

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
AGENDA SETTING MEETING
JUNE 29, 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

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

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

Chairman Dove announced the agenda item and recognized special guest, Howard Sims. Chairman Dove stated that Mr. Sims' story has been published in several national magazines and most recently in AARP. Mr. Sims told the audience how he became interested in star gazing as a young boy lying in the grass and looking at the stars. He built a 300 pound telescope by hand in his garage as well as an 18 foot tall observatory with the 700 pound rotating domed roof that houses it. He is a retired glass-factory worker and self-taught astronomer. He has many visitors at the observatory including school children, various clubs and a variety of others. He welcomes everyone to come for a visit and gaze at the stars in the vast sky above. Several questions from the audience were answered by Mr. Sims and everyone appreciated his expertise and taking the time to present his story to us.

Chairman Dove recognized Tax Commissioner, Louise Watson to explain the new ways to make tax payments. Ms. Watson explained her department will now be able to accept debit and credit card payments and online payments for property tax payments. The county attorney has approved the service agreement.

Chairman Dove informed the BOC of a request for a Proclamation for Mayor John Waggoner, who has served as Mayor of the city of Colbert for 44 years, and to proclaim July 4, 2009, to be "John Waggoner Day" in Madison County. On motion by Commissioner Bond and seconded by Commission Scogin the Board unanimously approved the Proclamation.

Chairman Dove discussed having members of the county 4-H club provide the recording and sound systems for the BOC & P&Z at a cost of \$10.00 per hour with a minimum of two (2) hours. This will be more cost effective and Gary Venable stated that he concurs with this decision. One member of the 4-H is John Scott and is on the State Board of the 4-H. Chairman Dove would also like the BOC's approval to look at other 4-H members who may be available or someone who is capable of doing the recording next week. Chairman Dove asked for a motion to give him the ability to hire for next week and see how this works out and then decide if we will proceed with this permanently. On motion by Commissioner Pethel and second by Commissioner Scogin, the Board unanimously approved the motion.

Chairman Dove explained a county map placemat with business within the county at a cost of \$325 to participate. Some cities within the county are participating as well as the Chamber. On motion by Commissioner Bond made a motion to participate and purchase these placemats. Commissioner Scogin seconded the motion to participate. A roll call was recorded as follows: Commissioner Thomas, YES; Commissioner Youngblood, NO; Commissioner Pethel, NO. The motion to approve participation in the county map placemat was approved by a vote of three (3) YES votes to two (2) NO votes. Chairman Dove stated if the fee was more than \$325 he will inform the Board.

Item No. 2. Report from IDA – Marvin White

Marvin White gave an update on the activities of the IDA since the last Agenda Setting Meeting.

Item No. 3. Statements and Remarks from Citizens on agenda items.

Chairman Dove asked if anyone would like to speak on any of the agenda items. No one came forward to speak.

Item No. 4. Robert Sides request to further subdivide his property for his children due to his health. (Linda Fortson)

Ms. Fortson explained Mr. Sides has cancer and his desire is to subdivide his property for his children and get his affairs in order. His request meets all the zoning requirements

and the P&Z voted four (4) to zero (0) to approve. On motion by Commissioner Pethel and second by Commissioner Youngblood, the Board unanimously approved the request for Mr. Sides.

Item No. 5. Consider reappointing Shelia Collins for another five (5) year term to the Madison County Board of Family and Children Services.

On motion by Commissioner Youngblood and second by Commissioner Thomas Board unanimously approve to reappoint Sheila Collins for a five (5) year term to the Madison County Board of Family and Children Services.

Item No. 6. Consider Grant Application for Sheriff Department. (Sheriff Thomas)

Sheriff Thomas stated that part of the requirements of this grant is to present it to the public no less than thirty (30) days before submitting. The grant is for a Tahoe vehicle for the canine unit since State Law will soon require a vehicle larger than a police car and the grant also includes seven (7) portable radios. No motion or vote was required on this item.

Item No. 7. Consider tax refund for Turpin. (Robin Baker)

Mr. Baker explained the refund was for tax years 2006, 2007 and 2008 totaling \$635.81. It was discovered that the square footage of the two buildings was incorrect thus inflating the values of the buildings, the buildings were corrected for the 2009 digest. On motion by Commissioner Pethel and second by Commissioner Bond the Board unanimously approved the refund.

Item No. 8. Consider Occupation Tax/Business License refunds. (Eddie Pritchett)

The Board considered refunds for the Business License to be for the business owners to bring in their original business license and receive a fifty percent (50%) refund within sixty (60) days from today's date. After the sixty (60) day period there would be no refunds. On motion by Commissioner Youngblood and second by Commissioner Bond the Board approved the refund with Commissioner Thomas voting to abstain.

Item No. 9. Consider promotion for Dispatcher Matt Cleghorne to Dispatcher III and personnel items. (David Camp)

Mr. Camp stated Mr. Cleghorne was eligible for promotion on April 6, 2009 and is requesting retro pay for him and that Ms. Harrison receive retro pay from her date of eligibility of March 22, 2009. On motion by Commissioner Scogin and second by Commissioner Pethel to approve the promotion for Mr. Cleghorne the Board unanimously approved the promotion of Mr. Cleghorne to Dispatcher III.

On motion by Commissioner Scogin and second by Commissioner Pethel, the Board unanimously denied retro pay for Mr. Cleghorne and Ms. Harrison.

Item No. 10. Consider moving to Phase II for computer aided dispatch system. (David Camp)

On motion by Commissioner Scogin and second by Commissioner Youngblood the Board unanimously approved to move to Phase II for the computer aided dispatch system.

Item No. 11. Consider renewing two (2) contracts with Whitworth Parole Center. (Chairman Dove)

Chairman Dove stated that the contracts were the same as last year with no increase in price. On motion by Commissioner Bond and second by Commissioner Youngblood, the Board unanimously approved renewing the two (2) contracts with Whitworth Parole Center.

Item No. 12. Consider re-approval of contract with Collection Services of Athens, Inc. for EMS. (Chairman Dove)

This item was pulled from the agenda.

Item No. 13. Discuss per diem on travel reimbursements. (Chairman Dove)

On motion by Commissioner Scogin and second by Commissioner Pethel the Board unanimously approved to put this item on the next agenda.

Item No. 14. Consider Indigent Defense Agreement. (Mike Pruett, County Attorney)

Mr. Pruett explained the Agreement and stated all counties have approved the Agreement except Elbert County at this time. On motion by Commissioner Scogin and second by Commissioner Pethel the Board unanimously approved the Indigent Defense Agreement.

Item No. 15. Discuss Inmate Medical Savings Program. (Chairman Dove)

Chairman Dove explained the program and asked Cherri Wyatt whose does billing for EMS for additional information on this program. The final contract form is not finalized at this point. Sheriff Thomas is in favor and will give permission to move forward once the final contract is completed and brought back to the Board for approval.

Item No. 16. Consider proceeding on Pittman Matthews Road. (County Attorney, Mike Pruett)

Attorney Pruett explained the proceeding regarding Pittman Matthews Road. On motion by Commissioner Thomas and second by Commissioner Pethel the Board unanimously approved to proceed with condemnation of the road in order to proceed with paving.

Item No. 17. Transport of bodies for coroner. (Commissioner Youngblood)

Commissioner Youngblood explained in detail the transport of bodies for the coroner. There were various discussions among the Board members. On motion by Commissioner Youngblood and second by Commissioner Bond the Board voted unanimously to put this item on the next agenda.

Item No. 18. Discuss pledge agreement in connection with City of Comer's upcoming loan from Merchants and Farmers Bank. (Mike Pruett, County Attorney)

Attorney Pruett explained the agreement in detail and on motion by Commissioner Scogin and second by Commissioner Bond the Board unanimously approved to enter into the pledge agreement with the City of Comer.

Item No. 19. Personnel – Fill vacancy of County Clerk. (Chairman Dove)

Chairman Dove presented hiring Acting County Clerk, Linda Cox, as County Clerk with a starting salary of \$35,000 which is the low end of Clerk's pay for surrounding counties with populations similar to Madison County. Human Resource Director, Donna Sisk, researched the pay scale from various areas and presented the findings to the Chairman. Chairman Dove recommends hiring Ms. Cox as County Clerk with a starting salary of \$35,000 per year with an increase of \$2,000 once she has completed certification this fall. This salary is within budget and will reduce our operating budget around \$31,000 per year. The economy is down and we are trying to cross-train employees who's work load is down to help out in other departments. We have decided to use Rhonda Wooten of Building Inspections to assist the County Clerk with day to day duties and help organize the County Clerk's office. Rhonda has been a tremendous help to our area and is keep her time spent in our area in order to keep her hours of pay within our budget for 2010. Her salary is being paid from Building Inspection's budget for the remainder of 2009 but the hours worked in our department will be paid from our budget in 2010.

On motion by Commissioner Pethel and second by Commissioner Youngblood, the Board unanimously approved to hire Linda Cox as County Clerk.

Item No. 20. Roads Update. (Chairman Dove)

Chairman Dove gave the Road Department update on work since the last meeting.

Item No. 21. Urgent Matters.

None.

Item No. 22. Review July 6, 2009 agenda for Business Meeting.

The agenda for the July 6, 2009 meeting was read and approved.

Item No. 23. Statements and Remarks from Citizens.

Tax Commissioner, Louise Watson, thanked IT Director, Gary Venable, for his assistance on getting help with the credit/debit card payments for the Tax Commissioner's office. Ms. Watson also spoke on the transportation of bodies.

Chairman Dove announced the two (2) work sessions on Thursday, July 9, 2009. The first session will be held at 4:00 p.m. to discuss the Sheriff's 2009 and 2010 budget. The second session will be held at 5:00 p.m. to discuss changes in the Personnel Policy. This will give time for the employees and public to give their remarks on changing employment to "at will". Commissioner Pethel asked if this will be not mandatory and that the employees will be coming on their own time. Chairman Dove stated it would be on the employees own time and no overtime would be involved.

There were no other statements or remarks.

Item No. 24. Executive Session to discuss land acquisition, personnel matters and/or potential litigation (if needed).

On motion by Commissioner Pethel to go into executive session to discuss land acquisition, personnel matters and/or potential litigation and second by Commissioner Youngblood the Board went into executive session at 9:20 pm.

The Board returned from executive session at 9:50 pm.

25. Adjourn.

There being no further business, on motion by Commissioner Youngblood to adjourn and second by Commissioner Pethel, the meeting adjourned at 9:51 pm.