

**APPLING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 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, September 18, 2007. Present were Commissioners Sarah Boatright, H. Mike Dyal, John Elbert Tillman, Ronnie Rentz, Theodore Wilkerson and Chairman Virgil Carter. Also present was County Manager Michael 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 of WBYZ Radio Station.

Chairman Carter welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Michael Coleman led the pledge to the flag.

Sheriff Benny Deloach gave the invocation.

Commissioner Boatright made a motion seconded by Commissioner Wilkerson to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 4, 2007. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Carter noted that a correction was made to the minutes prior to the meeting, a motion made by Commissioner Wilkerson to erect signs at the four main entrances into Baxley to recognize the Bulldawgs National BB Team Champions.

RECOGNITIONS

LONNIE WEAVER – COUNTY ROADS DEPARTMENT

Chairman Carter read the following statement made by Lonnie Weaver:

(The following has been inserted.)

September 7, 2007

Saturday, September 1st I was checking roads for washouts and water over the road due to heavy rainfall. I was traveling North on Holland Cemetery Rd, and was coming up on the intersection of GA Hwy 203. I noticed a car under water and upside down. There was a lady in the highway jumping up and down and very upset, telling me a lady was trapped inside of the car. I immediately jumped into the water and felt around for someone. I finally found her hand, grabbed it and pulled her out of the car. She was not injured and seemed to be ok, other than being upset. She couldn't speak any English and I wasn't sure if she was the only occupant in the car, as I noticed a car seat in the vehicle, so I went back to make sure and thankfully there wasn't anyone else.

I called Mr. Tommy Davis and he had Deputy Lt. Wright in route to the accident. As soon as Lt. Wright arrived and didn't need any more information from me, I turned it over to him.

Lonnie Weaver

Chairman Carter read aloud a proposed Resolution commending Mr. Weaver on his unselfish dedication to duty, his bravery in the saving of a life and his loyalty and service to the citizens of Appling County, Georgia.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rentz and seconded by Commissioner Tillman to approve the proposed Resolution recognizing Lonnie Weaver. Motion carried unanimously.

(Insert Resolution)

DISBURSEMENTS

There were no Disbursements for approval at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

REQUEST FOR PAYMENT OF FIRE DEPARTMENT VEHICLE REPAIRS (TEN MILE AND GRAHAM)

A request was made by the Ten Mile and Graham Fire Departments for the payment of Fire Department vehicle repairs. The cost for the Ten Mile Fire Department vehicle repair is \$1,258.05 and the cost for the Graham Fire Department vehicle repair is \$923.49 for a total of \$2,981.54.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dyal and seconded by Commissioner Boatright for the payment of the Ten Mile and Graham Fire Department vehicle repairs for the total amount of \$2,981.54. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Wilkerson questioned where the money for the repairs would come from.

Chairman Carter stated that hopefully the money spent on these repairs would be reimbursed by FEMA.

Commissioner Dyal expressed that he would like for the Volunteer Fire Departments to provide the Commissioners an itemized list (including the number of responses by the Fire Departments) of where money is spent out of the Volunteer Fire Departments' Budget.

Commissioner Boatright suggested that the Board discuss the certification of the non-certified firefighters that are responding to fires.

Issues pertaining to the Volunteer Fire Departments will be discussed further in the next Work Session to be held on September 25, 2007.

PRESENTATION OF FLAG AND CERTIFICATE TO EMA AND TEN MILE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chairman Carter presented EMA Director Dane Bruce with a flag in appreciation to the EMA for their dedicated service in combating the largest wild fire in history of South Georgia.

STATE QUITCLAIM DEED TO LIVESTOCK BARN AND ARENA

A memorandum has been received by the Tri-County Fair, Inc. requesting that the Board of Commissioners consider transferring the title of the multi-se arena-type building property to the Tri-County Fair Incorporation.

(Insert Memo from the Tri-County Fair, Inc.)

This item will be discussed in Executive Session.

NEW BUSINESS

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S REQUEST FOR STATE EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

District Attorney Stephen Kelley addressed the board requesting that Appling County Commissioners allow him to negotiate with the State of Georgia to allow them to provide benefits to his county employees who work for the District Attorney's Office. Appling County family insurance coverage is \$1,469.83 per month, per employee, paid with county funds. For an employee who makes \$12.00 per hour, it would save the taxpayers \$11,000 for that one employee. The savings to the taxpayers could be quite substantial. The State's insurance is 23 % of the employee's salary. In order for Mr. Kelley to negotiate with the State of Georgia, each county in the circuit has to pass a resolution authorizing him to do so.

A motion was made by Commissioner Dyal and seconded by Commissioner Boatright to pass the resolution authorizing District Attorney Stephen Kelley to negotiate with the State of Georgia to allow them to provide benefits to his county employees who work for the District Attorney's Office. Motion carried unanimously.

(Insert Resolution)

ANNEXATION PETITION

The City of Baxley has requested the approval of the annexation of the following properties into the City of Baxley:

- Sabrina D. Williams- 987 Industrial Park Drive, Baxley, GA
(Residential R-15)

- Alexis Marcus Carter and Estate of Marine Williams- Oak Ridge Road, Baxley, GA (Residential R-20)
- Elaine Williams- 84 Oak Ridge Road, Baxley, GA (Residential R-20)

A motion was made by Commissioner Dyal and seconded by Commissioner Boatright to approve the request from the City of Baxley to annex the properties owned by Sabrina D. Williams, Alexis Marcus Carter and the Estate of Marine Williams, and Elaine Williams. Motion carried unanimously.

RECREATION PLANS FOR POOL BUILDINGS REPAIR FOR SPRING 2008

A report was provided to the Commissioners by the Recreation Director Michael Coleman that included the following information:

(Insert Report)

County Manager Michael Phillips explained that a decision needed to be made on whether the Commissioners want to expand or replace the existing pool buildings.

This item will be discussed further at the next Work Session to be held on September 25, 2007.

ROADS/BUILDING AND GROUNDS

ROADS-TOMMY DAVIS

Road Superintendent Tommy Davis had nothing to report at this time. He asked the board if they had any questions.

Commissioner Wilkerson questioned Mr. Davis on the status of the paving of Doc McTier Road.

Mr. Davis responded that they are still waiting on the contractor and the contractor has assured him that the Doc McTier road paving would be completed by the end of the year as well as the other two roads scheduled for paving.

Mr. Davis added that the Road Department had been working on cleaning up weeds and grass at Lake Mayers.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS-TROY RUSHING

Building and Grounds Superintendent Troy Rushing reported that the electrical work on the EMA Building had been completed and the carpenters are currently working on the roof at the EMA Building.

Mr. Rushing also reported that at the Concerted Services Building the floor work has been completed. Also at the Concerted Services Building, the walls in the kitchen have been painted and the cabinets have been sanded and refinished. The tile should be put down this week.

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

The County Manager had nothing to report at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Commissioner Tillman and seconded by Commissioner Dyal to go into Executive Session to discuss real estate. Motion carried unanimously.

After reconvening from Executive Session, there was no action taken. Chairman Carter announced that the Live Stock Barn and Arena will be discussed further at the next Work Session and this would allow the County Attorney to look into the legalities on this issue and report back to the Board before a decision is made.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman announced that a Work Session will be held on September 25, 2007 and the first meeting in October will be cancelled because most of the Commissioners will be at the Fall Policy Conference in Atlanta. The next Regular meeting will be held on October 16, 2007 unless the board decides at the Work Session to reschedule the first meeting in October instead of cancel it.

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