

Baldwin County Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
February 20, 2007  
6:30 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Baldwin County Commissioners was held Tuesday, February 20, 2007, at 6:30 p.m., Baldwin County Courthouse, Suite 319, 121 North Wilkinson Street, Milledgeville, Georgia, with Chairman Dale Epps, Sr. presiding.

Members Present: Dale Epps, Sr.  
Bobby Blizzard  
Geneva Davis  
Collins P. Lee  
Bubba Williams

Also Present: Joan G. Minton  
David Waddell  
Cindy Cunningham  
Linda Zarkowsky  
Smokey Veal

Call to Order

Chairman Dale Epps called the February 20, 2007, Regular Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Vice Chairman Collins P. Lee made a motion that the minutes of the January 16, 2007, Regular Meeting be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Bids for Irrigation System at Golf Course

Finance Director Linda Zarkowsky reported bids were solicited for upgrades on the irrigation system at Little Fishing Creek Golf Course. She stated two bids were received; however, one bid could not be considered since it did not meet specifications outlined in the request for proposals. Finance Director Zarkowsky stated the bid information has been presented to the Health, Environment, Recreation and Conservation Committee and is being presented for consideration by the Board. She stated the bid for the golf course irrigation system upgrades is from On Course Irrigation in the amount of \$138,900.00. The Finance Director stated funding is in the current budget for the lease payments; therefore, no budget amendment is required.

Vice Chairman Collins P. Lee made a motion that the bid be accepted from On Course Irrigation in the amount of \$138,900 for irrigation system upgrades at Little Fishing Creek Golf Course. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Resolution for OneGeorgia Application

County Manager Joan Minton reported that in 2006 the Board authorized a pre-application to OneGeorgia for consideration for a grant under the Equity Fund Financial Assistance Program to build a new Airport terminal. She stated the County has now been invited to submit a full application for consideration.

County Manager Minton presented a Resolution authorizing the submission of the formal application to the One Georgia Authority under the Equity Fund Program for an amount of up to \$500,000 for the Airport terminal building and also authorizing the Chairman to execute all documents pertinent to the Equity Fund Financial Program. Commissioner Bobby Blizzard made a motion to adopt the Resolution authorizing the submission of a formal application to OneGeorgia under the Equity Fund Program for the Airport terminal and authorizing the Chairman to execute documents pertinent to the Equity Fund Financial Program. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

A copy of the Resolution is herewith attached and made an official part of the minutes at pages \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Health, Environment, Recreation and Conservation Committee Report on Greenway Request

Commissioner Bobby Blizzard reported the Greenway Authority has requested the County's assistance in building a temporary road to access the Greenway property for the groundbreaking ceremonies and for construction. He stated the County would furnish the labor and hauling for the project with the Greenway Authority utilizing their SPLOST allocation to pay for the materials at an approximate cost of \$17,650.00. Mr. Blizzard reported the information has been presented to the Health, Environment, Recreation & Conservation Committee for their review with a favorable recommendation to the full Board. He reported the next step would be for the Greenway Authority Board to consider the expenditure of their SPLOST funds for this project. Mr. Blizzard stated the public works crew will actually do the work on the project which will cause a slowdown in the County's response time to work orders, patching, etc.

Commissioner Blizzard made a motion to accept the Health, Environment, Recreation and Conservation Committee's recommendation to approve the Greenway's request for assistance and proceed with the construction of the road. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

#### Election of Chairman Countywide

Commissioner Bubba Williams reported that previously a Committee was appointed to study the issue of the election of the Chairman countywide. He stated he would like to bring this matter back before the Board for their consideration to elect the Chairman countywide.

Chairman Dale Epps asked Commissioner Williams to discuss this matter with Commissioner Blizzard, County Attorney Waddell and County Manager Minton and report back to the Board.

#### Property Tax Issue

Commissioner Bubba Williams reported his constituents would like to see an annual three percent cap on residential property assessments, and he submitted information to the Board regarding this issue at the last meeting.

Commissioner Bubba Williams made a motion to move forward with requesting legislation for a three percent cap on residential property assessments.

County Attorney David Waddell reported that approximately two-thirds of a tax bill relates to the Board of Education, and any hope for tax relief is substantially minimized if the Board of Education does not also request legislation to cap residential property assessments. He stated the Board of Education has indicated they would not be requesting legislation; therefore, he could not recommend that the Board of

Commissioners request legislation for a three percent cap on residential property assessments. He recommended the Board await action on this issue at the State level. The motion by Commissioner Williams died for the lack of a second.

#### Update on Service Delivery Plan

County Manager Joan Minton reported staff members continue to meet with the City to resolve the Service Delivery Plan required by the Comprehensive Planning Act. She stated the Department of Community Affairs has issued recertification dates for the SDS for the entire State with the dates being moved forward one year in order to allow local governments greater flexibility in creating usable plans to prepare for future growth. She stated the recertification date for Milledgeville-Baldwin County is now February 28, 2008 which allows more time for our planning process.

#### Meeting with Department of Transportation

County Manager Minton reported DOT has revisited the issue of a proposed North By-Pass with another route that would consist of Phase 1 as already proposed by DOT starting north of the Walmart property and providing a new tie in on Highway 212 along with intersection improvements to tie into the existing By-Pass. She reported a delegation from Baldwin County, including the Legislative Delegation, met with DOT Commissioner Harold Linnenkohl in Atlanta on February 5<sup>th</sup>, and the Commissioner approved the revised route and authorized the Tennille DOT office to begin work on the project design.

#### Grant Awards

Finance Director Linda Zarkowsky presented a GEMA Homeland Security Grant Award in the amount of \$71,635.00 for the Sheriff's Department to purchase ten car laptops and software. She reported this is a 100% grant award with no required match from the County.

Commissioner Blizzard made a motion to accept the GEMA Grant Award in the amount of \$71,635.00 for the Sheriff's Department. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Finance Director Zarkowsky presented an Assistance to Firefighters Grant from the Department of Homeland Security in the amount of \$45,000 with a \$5,000 required match to be paid through SPLOST. The funds will be utilized by the Fire Department to begin replacing breathing apparatus equipment that will soon be non-compliant.

Commissioner Bubba Williams made a motion to accept the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Award in the amount of \$45,000 and to approve the required match of \$5,000. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

#### Accounts Payable List Dated February 20, 2007

Vice Chairman Collins P. Lee made a motion to approve the accounts payable list dated February 20, 2007. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

#### Appearances

Mr. Rocky McDade of 124 Log Cabin Road addressed the Board regarding the Land Use Codes and the establishment of a commercial business next to his residence.

Adjournment

Vice Chairman Collins P. Lee made a motion that the Board of Commissioners meeting be adjourned at 7:20 p.m. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dale Epps, Sr.  
Chairman

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Cynthia K. Cunningham  
County Clerk