

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
AUGUST 20, 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:

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

Chairman Dove called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and led in the pledge to the American flag. Chairman Dove asked for a moment of silence and then gave the invocation.

Chairman Dove read the following statement: I have been in office for six years and almost eight months, by far zoning issues are the most personal and contentious thing county government can be involved in. Just as in this case, it puts good people against good people, county citizens against county citizens, neighbor against neighbor, and even family against family. I said this before in the crematory issue, zoning can sometimes give property rights and sometimes takes them away. Whatever is decided here tonight will not make everybody happy. Issues like this weigh heavily on my decision not to run for this office again. I wish everyone could go home tonight with a smile on their face and love in their heart for their fellow citizen. I personally pray for wisdom and clarity on the issues discussed here tonight. I will say this, I believe folks, that government is not the answer to everything.

Item No. 1. Statements and Remarks from Citizens on an agenda item.

Chairman Dove recognized County Extension Agent Adam Speir. Mr. Speir provided the Board with information on water usage, air quality, and nutrient and mortality management regarding poultry houses and gave comparables to other land uses.

Chairman Dove recognized Tim Leachman of Burke Leachman Road. Mr. Leachman addressed the Board regarding his concerns with the number of poultry houses in his area and the possibility of wells going dry.

Chairman Dove recognized Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman Wayne Douglas. Chairman Douglas addressed the Board regarding zoning regulations and setbacks for poultry houses.

Chairman Dove recognized Fieldale Farms representative Ken Martin. Mr. Martin addressed the Board regarding the number of poultry houses being built at the old Stovall Farm location; eight on one tract and eight on another tract. He explained the measures that are in place to select operators and locations.

Chairman Dove opened the floor to anyone who would like to address the Board regarding a possible moratorium on chicken house permits. The following people addressed the Board:

Leon Daniel, Larry Stewart, Renee Radivich, Gena Boleman, Sandy Haagan, Terry Chandler, Russ Moon, and Byron Lee.

Chairman Dove called for a recess at 8:20.

Chairman Dove called the meeting back to order at 8:35 and again opened the floor. The following people addressed the Board:

Executive Director of the ID&BA Marvin White, Thomas Harrell, Terry Stephenson, Deborah Allen, Dennis Moon, Clay Talton, Danielsville Mayor Todd Higdon, Matt Whitehead, Cindy Jones, Richard McGinnis, Patty Irvin, Comer Mayor Jody Blackmon, David Brown and Francis Wofford.

Item No. 2. Discuss a possible moratorium on chicken house permits. (John Pethel)

County Attorney Mike Pruett read a draft resolution for a temporary moratorium of building permits for poultry houses. Commissioner Pethel asked Planning and Zoning Chairman Wayne Douglas to share his opinion of the time frame given in the resolution for a moratorium. Chairman Douglas stated that based on the research already done, he did not recommend any changes to the A-1 zoning regulations regarding poultry houses.

Commissioner Pethel made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Bond seconded the motion. The Board unanimously agreed to adjourn at 9:46 pm.