

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
July 6, 2015
6:30 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

MEDIA PRESENT:

Zach Mitcham, Madison County Journal

STAFF PRESENT:

Jackie Kesler, Deputy Clerk
Mike Pruet, 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 Rhonda Wooten's father and family as her father is having medical issues and Buddy Christian's family as they go through the current court trial.

Item No. 1. Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of Agenda Setting Meeting of June 29, 2015. Minutes have been distributed.

On motion by Commissioner Thomas and second by Commissioner Bond the Board approved the minutes of the June 29, 2015 Agenda Setting meeting. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

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

None

Item No. 3. Chairman's Report.

County Attorney Mike Pruett explained that a bill was passed pertaining to County credit cards that are issued out to employees and a policy needs to be in place. The bill doesn't go into effect until January 1, 2016 and he is working on a policy for the Board to review.

Chairman Dove announced he will be having a grandson in December.

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

1. Melba Kellar and Elizabeth Barrow are requesting to rezone their 11.69 acre parcel from A1 to A2 to combine with adjoining property. The property is located on Map 44 Parcel 42-01 on Spratlin Mill Rd. in District 3.
2. Melba Kellar and Elizabeth Barrow are requesting to rezone their 5.08 acre parcel from A1 to A2 to combine with adjoining property. The property is on Map 44 Parcel 43 on Spratlin Mill Rd. in District 3.

Chairman Douglas explained the rezone requests and stated the Planning and Zoning Board combined both rezone requests in one vote and stated that the Planning and Zoning Board voted four (4) to zero (0) to approve.

Chairman Dove asked if anyone would like to come forward to speak in favor of the request. Melba Kellar and Pat Graham spoke in favor of the request.

Chairman Dove asked if anyone would like to come forward to speak in opposition of the request. No one came forward.

Chairman Dove asked if anyone would like to come forward to speak in favor of the request. No one came forward.

The Board combined both rezoning requests in one vote. On motion by Commissioner Thomas and a second by Commissioner Bond the Board voted to approve both rezone requests. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

3. Chairman Wayne Douglas with zoning amendment changes.

Chairman Douglas explained the amendment to change the period to file for another rezone from 6 months to 60 days and stated that the Planning and Zoning Board voted four (4) to zero (0) to approve.

Chairman Dove asked if anyone would like to come forward to speak in favor of the request. No one came forward.

Chairman Dove asked if anyone would like to come forward to speak in opposition of the request.

No one came forward.

Chairman Dove asked if anyone would like to come forward to speak in favor of the request.

No one came forward.

On a motion by Commissioner Escoe and a second by Commissioner Pethel the Board voted to approved the amendment. The vote was as follows: Commissioner Thomas, Bond, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

Chairman Douglas informed the Board that an appeal was filed for the business that requested to be grandfathered in on Jones Shiloh Road. The Planning and Zoning board did some research and found that in 1993 the business was used as a junk yard. The Planning and Zoning Board discussed allowing the business to have 10 cars at a time. At the Planning and Zoning meeting the Board voted two (2) to approve, one (1) no and one (1) abstained.

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.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Item No. 6. Consider Sheriff Department budget and other Sheriff Department requests. (Sheriff Thomas)

Sheriff Thomas addressed the Board about the housing out of inmates costs and suggested the Board wait until the December budget meetings to adjust that budget line item.

Sheriff Thomas requested 4 vehicles to be purchased out of SPLOST money. The total amount, including lights and striping, would total \$120,000. The Board discussed that it would probably be best to purchase the vehicles out of the General Account fund and then reimburse that account with SPLOST money. The Board also discussed that the 8 cars previously bought for the Sheriff's Department with SPLOST money would need to be paid off first before paying for the 4 new vehicles.

On a motion by Commissioner Escoe and a second by Commissioner Pethel the Board voted to approve the purchasing of 4 vehicles for the Sheriff's Department with the money to come from General Fund and reimbursed with SPLOST funds. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

Sheriff Thomas addressed the Board about moving forward with the jail addition informing the Board that the construction company is holding their 2.6 million bid until July 15, 2015. Sheriff Thomas also informed the Board that he has been reviewing his budget and looking for ways to save money, but the housing out of inmates is costing the County money and he feels it would be best to move forward with the addition. Commissioner Thomas expressed his concerns about the budget increases and stated he wants to work with Sheriff Thomas to get those numbers down.

On a motion by Commissioner Escoe and a second by Commissioner Pethel the Board voted to move forward with building the jail addition. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Bond, Pethel and Escoe voted YES. Commissioner Thomas voted NO.

Item No. 7. Consider Democratic appointment for the Board of Elections. (Conolus Scott)

Democratic Party Committee Chair Conolus Scott informed the Board that the Democratic Board of Elections member Leo Smith has resigned and thanked him for his service. Conolus Scott recommended Clyde Verhine as the Democratic Board of Elections member.

On a motion by Commissioner Thomas and a second by Commissioner Pethel the Board voted to approve Clyde Verhine as the Democratic Board of Elections member. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

Item No. 8. Consider bid recommendation for Bermuda sod. (Robin Pendleton)

Recreation Department Director Robin Pendleton recommended the \$12,537.50 bid of Benson Construction for the purchase of Bermuda Sod for the Soccer Field.

On a motion by Commissioner Escoe and a second by Commissioner Thomas the Board voted to purchase sod for the Soccer Field from Benson Construction for \$12,537.50. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

Item No. 9. Consider Memorandum of Agreement with Broad River Watershed Association. (Victor Johnson)

Victor Johnson addressed the Board regarding the Memorandum of Agreement drawn up by himself and County Attorney Mike Pruettt and asked the Board if they had any questions. Commissioner Escoe brought up concerns from citizens about the maintaining of the property and if it would cost the County additional money in the future.

On a motion by Commissioner Pethel and a second by Commissioner Thomas the Board approved the Memorandum of Agreement with the Broad River Watershed Association. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

Item No. 10. Consider Rev. Reginald Hunter to fill vacancy for Madison County on Advantage Behavioral Health Systems Board. (Chairman Dove)

Chairman Dove discussed considering Rev. Reginald Hunter to fill the vacancy for Madison County on the Advantage Behavioral Health Systems Board.

On a motion by Commissioner Escoe and a second by Commissioner Pethel the Board voted to approve Rev. Reginald Hunter for the Advantage Behavioral Health Systems Board. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

Item No. 11. Consider ACCG Defined Benefit Plan Agreement. (Chairman Dove)

Chairman Dove discussed with the Board that there were a few changes made to the ACCG Defined Benefit Plan Agreement to stay in compliance. County Attorney Mike Pruett informed the Board he had looked over the agreement and everything looked good.

On a motion by Commissioner Escoe and a second by Commissioner Bond the Board voted to approve the ACCG Defined Benefit Plan Agreement. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

Item No. 12. Discuss 2016 LMIG requests. (Chairman Dove)

Chairman Dove and the Board discussed 2016 LMIG requests.

Item No. 13. Consider allowing RFPs for a new phone system. (Chairman Dove)

Chairman Dove and the Board discussed the problems with the current phone system and getting RFPs for a new phone system.

On a motion by Commissioners Bond and a second by Commissioner Thomas the Board approved getting RFPs for a new phone system. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

Item No. 14. Consider Utility Facility Encroachment application. (Chairman Dove)

Chairman Dove stated that an application for a Utility Facility Encroachment Permit for a water line on McGee Fitzpatrick Rd. was submitted by the property owner with the intention to run a water line under the road from one piece of property to the other.

On a motion by Commissioner Escoe and a second by Commissioner Bond the Board voted to approve the Utility Facility Encroachment application. The vote was as followed: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

Item No. 15. Roads Update

Commissioner Thomas stated he's been getting calls about Garnett Ward Rd in District 3. He also mentioned Diamond Hill Neese Rd water problems and the evaluation of Beck Rd.

Commissioner Pethel stated Abercrombie Cir. has tree limbs down Road also has pot holes and eggs from local egg houses are being broken and those eggs won't hatch.

Commissioner Escoe stated the shoulders on Second Ave. need to be addressed.

Item No. 16. Urgent Matters

Item No. 17. Statements and Remarks from Citizens.

Hoke Strickland addressed the Board regarding road maintenance.

Item No. 18. Executive Session to discuss land acquisition, personnel matters and/or potential litigation (if needed)

On a motion by Commissioner Pethel and a second by Commissioner Escoe the Board unanimously agreed to go into Executive Session at 7:39 pm to discuss litigation.

The Board returned at 7:58 pm

On motion by Commissioner Escoe and a second by Commissioner Pethel the Board unanimously agreed to accept the Execution Session minutes. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

Item No. 19. Adjourn

On motion by Commissioner Pethel and second by Commissioner Thomas the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn at 7:59 pm.