Scogin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was recorded as follows: Commissioner Thomas, YES; Commissioner Pethel, YES; Commissioner Bond, abstain. The motion was approved four (4) YES votes to zero (0) NO votes and one (1) abstain.

AGENDA ITEM II: Chairman Dove announced the agenda item and read aloud a report of the correspondence received by the Chairman's office since the last meeting as follows: Northeast Georgia Regional Development Center Area Agency on Aging – Schedules for Public Hearings on Area Plan; Report from Poca VFD regarding 2008 expenditures and a letter from DOT District Engineer, Russell R. McMurry, P.E. The final construction inspection consisting of 2,388 square yards of base and plant mix surfacing on Hull Volunteer Fire Department parking lots beginning at Old Elberton Road and ending at Charlie Bolton Road in Madison County, has been accepted by the DOT as of June 9, 2008. As this is not located on the State Highway System, it will be the responsibility of Madison County to assume the maintenance of this project as of June 9, 2008. Upon recommendation of Randall L. Davis, District Construction Engineer, Mr. McMurry is authorizing the submittal of a statement for payment of work done.

NEW BUSINESS:

AGENDA ITEM III: Chairman Dove – Improvements to BOC room – Platform, other changes and pricing.

Chairman Dove announced the agenda item and began the discussion with the carpet in the meeting room. The carpet has been recalled by the manufacturer and will be replaced at no cost. The carpet is coming loose from the pad and the labor will be completed by the maintenance department. Chairman Dove discussed building a platform for the BOC in order for the public to be able to have a better view. Stated the cost would

be approximately \$2100. The funds are in the Chairman's budget for training and funds for this project would be taken from the Chairman's budget and Chairman Dove would pay for his necessary training from his own funds. Chairman Dove stated he would like to have the State of Georgia Seal on the back wall and the five (5) military flags displayed in the Board room. These items possibly come from donations. Commissioner Youngblood asked if all the labor would be done in house. Chairman Dove stated that all labor would be performed in house. Chairman Dove asked for motion to approve. Commissioner Scogin made a motion to proceed with the platform. Commissioner Bond seconded the motion. A roll call vote was recorded as follows: Commissioner Thomas, YES; Commissioner Pethel, YES; Commissioner Youngblood, YES. The motion was approved five (5) YES votes to zero (0) NO votes.

AGENDA ITEM IV. Anthony Dove – Approval by Board for contract from GA Food Service dated December 18, 2008.

Chairman Dove announced the agenda item and asked Joe Dudley of the Senior Center to take the podium to discuss the item. Commissioner Thomas asked if there were any changes in pricing. Mr. Dudley stated that the prices were a little cheaper. Mr. Dudley stated that there have not been any problems with the food and that the clients were very pleased.

Chairman Dove asked if there were any other questions from the Board. There were no further questions. Commissioner Pethel made a motion for the Chairman to sign the contract. Commissioner Youngblood seconded the motion. A roll call vote was recorded as follows: Commissioner Bond, YES; Commissioner Thomas, YES; Commissioner Scogin, YES. The motion was approved five (5) YES votes to zero (0) NO votes.

AGENDA ITEM V: Judge Harry Rice – Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. as a holiday.

Chairman Dove announced the agenda item and asked Judge Rice to take the podium to discuss the item.

Judge Rice stated: "That this has been recognized as a federal holiday for 20 years. The state recognizes it and every other courthouse around here recognizes it and I feel we just need to address it one way or the other. It's

something Madison County has not addressed and we need to have a policy one way or the other on that, instead of just kind of skirting the issue.”

Chairman Dove recognized Commissioner Youngblood. Commissioner Youngblood asked if Judge Rice was requesting a paid or non-paid holiday. Employees these days are paid for the holiday and some are not paid. Judge Rice stated the Board may want to look at future years for the holiday. The Commissioners were in favor of giving employees the option of taking MLK Day off, but they said the issue is whether that day will be a paid or non-paid holiday. Chairman Dove stated that he favors giving employees the option of removing the day after Thanksgiving or MLK Day as a paid holiday.

Chairman Dove recognized Commissioner Scogin. Commissioner Scogin said he believes honor should be given to whom it is due and that Martin Luther King Jr. is certainly worthy of honor. However, he said employees should not be paid not to work in order to honor someone. Instead, he said employees should be given the option to sacrifice a day's pay to honor MLK. To pay someone to honor somebody, I think is a slap in the face to the person they are trying to honor. If you will sacrifice a day without pay for someone, that's honor.

Chairman Dove suggested to give some time for the BOC to consider policy changes on the holiday for 2010.

AGENDA ITEM VI: Chairman Anthony Dove – Road Projects.

Chairman Dove announced the agenda item and read a report from the Road Department on work completed December 22, 2008 through January 9, 2009. Various requests from the BOC were noted to advise the Road Dept.

AGENDA ITEM VII: Chairman Dove – Set Policies for 2009.

Chairman Dove announced the agenda item.

Chairman Dove said there were several things of concern that needed to be addressed and make decisions on. Chairman Dove will leave the decision to the Board as where to proceed with the policy. Chairman Dove opened the item for discussion starting with Commissioner Thomas. Commissioner Thomas stated he proposes restoring hiring and firing powers to the Chairman. Chairman Dove has shown a strong work ethic, is in the office

every day and accessible to the public. He has shown that he intends to move the county forward. Commissioner Thomas also proposed the three positions in the BOC office: the county clerk, deputy clerk and possibly an administrative assistant serve as “at will” employees under Chairman Dove.

Chairman Dove asked for a motion to approve the “at will” positions in the BOC office. Commissioner Thomas made a motion to approve. Commissioner Pethel seconded the motion. A roll call vote was recorded as follows: Commissioner Youngblood, YES; Commissioner Bond, YES; Commissioner Scogin, YES. The motion was approved five (5) YES votes to zero (0) NO votes.

Commissioner Youngblood suggested that the BOC not allow a clerk into closed sessions to take minutes. He stated the county attorney can take minutes if necessary. County attorney Mike Pruett stated that Georgia law does not require the recording of minutes during closed meetings.

Chairman Dove asked for a motion to approve not to allow a clerk into closed sessions to take minutes. Commissioner Youngblood made a motion to approve. Commissioner Scogin seconded the motion. A roll call vote was recorded as follows: Commissioner Thomas, YES; Commissioner Pethel, YES; Commissioner Bond, YES. The motion was approved five (5) YES votes to zero (0) NO votes.

The BOC agreed to have Attorney Mike Pruett draft changes to the county policies, reflecting the proposals. The BOC will consider these revisions at the next meeting and continue discussion on simplifying the entire county policy.

AGENDA ITEM VIII. Urgent Matters

Chairman Dove announced the agenda item and opened for discussion. Chairman Dove stated that the BOC will conduct business according to Roberts Rule of Order. This is a business meeting and when we set policy we are here to do county business. The public will be given the right to be heard.

Chairman Dove recognized Commissioner Thomas. Commissioner Thomas stated that the Finance Committee would meet with the auditors on January 13, 2009, at 5:00 p.m. Also, he would like to hold off on some of the

suggested changes in the BOC room until the changes in the policy are completed.

Chairman Dove recognized Commissioner Pethel. Commissioner Pethel stated he had no urgent matters. Chairman Dove recognized Commissioner Youngblood. Commissioner Youngblood stated he had no urgent matters. Chairman Dove recognized Commissioner Bond. Commissioner Bond stated he had no urgent matters. Chairman Dove recognized Commissioner Scogin. Commissioner Scogin had no urgent matters.

AGENDA ITEM IX. Adjournment

Chairman Dove asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Youngblood made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Pethel seconded the motion. All in favor say aye. All ayes, the motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.