

Baldwin County Commissioners
Regular Meeting
February 17, 2009
6:00 p.m.

A Meeting of the Baldwin County Commissioners was held Tuesday, February 17, 2009 at 6:00 p.m., Baldwin County Courthouse, Suite 319, 121 North Wilkinson Street, Milledgeville, Georgia, with Chair Bubba Williams presiding.

Members Present: Emily C. Davis
Linda Fussell
Sammy Hall
Faye Smith
Bubba Williams

Also Present: David Waddell
Joan Minton
Ralph McMullen
Cindy Cunningham
Linda Zarkowsky
Scott Deason

Call to Order

Chair Bubba Williams called the February 17, 2009, meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Linda Fussell made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2009, Meeting as presented. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Presentation Regarding Property Tax Mechanisms

Mr. Dave Wills, Government Relations Manager with the Georgia Association County Commissioners of Georgia, made a detailed presentation to the Board of Commissioners on the Georgia property tax process addressing the roles of the Board of Commissioners, Board of Education, Board of Tax Assessors and Tax Commissioner. Mr. Wills also discussed various bills and resolutions being considered by the General Assembly dealing with property tax caps, property assessment increases, and the Homeowners Tax Relief Grant.

Hire Back Option for County Extension Agent

County Extension Coordinator David Lowe addressed the Board regarding his plans to take early retirement offered by the State, effective March 31, 2009. He discussed the hire back option as outlined in a letter from the Northeast District Cooperative Extension Director effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. However, for the period April 1, 2009 through June 30, 2009 the State will not be participating in the hire backs. Mr. Lowe asked the County to consider continuing the current County funding during this busy period to provide 7.9 hours per week.

County Manager Joan Minton reported funds are included in the current budget to continue funding the County's portion of Mr. Lowe's salary for approximately one (1) day per week for the three (3) month period beginning April 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2009. She stated the Board could address the continuation of this funding during the new budget process.

Commissioner Emily C. Davis requested the issue be tabled for consideration until the next meeting.

Vice Chair Faye Smith made a motion to approve the hire back of County Extension Coordinator David Lowe on a part-time basis during the period April 1, 2009 through June 30, 2009 to be paid through funds allocated in the current budget with continuation of funding to be addressed in the upcoming budget process. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Inmate Boarding Costs

Finance Director Linda Zarkowsky presented information on the costs of housing inmates in other counties due to overcrowding at the jail. She reported the current budgeted amount for inmate boarding is \$50,000.00 Ms. Zarkowsky stated inmate boarding costs to date total \$272,404.00 leaving an unbudgeted amount of \$222,404.00 with a total of \$134,504.00 pending in unpaid invoices to other counties. She reported \$87,900.00 has already been transferred from other line items, the remaining County budget contingency has been obligated and Board input is needed on how to fund these costs. She stated the only source of available funding is the fund balance.

Commissioner Linda Fussell made a motion to approve payment in the amount of \$134,504.00 from the County's fund balance to cover the unpaid invoices for inmate boarding in other counties. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Budget Calendar

County Manager Joan Minton presented the budget calendar and outlined the general process required by law for the adoption of the budget for fiscal year July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010. She stated additional discussions and input will be needed to develop the final budget document.

Accounts Payable List Dated February 17, 2009

Commissioner Emily C. Davis made a motion to approve the Accounts Payable list dated February 17, 2009. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Commissioner Emily C. Davis made a motion that the Board of Commissioners meeting be adjourned at 7:10 p.m. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Bubba Williams
Chairman

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk