

Baldwin County Commissioners
Regular Meeting
February 8, 2011
6:00 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Baldwin County Commissioners was held Tuesday, February 8, 2011, at 6:00 p.m., Baldwin County Courthouse, Suite 319, 121 North Wilkinson Street, Milledgeville, Georgia, with Chairperson Faye Smith presiding.

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

Also Present: David McRee
Ralph McMullen
Linda Zarkowsky
Cindy Cunningham
Dawn Hudson
Scott Deason

Call to Order

Chairperson Faye Smith called the February 8, 2011, Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2011 Regular Meeting as presented. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Bids for Road Improvements at Log Cabin and 441 North

Engineer Tim Ingram reported the bid opening was held January 24, 2011, for the deceleration and turn lane improvements at Log Cabin and 441 North. He presented a detailed bid tabulation of three bids that were received and stated all bids have been reviewed. Mr. Ingram stated R. W. Smith Company was the low responsive bidder for the project with a bid of \$678,068.01 which is within the budget. Engineer Ingram stated he is recommending the County remove two bid line items which would reduce the contract from \$678,068.01 to \$644,834.01. He reported Ingram & Associates would complete the NPDES Monitoring for the project at no additional cost to Baldwin County (Item #72), and Baldwin County Water Department would relocate or lower the existing 6" water main on Log Cabin Road (Item #71). Mr. Ingram therefore recommended the award of the project to R.W. Smith for \$678,068.01 with a change order to be executed to reduce the cost of the project to \$644,834.01.

Commissioner Bubba Williams made a motion to accept the recommendation as presented to award the contract to R. W. Smith Company in the amount of \$678,068.01 with a change order to be executed to reduce the cost of the project to \$644,834.01. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Intergovernmental Agreement for Oconee Areawide Radio System (OARS)

County Manager Ralph McMullen reported as discussed in previous meetings, the Federal Communications Commission (FC) is mandating changes to all public safety radio systems to covert wideband systems to narrowband systems to promote more efficient use of frequency bands. He stated narrowbanding is not optional and is very expensive. He reported meetings have been held with public safety officials, potential vendors and other counties regarding this requirement.

He presented information on the Oconee Areawide Radio System group which consists of Greene, Morgan, Oconee and Walton Counties. He presented an Intergovernmental Agreement and First Amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement for Baldwin County to join the OARS for an interoperable communications system which maximizes coverage and minimizes the cost of such a system. He reported there will be no costs to join the OARS until such time as Baldwin County goes live on the system. He stated the project is included in the SPLOST as a joint project with the City of Milledgeville. He also stated that being a part of the OARS would strengthen our grant application to purchase equipment.

Commissioner Linda Fussell made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement and First Amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement for Baldwin County to join the Oconee Areawide Radio System group. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Consolidation Efforts Update

Commissioner Bubba Williams asked County Manager Ralph McMullen to give an update on the consolidation efforts with the City. County Manager McMullen reported he and the City Manager have had discussions regarding the reorganization of departments particularly fire services and code enforcement. He stated no specific details have been decided, and the next step is to bring in staff members to discuss particulars such as similarities and differences in the operation of departments as well as financing. Mr. McMullen reported he will bring additional information to the Board, and Mr. Jarrett will present it to the Mayor and Council.

Introduction of Water / Sewer Superintendent

Mr. Jason Kidd, the County's new Water / Sewer Superintendent, was introduced.

Committee Appointments

Chair Faye Smith made the following 2011 Policy Committee Appointments:

Revenue, Finance & Budgets: Smith-Chair, Hall-Member

General Government & Administration: Hall-Chair, Williams-Member

Public Safety and the Courts: Davis-Chair, Smith-Member

Economic Development and Transportation: Fussell-Chair, Davis-Member

Health, Environment, Recreation & Conservation: Williams-Chair, Fussell-Member

Accounts Payable List Dated February 8, 2011

Vice Chair Emily C. Davis made a motion to approve the Accounts Payable list dated February 8, 2011. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Appearances

Taxes - Mr. Ben Quinn addressed the Board regarding taxes. He stated he felt the citizens should be able to vote on a cap on property taxes.

Commissioner Linda Fussell made a motion to allow citizens to vote on a cap on property taxes. The motion was seconded.

After discussion, Chair Smith stated she felt town hall meetings should be held to provide information and to hear comments from the public on this important issue. She recommended bringing in someone from ACCG, other agencies as well as surrounding counties to provide indepth information about a tax cap before the Board votes on it.

There being no further discussion, Chair Smith asked Commissioner Fussell to restate her motion.

Commissioner Fussell restated her motion as follows: to send information to legislators to place on the ballot a zero cap on homestead property. The motion was seconded, and the motion failed by the following vote:

Aye: Fussell, Williams

Nay: Davis, Hall, Smith

Vice Chair Emily C. Davis made a motion to have at least two town hall meetings to bring information to the citizens regarding this matter. The motion was seconded.

Commissioner Williams stressed he felt time is of the essence and asked that the meetings be held prior to the end of this legislative session. Commissioner Hall stated he felt individuals with expertise on tax caps, the pros and cons should be invited to the town hall meetings to provide information.

Vice Chair Emily C. Davis amended her motion to have at least two town hall meetings before the end of the legislative session and to bring people knowledgeable on the issue to provide information. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Lumpkin Road / Stiles Road – Ms. Dorothy Favors addressed the Board expressing concerns regarding the condition of Lumpkin Road and the bridge on Stiles Road. Ms. Wendy Tindell also addressed the Board about the condition of Lumpkin Road.

Adjournment

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to adjourn the Board of Commissioners meeting at 7:30 p.m. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Faye Smith
Chair

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk