

**APPLING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2007
6:00 P.M.**

The Regular Meeting of the Appling County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Virgil Carter on Tuesday, March 6, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. Present were Commissioners Theodore Wilkerson, Sarah Boatright, H. Mike Dyal, John Elbert Tillman, Ronnie Rentz, and Commissioner Chairman Virgil Carter. Also present was County Manager Luther Smart, County Attorney Bob Highsmith, and County Clerk Chrissy Harris. Present from the news media was Joe Taylor the Advisor of the TSA (Technology Student Association) videoing for ATC Cable Company.

Chairman Carter welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Kelly Byrd led the pledge to the flag.

Commissioner Rentz gave the invocation.

Commissioner Rentz made a motion seconded by Commissioner Dyal to approve the minutes of the meetings held on February 20, 2007. Motion carried unanimously.

DISBURSEMENTS

There were no disbursements for approval at this time.

DRIVEWAY GRADING/PRISONER HEALTHCARE - LEO FLANNIGAN

Mr. Leo Flannigan addressed the board concerning the Prisoner Healthcare issue. Mr. Flannigan felt that using Appling County Healthcare System for Prisoner Healthcare was the most practical and feasible solution.

Mr. Leo Flannigan reported to the board that in the past he has frowned on the county doing work on private property. Mr. Flannigan informed the board that he presently has a special needs child living in his trailer park off of Ten Mile Highway. The school bus is now using his driveway to pick up the special needs child and his driveway is being damaged by the school bus. Mr. Flannigan asked that the board consider maintaining the driveway of his trailer park as long as the special needs child lives there.

Mr. Smart informed the board that the Commissioners would need to obtain a letter from the Appling County Board of Education Bus Shop requesting that the driveway be graded. After receiving the letter, the commissioners could approve the maintenance of the driveway.

Mr. Flannigan made a statement in reference to the ongoing debate of the draw down of Lake Mayers. Mr. Flannigan stated that he had always managed to control the mosquito/midge problem at his home with insect repellent.

OLD BUSINESS

DISTRICT II ROADS ISSUES - COMMISSIONER WILKERSON

Commissioner Wilkerson stated that he would like to postpone this issue until a later date.

Commissioner Wilkerson questioned the process that he needed to go through to get work done in his district in order to comply with the guidelines of the Ethics Code. He also wanted to know how Commissioners could verify that the work requested had been completed in their district.

The Commissioners agreed to discuss this at the Work Session scheduled for next week.

PUBLIC WORKS ISSUES - MR. TOMMY DAVIS

TIRES ON MOTORGRADER

Mr. Tommy Davis reported that new tires and rims are needed on two motor graders that are scheduled for buy back in the year 2010.

Mr. Davis stated that the cost of replacing the tires would be \$340 per tire and \$710 per rim. Mr. Davis added that the trade in price for the old rims would be \$200. The total cost to the county for replacing the tires and rims would be \$10,200. This cost is included in the Road Department's Budget for FY 2007.

Commissioner Boatright asked Mr. Davis how quickly the tires and rims are needed. Mr. Davis replied that they are needed as soon as possible.

Commissioner Boatright made a motion seconded by Commissioner Rentz to purchase both sets of tires and rims at a total cost of \$10,200. Motion carried unanimously.

REPLACE COMPUTER

Mr. Davis reported that they are having problems with Road Department's computer. The computer is having to be constantly backed up and is being consumed by viruses.

Mr. Davis has obtained prices for a new computer and a custom built computer for their specific needs. The price of the new computer is \$1,800 and the price of a custom built computer is \$600. The cost of the software needed on this computer will cost an initial \$3,000 plus \$1,800 each year for upgrades to the software. This cost was not figured into the Road Department's Budget for FY 2007.

Commissioner Boatright made a motion seconded by Commissioner Wilkerson to approve the purchase of the computer and the software at the price of \$3,600 to come out of contingency if the money cannot be transferred within the Road Department's Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

AUCTION OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

Commissioner Chairman Virgil Carter reported that he had spoke to Stevie Smith, President of the Stockman's Association about an Auction of Surplus Property. Mr. Smith informed Mr. Carter that they do not have an Auction planned for anytime soon but that he would be glad to help the County with a Surplus Auction. The county presently has about 15 items for an auction. Mr. Smith suggested that the county allow other properties to be sold at the auction for commission.

NEW BUSINESS

NIMS TRAINING

The Department of Homeland Security and FEMA has informed the Appling County Emergency Management of mandatory disaster training. This training must be completed by certain elected and appointed officials in order for Appling County to be reimbursed for damages in the event of a disaster. The training must be completed by September 2007. EMA Director Dane Bruce stated that there is an estimated 35-36 people in Appling County in need of the training. Two classes make up the required training, the IS-300, which is a three-day class, and the IS-400, which is a two-day class. Because of the large number of people needing to attend this training it will be more feasible if the county holds the classes in Appling County. The county's portion for the training class is \$2,118.80.

Commissioner Boatright made a motion seconded by Commissioner Tillman to approve the cost of the training. Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD OF EDUCATION REQUEST - ALTAMAHA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Board of Commissioners has been contacted by the Board of Education requesting their assistance in helping to resolve the parking problem at Altamaha Elementary School. There are safety issues with the drop off and pickup of the children at the school. The Board of Education is requesting that the Appling County Public Works Department assist in the grubbing and clearing of land at the school in resolving the parking problem.

Commissioner Boatright made a motion seconded by Commissioner Tillman to allow the Appling County Public Works Department to assist the Board of Education in resolving the parking problem at Altamaha Elementary School. Motion carried unanimously.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT - REPLACE VEHICLE-WILTON MCCALL

Mr. Wilton McCall Interim Recreation Director addressed the board with the Recreation Department's need for a maintenance truck to haul a heavy-duty trailer with two lawnmowers on it. The motor blew up a few months ago in the previously used maintenance truck. The grass-cutting season is quickly approaching. The former Recreation Director's truck is currently being used as the maintenance vehicle. Upon the hiring of a new Recreation Director the Recreation Department will need a maintenance truck. The cost of repairing or replacing this vehicle was not figured into the FY 2007 Budget for the Recreation Department.

Mr. McCall stated that he had obtained three prices for a motor:

Napa Auto	\$ 2,859
Appling Motors	\$ 2,400
Nesmith Chevrolet	\$ 2,875

Mr. Wilkerson asked Mr. McCall to obtain prices for a good used maintenance truck.

This item will be placed on the agenda for next week's work session so that Mr. McCall can obtain prices for a used maintenance truck and report back to the board.

Mr. McCall reported that the Recreation Director position is currently being advertised in house and will be advertised to the public if no one is selected in house. It will be approximately three to four more weeks before a Recreation Director is hired.

JULY 4TH FIREWORKS

County Manager Luther Smart reported that for the last six years the Appling County Board of Commissioners has participated in the July 4th Fireworks Show. Last year the cost of the show was \$6,000.00 and different organizations and businesses contributed to the Fireworks Show.

This year the cost of the Fireworks Show will be approximately \$7,962.70. The Commissioners approved \$1,000 for the Fireworks show in the FY 2007 Budget with plans of getting different organizations to contribute to the Fireworks Show. Mr. Smart reported that the City of Baxley is planning to contribute \$1000 as they did last year. The Chamber of Commerce, Industrial Development Authority, and the Board of Tourism is planning on contributing \$500. Other organizations and businesses in Appling County are also expected to contribute as they did last year. The sponsors of the Fireworks show will be recognized in the announcement July 4th Fireworks show in the news banner and on the radio.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wilkerson and seconded by Commissioner Dyal to purchase the July 4th Fireworks in the amount of \$7,962.70. Motion carried unanimously.

ROADS - BUILDING AND GROUNDS

ROADS - MR. TOMMY DAVIS

Mr. Davis informed the board that he had received a letter addressing State and Federal mandates. Mr. Davis reported that a TSA background check is required for his Service Truck Driver Ricky Claxton. The cost of the background check is \$94.00.

Mr. Davis questioned the board on whose responsibility it is to pay for the background check.

Commissioner Wilkerson made a motion seconded by Commissioner Tillman for the County to pay for the TSA background check. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Davis also reported that the Road Department is currently working on the new construction of Hoppy Trail, Poplar Lane, and Doc McTier Road.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS – MR. TROY RUSHING

Mr. Troy Rushing reported that the acoustic panels in the courthouse will be installed soon to help reduce the noise in the courtroom. More carpet runners has also been added to help with the noise problem.

The Community Hall floor repair will be completed by tonight.

Waterlines have been put down at the Falling Rocks Park as well as the meter bases. The electrical wiring has been ordered.

The construction of the office cabin should begin in a few weeks.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Road Closure: I have been informed by the Area DOT Office that Norfolk Southern Railway has tentatively scheduled to work on the crossings in Appling County and that the crossing for US #1 is scheduled for the week of March 19th. The crossing will be closed for two days. DOT will be sending out notices to the newspaper, radio station, E-911, EMS, law enforcement and other emergency services of the closure. Traffic will be diverted to City Circle Road. As soon I have more details I will inform the board.
2. Tornado Affects and Aftermath: I have handed out a memorandum from the ACCG on the recent tornados that struck Georgia. ACCG is coordinating the assistance being requested by these counties. Although Governor Purdue declared nine counties disaster areas, FEMA declared only Sumter County as a Federal Disaster Designation. GEMA has released a News Release requesting donations that are needed for Baker and Sumter Counties. The News Release is a part of your handout.
3. LARP Letting: DOT has notified the Board that 1.734 miles of Ten Mile Road, starting at East River Road and ending at Ira Eason Road and 0.812 miles of Old

Blackshear Road starting at Oak Ridge Road and ending at Hokie Floyd Road for a total of 2.546 miles of Appling County. The date for the letting is scheduled for April 20th, 2007 with an estimated completion date of December 31, 2007.

4. **Safety Striping:** DOT has notified the Board that a total of 42.80 miles of Appling County roads has been approved for striping. I have handed out to each Commissioner a list of the roads to be striped and the mileage associated with each of the roads.
5. **RDC Economic Development District Strategy Committee:** Each Commissioner was provided a copy of the memorandum from the RDC in reference to new EDA regulations to forming a strategy committee for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the region. RDC is requesting that two representatives from each of the counties be appointed to this committee. One must be an elected official and the other must be from the business/industry section – this person can be a member of the Economic Development Authority. The appointments need to be made by March 16th, 2007.
6. **Repeat:** RDC Regional Plan/Regional Work Program Update: The RDC Board of Directors is in the process of updating their Regional Plan. This must be done each year. The Regional Plan is located on the Internet at www.hogardc.org. Please see the handout for further details. If you are interested in making any comments please do so by the suspense date of March 15th.
7. **Repeat:** Annual Progressive Report: I have been requested by the Baxley News – Banner to submit our Annual Progressive Report for the past year. The suspense date is March 8th.
8. **Repeat:** DOT Transportation Enhancement: State DOT is now accepting applications for Transportation Enhancement (TE) projects for FY 2008 and 2009. The application process will run from April 2, 2007 through June 15, 2007. All applications will be submitted electronically. Seven workshops will be held statewide during the month of April. TE projects require a minimum of 20% matching funds. There are 12 different categories that qualify for TE projects. I have handed out a copy of the DOT announcement and of the 12 different areas. The Board needs to review these documents and determine if this is something the county would want to pursue.
9. **Repeat:** ACCG Annual Meeting: ACCG will be holding its 2007 Annual Meeting April 21 through April 24, 2007 at the Savannah Civic Center in Savannah Georgia. Saturday, April 21st is the training day with the actual meeting starting on Sunday, April 22nd. Each Commissioner should have already received a copy of the registration forms. The cutoff for hotel reservations is March 12, 2007. Please let Yvonne Sellers know before this date so we can try and have everyone at the same hotel. We will make every attempt to make the reservations at the DeSoto Hilton where we have stayed before. If we wait until the last minute then we do not have a guarantee that everyone will be booked at the same hotel. As a reminder, Saturday

April 21 will be the training day with the actual meeting starting on Sunday, April 22nd.

10. **Repeat:** ACCG Spring Training: ACCG will be holding its 2007 Spring Training, March 15 and 16 at the UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center. I have handed out a copy of the flyer to each Commissioner. Please note that the Fundamentals of Property Appraisal and Taxation is a two-day course while the remaining courses are one day. Please see Yvonne Sellers to make your reservations if you are planning on attending.
11. **Repeat:** Tree Fest: The 17th Annual Baxley Tree Fest will be held April 12th through 14th, 2007.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no need for Executive Session at this time.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

Chairman Carter announced that there will be a Work Session on Tuesday, March 13th beginning at 6:00 pm and a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, March 20th beginning at 6:00 pm and Public Input at 5:30 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting of the Appling County Board of Commissioners was adjourned.