

**APPLING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 10, 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, July 10, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. Present were Commissioners Sarah Boatright, H. Mike Dyal, John Elbert Tillman, Ronnie Rentz, Theodore Wilkerson and Chairman Virgil Carter. Also present was County Manager Mike Phillips, County Attorney Bob Highsmith and County Clerk Chrissy Harris. Present from the news media was Joe Taylor of the TSA (Technology Student Association) videoing for ATC Cable Company, Jamie Gardner of the Baxley News Banner and Al Graham from WBYZ Radio Station.

Chairman Carter welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Bob Highsmith led the pledge to the flag.

Ronnie Rentz gave the invocation.

Commissioner Rentz made a motion seconded by Commissioner Wilkerson to approve the minutes of the meetings held on June 19, 2007. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

RECOMMENDATION OF PEST CONTROL BIDS

Mike Cleland reported that he and Troy Rushing had examined the pest control bids as requested by the board at the last commissioner's meeting. It is their recommendation to the board to accept the low bid of \$215/month or \$2,580/year from Altamaha Pest Control of Claxton, GA. Motion carried unanimously.

OPENING OF EMA BUILDING REROOFING BIDS

County Attorney opened the sealed bids for the repair of the EMA Building Roof and they were as follows:

<i>Contractor</i>	<i>Materials</i>	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Total Bid</i>
<i>Dale Carter Construction</i>	<i>\$ 13,987</i>	<i>\$ 15,588</i>	<i>\$ 29,575</i>
<i>LE Russell Construction</i>	<i>\$ 17,690</i>	<i>\$ 14,700</i>	<i>\$ 32,390</i>

Commissioner Boatright made a motion seconded by Commissioner Rentz to accept the apparent low bid of \$ 29,575 from Dale Carter Construction for the reroofing of the EMA Building. Motion carried unanimously.

No bids were received for the electrical work on the EMA Building. The commissioners decided to rebid the electrical work.

NEW BUSINESS**RESOLUTION – TRANSFER OF TITLE ON OLD NATIONAL GUARD AMORY BUILDING**

A motion was made by Commissioner Dyal and seconded by Commissioner Boatright to allow the Chairman to sign a resolution transferring the ownership of the National Guard Armory to Altamaha Technical College. Motion carried unanimously.

ROADS/BUILDING AND GROUNDS**ROADS-TOMMY DAVIS**

Road Superintendent Tommy Davis reported that due to heavy traffic Buckhead Road and Pretty Ford Road has ruts in them and is holding water. This will be a very expensive problem to fix. The ruts are dangerous and the county is liable for this problem.

Mr. Davis also reported that the recent deep patching on Red Oak Road is not holding up.

Chairman Carter recommended that the County Manager and Public Works Superintendent contact DOT about these problems and report back to the board.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS-TROY RUSHING

Building and Grounds Superintendent Troy Rushing reported that he had obtained bids for the replacement of the air conditioning unit at the County Shop. The prices ranged from \$2,759 to \$5,200. All prices are for a three-ton unit. Mr. Rushing recommended that the board approve the bid of \$2,959 for a Puron Gibson Unit.

Commissioner Dyal made a motion seconded by Commissioner Rentz to accept Mr. Rushing's recommendation to approve the bid of \$2,959 for a Puron Gibson Unit. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Rushing also reported that he has been contacted by a representative of the Okefenokee Library requesting an additional phone line for the Appling County Library. The Library is requesting the phone line for public use so that the Library phone line will not be tied up from the public using theirs. Okefenokee Library has agreed to pay for the installation of the phone line if the board will agree to pay the monthly fee of approximately \$12.95 per month. If approved there will be a three-minute limit per phone call and a long distance block on the phone line.

Commissioner Dyal, being a member of the library board, volunteered to find out more about this issue and report back to the Board of Commissioners.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

The County Manager had nothing to report at this time.

**GERRY MOORE – APPLING COUNTY PRESIDENT – NAACP –
CONFEDERATE MONUMENT – 10 MINUTES (REQUESTED BY THEODORE
WILKERSON)**

Gerry Moore addressed the board concerning the placement of the Confederate War Monument:

(the following has been inserted)

Good Evening to you all, and thank you, the board of Commissioners for allowing us to address the issue once again, of the placement o the confederate monument on the courthouse lawn.

I realize that there are many places that we would rather be than sitting here asking and appealing to the Elected Board of Commissioners to do the right thing for all the citizens of the community to vote and rescind the current approval of the placement so that tension and unrest can disappear among the citizens and we all can get back to normal operations of the community.

Per our last meeting with you, I have had the privilege to talk to many people in the community, black as well as white as we meet and greet each other in the shopping centers around town, and many have voiced their concerns and asked questions that I could not answer, and my response to them is, that's a question that only the board of commissioners can answer.

Per my last conversation with County Manager, Mike Cleland and Mr. Virgil Carter there had been some discussions of a committee between African Americans and Appling County Grays as to solutions that could be discussed between the two groups as to the placement of the monument and as to this moment this is where we are.

We, the members of the African American community, do and will continue to come to the County Commissioners meeting until the county commissioners decide to make a motion to vote and correctly and respectfully rescind this approval that the past commissioners voted on but failed to ask and gather all necessary and much needed information on the history of slavery during the confederate war and listen to the concerns of the minorities and the effects that this would and will continue to have on the community as we all as a people live and work among each other on a daily basis.

At the last meeting (5) people took turns addressing you, the new board of Commissioners in depth as to Why this was an unwise decision, What the effects are to the unwise issue, Where the unwise issue should go, and When the unwise issue should go there. At this point let me make it perfectly clear to you and the general public, this is not a racial issue, but then again it is about the racial attitudes and effects that this monument can and will create in the community and carry on from that day forever and ever. Maybe some of you have already talked among yourselves and made a decision on

your vote, and maybe some of you are asking yourselves what are the effects of my vote and how will I be remembered as a leader of all people in my district who have cast their vote for me intrusting that I will make the best decision for my constituents. I have asked several members of the NAACP as to how they feel about proposed committees to correspond and discuss the issue among ourselves, and what really the purpose is. Of course we can talk about the history of the civil war and we can also talk about slavery in the civil war, but in the end our position will not change because of the facts of history does not change, and we can not reshape history which includes the mistreatment of African Americans and the pages of history will not disappear.

In conclusion, we ask that you the board to look into the facts if you have doubt and look into the future of Appling County and the effects that the wrong decision will cause all citizens of this community and future generations of people in Appling County. Look at the failure to draw industry and growth because big industry will not come here because of bad publicity that the news media will produce. We have already begun to be contacted by several press people wanting an interview. As our city council member spoke in the last meeting, we don't need outside people here, I beg to differ, and we ask our board to do what is right from a local standpoint. But we do have people from outside looking in as we wait for your decision. The bible teaches us that if something offends thy brother we must not do it. And only you, the governing body can make this decision to end this discussion now.

Mr. Moore thanked the board for their time.

Ms. Viola Lewis questioned the board about the inscription on the monument and added that she was not in objection of the monument, just the placement.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session was not held at this meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman had no comments.

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