

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
AGENDA SETTING MEETING
NOVEMBER 30, 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 5 Commissioner Bruce Scogin

MEMBERS ABSENT:

District 4 Commissioner Dewitt Bond

MEDIA PRESENT:

Zach Mitchem, Madison County Journal
Joe VanHoose, Athens Banner

STAFF PRESENT

Linda Cox, County Clerk
Donna Sisk, HR Director

Chairman Dove called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and led in the pledge of allegiance to the American Flag. Commissioner Scogin gave the invocation.

Item No. 1. Chairman's Report. (Chairman Dove)

Chairman Dove recognized Commissioner Thomas who requested that the Board recognize Pamela G. Smith, Madison County Nurse Manager, with a Proclamation for her years of service at the Madison County Health Department. On motion by Commissioner Thomas and second by Commissioner Youngblood, the Board unanimously approved the Proclamation and to put this item on the next week's agenda.

Chairman Dove discussed the condition of Sims Kidd Road. He stated he would like to have authorization to seek bids for repairing, widening, paving and striping .4 miles of Sims Kidd Road.

On motion by Commissioner Scogin and second by Commissioner Youngblood, the Board unanimously approved to authorize Chairman Dove to request bids for Sims Kidd Road.

Chairman Dove gave a report on LOST and SPLOST, stating that both were about the same as last month.

Chairman Dove stated that Master Gardeners of Madison County had informed him that the community garden behind the new extension office on Sunset Dr. in Danielsville which was approved by the Board at their November 2, 2009 meeting was not conducive to their needs. They have been in touch with the Madison County Senior Center and would like permission to have the Community Garden behind the center.

On motion by Commissioner Scogin and second by Commissioner Pethel, the Board unanimously approved to allow the Master Gardeners to move the community garden to the Senior Center.

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

Chairman Dove recognized Mr. Berryman's Civic class from Madison County High School.

Item No. 3. Report from IDA. (Marvin White)

Mr. White gave an update of the activities from the IDA since the last meeting.

Item No. 4. Statements and Remarks from Citizens on agenda items.

There were none.

Item No. 5. E-911 request to upgrade the Warrant Clerk position from Grade 9 to Records Technician Grade 11. (Donna Sisk)

Ms. Sisk explained the upgrade was due to Ms. Ann Brooks retiring and additional duties were being added to the Warrant Clerk position and the name would change to Records Technician.

On motion by Commissioner Thomas and second by Commissioner Scogin, the Board unanimously approved the upgrade from Warrant Clerk, Grad 9, to Records Technician, Grade 11.

Item No. 6. Request to fill two (2) full-time positions at E-911 – Warrants Clerk and Dispatcher I. (Donna Sisk)

Ms. Sisk explained that the Warrants Clerk position would now be considered Records Technician and the Dispatcher I is to fill the position due to the employee resigning as of

December 31, 2009 to join the armed forces. Both positions are within the budget based on Ms. Brooks' retirement thus saving money to go back into the budget.

Item No. 7. Discuss BOC/PZ meeting schedule calendars for 2010. (Donna Sisk)

Ms. Sisk presented the 2010 meeting calendar for the BOC/PZ and asked the Board to take time to look over the calendar and contact her if there were any conflicts.

On motion by Commissioner Youngblood and second by Commissioner Thomas, the Board unanimously approved to put this item on next week's agenda.

Item No. 8. Consider Resolution regarding Danielsville Volunteer Fire Department's new pumper truck. (Chairman Dove)

Chairman Dove presented the item which was discussed among the Board. On motion by Commissioner Thomas and second by Commissioner Pethel, the Board unanimously approved to put this item on next week's agenda.

Item No. 9. Consider personnel positions for 2010 and finalize 2010 budget. (Chairman Dove)

Chairman Dove stated there is a full time position at solid waste which would replace an employee who resigned. Chairman Dove recommends the full time position stating that he has been to the site to observe and he feels they need the position.

On motion by Commissioner Pethel to deny, and for a lack of a second, the motion failed. Chairman Dove asked if there was any other motion.

On motion by Commissioner Scogin and second by Commissioner Youngblood, the Board approved to include this position in the 2010 budget by a vote of three (3) YES votes and one (1) NO vote by Commissioner Pethel.

Chairman Dove stated that the Recreation Department would like to change a part time position to full time. There was some concern on whether they had taken too much from part time to make this a full time position. Alfred Hagan currently is part time and Dick Prepall, Director would like for him to be full time. Mr. Prepall has reduced the part time line item in his budget to compensate for the full time position.

On motion by Commissioner Pethel to deny the full time position and second by Commissioner Scogin, the Board voted as follows: Commissioner Thomas, NO; Commissioner Pethel, YES; Commissioner Youngblood, YES and Commissioner Scogin, NO. Chairman Dove voted NO to break the tie of two (2) NO votes and two (2) YES votes. The motion to deny was not approved.

There was further discussion on the subject regarding the line item for part time employees being reduced in order to allow the full time position.

On motion by Commissioner Scogin and second by Commissioner Thomas, the Board approved the full time position with the understanding that the line item for part time positions has been reduced to cover the full time position and there will be no net increase in the department's budget. Also, if additional part time help is needed in 2010 then the department will have to delete the full time position to compensate for any future part time positions. The vote was recorded as follows: Commissioner Pethel, NO; Commissioner Youngblood, NO; Commissioner Scogin, YES; Commissioner Thomas, YES. Chairman Dove voted YES to break the tie of two (2) NO votes to two (2) YES votes.

Chairman Dove discussed the percentage of collection of taxes in order to set the budget for 2010. The Board discussed whether to set the collection rate at 95%, 96% or 97%. The Chairman recommended 96% based on discussions with Finance Director, Kathy Clark. Previous years collection rate were set at 97%. On motion by Commissioner Pethel and second by Commissioner Scogin, the Board unanimously approved to set the budget for 2010 on 96% collection rate.

The Board discussed 50% unpaid holidays stating that the State could possibly cut another 8% to 10% in funding. On motion by Commissioner Scogin and second by Commissioner Pethel, the Board unanimously approved for budget purposes to go with 50% reduction on holiday pay.

Chairman Dove discussed the fund difference from reserves stating that Finance Director, Kathy Clark said that due to cutback from various departments the county is in a good position. If any shortfalls should occur we can make an amendment before the end of the year.

Chairman Dove discussed Rhonda Wooten's position at 75% or 100% stating that she is a very valuable employee and he is pleased with her work. She is the Executive Secretary to the Chairman, BOE secretary, back up for payroll, backup for the Clerk and is doing the Beer and Wine renewals. She is cross trained in many areas and if anyone is out she can fill in for that position. Chairman Dove stated that Rhonda is very much the type of employee that the county needs and he recommends that she be kept at 100% status which is what she is currently at.

On motion by Commissioner Youngblood and second by Commissioner Scogin, the Board unanimously approved to keep Ms. Wooten at 100% status.

Item No. 10. Consider banking for SPLOST account. (Chairman Dove)

Chairman Dove discussed moving the account to First Madison Bank. First Madison has the collateral to handle the SPLOST account and provides a better interest rate than what is currently being assessed. This would provide an account at each bank in Madison County and the account would be moved at the end of 2009. Kathy Clark, Finance Director, confirmed that all requirements have been met.

On motion by Commissioner Pethel and second by Commissioner Scogin, the Board unanimously approved to move the SPLOST account to First Madison Bank.

Item No. 11. Roads Update. (Chairman Dove)

Chairman Dove gave an update on road repairs since the last meeting and took request from the Board on road repairs.

Item No. 12. Urgent Matters. (Chairman Dove)

There were none.

Item No. 13. Review December 7, 2009 agenda for Business Meeting.

Linda Cox, County Clerk, gave report on items to be on the December 7, 2009 agenda.

Item No. 14. Statements and Remarks from Citizens.

There were none.

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

Chairman Dove asked if there was any reason to go into Executive Session. On motion by Commissioner Pethel and second by Commissioner Thomas, the Board unanimously voted to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel and matters and litigation. The Board went into session at 7:50 pm and returned at 8:10 pm.

Item No. 16. Adjourn.

On motion by Commissioner Pethel and second by Commissioner Scogin, the Board unanimously approved to adjourn at 8:10 pm.