

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING  
MAY 9, 2016  
6:30 P.M.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Commission Chairman Anthony Dove  
District 1 Commissioner Stanley Thomas  
District 2 Commissioner Dewitt Bond  
District 3 Commissioner Theresa Bettis  
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:**

Rhonda S. Wooten, County Clerk  
Mike Pruet, County Attorney

Chairman Dove called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm, led in the pledge to the American Flag and stated that in a moment of silence, he was going to pray for each and every one who prayed for his family and asked if there were others who would like to mention prayer requests. Commissioner Bond mentioned the passing of his wife's brother, Russel Jordan. Commissioner Thomas mentioned Darlene Tilton. Chairman Dove asked for a moment of silence for prayers and thoughts.

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

**Minutes of Agenda Setting Meeting of April 25, 2016 and the Work Session of April 28, 2016. Minutes have been distributed.**

On motion by Commissioner Bond and second by Commissioner Thomas the Board approved the minutes of the April 25, 2016 Agenda Setting Meeting and the April 28, 2016 Work Session. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Bettis, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

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

None

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

Chairman Dove announced congratulations to our Senior Center Director Kelsey Tyner on the birth of her daughter Austin Olivia Tyner. She was born on Mother's Day and weighed in at 8 pounds 6 ounces.

Chairman Dove stated that there was a good turn out and a real positive atmosphere at the dedication naming the intersection of Highway 29 and Highway 98 the Sheriff Dewey G. Seagraves Intersection.

Chairman Dove read a very complimentary letter from a citizen in Carlton for the road work that was done on Elm Road.

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

1. Chan Chitwood is requesting to rezone approximately 3 acres of his 4.44 acre parcel from B to RR. The property is on Highway 29 N and Watson Road on Map 66 Parcel 4 in District 2. This is for him to have his home near his sign business.

Chairman Douglas explained the rezone request and stated that the Planning and Zoning Board voted six (6) to zero (0) to approve.

Chairman Dove asked if anyone would like to come forward to speak in favor of the request. Mr. Chitwood said that he was in favor of the request.

Chairman Dove asked if anyone would like to come forward to speak in opposition to 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 motion by Commissioner Bond and second by Commissioner Thomas the Board voted to approve the rezone request. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Bettis, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

2. Amendment to definition section in the zoning ordinance to add Event Hall.

Chairman Douglas explained the zoning amendment and stated that the Planning and Zoning Board voted six (6) to zero (0) to approve.

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

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

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

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

**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. John Scarborough of the Moon's Grove Community addressed the Board regarding agenda item number 13 and the article that he read in the Madison County Journal. He spoke in favor of the request to begin replacing aging vehicles at the Senior Center.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Item No. 6. Consider purchasing body cameras and radars for law enforcement. (Kip Thomas)**

Chairman Dove recognized Sheriff Thomas. Sheriff Thomas addressed the Board regarding the purchase of 30 body cameras at \$295.00 each. Sheriff Thomas said that he is waiting for quotes for radars and will address that at a later date.

After discussion, on motion by Commissioner Bettis and second by Commissioner Thomas the Board approved the purchase of the body cameras to be paid out of the 2014 SPLOST funds. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Bettis, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

**Item No. 7. Consider selling distressed properties. (Lamar Dalton)**

Chairman Dove recognized Tax Commissioner Lamar Dalton. Tax Commissioner Dalton addressed the Board regarding selling the distressed properties that he had previously talked with them about at the April 28, 2016 work session.

On motion by Commissioner Escoe and second by Commissioner Bettis the Board voted to approve the sale of distressed properties to the highest bidder, with the collection costs to be paid by the buyer. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Bettis, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

**Item No. 8. Consider SPLOST purchases for Poca Volunteer Fire Department. (Harley Bartlett)**

Chairman Dove presented this request for Fire Chief Harley Bartlett. Chairman Dove stated that the Poca Volunteer Fire Department is in need of air packs and he recommends that each Volunteer Fire Department be permitted to receive up to 60 percent of their estimated SPLOST revenue, with Board approval, so that items can be purchased when needed. He stated that this would be the maximum amount allowed and no additional funds would be disbursed until the end of the collection period.

On motion by Commissioner Escoe and second by Commissioner Bond the Board voted to allow the Poca Volunteer Fire Department to receive up to 60 percent of their estimated SPLOST revenue. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Bettis, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

**Item No. 9. Consider SPLOST purchases for Carlton Volunteer Fire Department. (Chris Smith)**

Chairman Dove recognized Carlton Fire Chief Chris Smith. Fire Chief Smith addressed the Board requesting SPLOST funds to retrofit a tanker truck.

On motion by Commissioner Escoe and second by Commissioner Thomas the Board voted to allow the Carlton Volunteer Fire Department to receive up to 60 percent of their estimated SPLOST revenue. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Bettis, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

**Item No. 10. Consider moving Lane Vandiver from part-time to full-time to fill a vacancy. (Jason Lewis)**

EMS Director Jason Lewis approached the Board to request that Lane Vandiver be moved from part-time to full-time to fill a vacancy.

On motion by Commissioner Bettis and second by Commissioner Thomas the Board voted in favor of Director Lewis' request. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Bettis, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

**Item No. 11. Consider accepting Hope Drive as a county road. (Jim Escoe)**

This agenda item was handled after agenda item number 12.

Commissioner Escoe stated that at some point Hope Drive was given a county road number of 689 and he referred to the minutes of a 2006 meeting that addressed road work on Hope Drive to accommodate the school buses and emergency vehicles. Commissioner Escoe made a motion to accept Hope Drive as a county road and that the road work needed will be a part of his LMIG. Commissioner Pethel seconded the motion. After discussion regarding the amount of available funds, the vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond and Bettis voted NO. Commissioners Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

**Item No. 12. Consider proclamation recognizing National EMS Week, May 15<sup>th</sup> through May 21<sup>st</sup> (Theresa Bettis)**

This item was handled before agenda item number 11.

Commissioner Bettis recognized the EMS staff that was present at the meeting and asked County Attorney Mike Pruettt to read a proclamation recognizing National EMS Week. Commissioner Bettis asked each employee to give their name and years of service. Several comments were made by the Board regarding the excellent service that they or a family member has received from Madison County EMS.

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

**Item No. 13. Consider purchasing a shuttle bus for the Senior Center. (Theresa Bettis)**

Commissioner Bettis stated that she did not want to turn a blind eye to this situation and that we have to start somewhere. Commissioner Bettis made a motion to purchase one shuttle bus at state contract price out of the General Fund. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. After discussion Commissioner Thomas made an amended motion to purchase one shuttle bus at state contract price out of Cash Reserves. Commissioner Bettis seconded the motion. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Bettis, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

**Item No. 14. Consider renewing Independent Contract Agreement with Tim Shelnutt for building inspection services. (Chairman Dove)**

On motion by Commissioner Bettis and second by Commissioner Thomas the Board voted to renew the Independent Contractor Agreement with Tim Shelnutt for building inspection services. The vote was as follows: Commissioners Thomas, Bond, Bettis, Pethel and Escoe voted YES.

**Item No. 15. Roads Update**

Chairman Dove advised the Board that one tractor is completely down and the first estimate for repairs is approximately \$10,000. He stated that the one working tractor is handling the most urgent needs.

**Item No. 16. Urgent Matters**

Commissioner Bettis stated that the fire hydrant between the Hull Volunteer Fire Department and City Hall has been inoperable. Two other inoperable fire hydrants were also mentioned by the Board; the one at Alewine's and the one at Jack Sharp Road.

**Item No. 17. Statements and Remarks from Citizens.**

Chairman Dove asked if there were any statements or remarks. No one came forward.

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

There was no need for executive session.

**Item No. 19. Adjourn**

On motion by Commissioner Pethel and second by Commissioner Bond the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn at 7:55 pm.