

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
AGENDA SETTING MEETING  
JUNE 29, 2015  
6:30 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Commission Chairman Anthony Dove  
District 1 Commissioner Stanley Thomas  
District 2 Commissioner Dewitt "Pete" Bond  
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 Pruettt, County Attorney

Chairman Dove called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm, led in the pledge to the American Flag and asked for a moment of silence for the family of Judge Lindsay Tise and the family and victims of the shooting in Charleston and then, very close to home, the family of Buddy Christian.

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

**Minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of June 1, 2015 and the Special Called Meeting of June 15, 2015. Minutes have been distributed.**

On motion by Commissioner Bond and second by Commissioner Thomas the Board voted to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2015 Regular Business Meeting and the June 15, 2015 Special Called Meeting. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

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

Northeast Georgia Food Bank President, John Becker, spoke to the Board regarding the involvement and progress that the Food Bank has had in getting food to those in need. He presented a new campaign entitled A Fresh Approach to Ending Hunger that will enable the Northeast Georgia Food Bank to better address hunger by establishing an expanded, permanent distribution facility and food center in Rabun County. He provided brochures explaining the new program.

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

Chairman Dove stated that the 2016 Georgia D.O.T. Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) amount is \$518,264.95. Chairman Dove reported on the progress of the 2014 and 2015 LMIG projects.

### **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 IDA.

### **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. Discuss 2015 budget update. (Sheriff Thomas)**

Agenda item number ten took place prior to this agenda item.

Chief Deputy Shawn Burns addressed the Board regarding the budgets for the Sheriff's Office and the Jail. He said that he looked at them closely to see what was going on. Chief Burns discussed items that were not included in the budget; such as the salary expense for the Middle School Resource Officer and the cost of housing out inmates. He also noted that expenses have incurred that cannot be budgeted such as vacation hours paid out when an employee retires and the additional wages paid for an employee who is working in the place of an employee out on medical leave. After discussion, Commissioner Escoe requested that the dollar amounts be provided for these situations.

### **Item No. 7. Consider purchasing a 2015 Traumahawk ambulance. (Jason Lewis)**

EMS Director Jason Lewis approached the Board regarding the need to replace a 2004 ambulance. Three new Traumahawks have recently been purchased for EMS stations one, two and four and it is Director Lewis' ambulance of choice for station three as well.

After discussion, on motion by Commissioner Escoe and second by Commissioner Thomas the Board voted to approve the purchase price of \$134,250.00 for a 2015 Traumahawk to be paid out of cash reserves and reimbursed with SPLOST funds. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

### **Item No. 8. Discuss Broad River boat launch site. (Victor Johnson)**

Broad River Watershed Association Treasurer, Victor Johnson, addressed the Board regarding grant funding for the development of improved recreational boating launch sites. Mr. Johnson and BRWA Board Member Tom Krobot explained that the BRWA has negotiated the purchase of property at the Highway 72 Bridge area and would like to enter an agreement with the county to have the property paid for by the BRWA and the County own and hold fee simple title. County Attorney Mike Pruett and Mr. Johnson discussed the various aspects of the project with the Board and plan to prepare a final agreement for consideration at the next B.O.C. meeting.

**Item No. 9. Consider Utility Facility Encroachment application. (Chairman Dove)**

Chairman Dove presented a Windstream application for a Utility Facility Encroachment Permit to allow for a remote telecommunications site on Paoli Road.

On motion by Commissioner Bond and second by Commissioner Escoe the Board voted to approve the Utility Facility Encroachment Permit for Windstream. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

**Item No. 10. Consider increases of the Environmental Health Fees submitted by Madison County Board of Health. (Cathy Kelley)**

This agenda item took place prior to agenda item number six.

Environmental Health Specialist, Cathy Kelley, presented revised Environmental Health Fees. Ms. Kelley stated that the fees were comparable to the fees of other counties.

On motion by Commissioner Bond and second by Commissioner Escoe the Board voted to approve the revised Environmental Health Fees. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

**Item No. 11. Consider resolution amending Timber Harvesting Ordinance. (Mike Pruett)**

County Attorney Mike Pruett explained that the resolution was to help ensure that we are in compliance with recent law changes.

On motion by Commissioner Bond and second by Commissioner Escoe the Board voted to approve the resolution amending the Timber Harvesting Ordinance. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

**Item No. 12. Consider approving rollover of Wellness Program funds. (Chairman Dove)**

On motion by Commissioner Thomas and second by Commissioner Bond the Board voted to have the 2012, 2013 and 2014 Wellness funds rolled over into the 2015 Wellness Budget. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

**Item No. 13. Consider resolution for agreement with Clerk of Court for Technological and office improvements. (Chairman Dove)**

On motion by Commissioner Escoe and second by Commissioner Pethel the Board voted to approve the resolution for agreement with Clerk of Court for technological and office improvements. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

**Item No. 14. Open bids for Bermuda sod for soccer field. (Chairman Dove)**

Chairman Dove opened the following bids for Bermuda sod for the soccer field.

Vendor: Sunbelt Turf Farms  
Date & Time received: 6-17-15 in mail  
Bid price: \$20,152.00

Vendor: Benson Construction Company  
Date & Time received: 6-29-15 at 9:00AM  
Bid price: \$12,537.50

**Item No. 15. Consider renewing the Facilities Use Agreement with Madison County Youth Association. (Chairman Dove)**

On motion by Commissioner Escoe and second by Commissioner Bond the Board voted to approve the 2015 Facilities Use Agreement with Madison County Youth Association. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

**Item No. 16. Roads Update**

Commissioner Thomas requested that pot holes be filled on Leon Ellis Road and that a tree, which is obstructing view of oncoming traffic, be removed from the right-of-way at 2831 Sanford Road.

**Item No. 17. Urgent Matters**

There were no urgent matters.

**Item No. 18. Review July 6, 2015 agenda for Regular Business Meeting.**

Mrs. Wooten read the July 6, 2015 agenda items.

**Item No. 19. Statements and Remarks from Citizens.**

Chairman Dove asked if there were any statements or remarks. Harold Gaulding came forward and addressed the Board regarding his dissatisfaction with Conservation Use decisions pertaining to his land.

**Item No. 20. Executive Session to discuss land acquisition, personnel matters and/or potential litigation (if needed).**

There was no need for executive session.

**Item No. 21. Adjourn.**

On motion by Commissioner Pethel and second by Commissioner Bond, the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn at 8:35pm.