

Baldwin County Commissioners
Regular Meeting
January 15, 2008
6:30 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of the Baldwin County Commissioners was held Tuesday, January 15, 2008 at 6:30 p.m., Baldwin County Courthouse, Suite 319, 121 North Wilkinson Street, Milledgeville, Georgia, with Chairman Dale Epps presiding.

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

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

Call to Order

Chairman Dale Epps called the January 15, 2008, Regular Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Bubba Williams stated the following corrections should be made to the minutes of the December 4, 2007 meeting:

OneGeorgia Equity Fund Grant Award: Motion to be corrected to read:
"Commissioner Bubba Williams made a motion to accept the OneGeorgia Equity Fund grant award in the amount of \$353,954 and to authorize the Chairman to execute all related documents. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously."

Proclamations for Vice Chairman Collins P. Lee: Motion to be corrected to read:
"Commissioner Bobby Blizzard made a motion to include both Proclamations presented to Vice Chairman Collins P. Lee in the official minutes for historical purposes. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously."

Resolution Regarding Transfer of Cable Franchise: Motion to be corrected to read:
"Commissioner Bobby Blizzard made a motion to approve the Resolution Regarding Transfer of Cable Franchise. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously."

Vice Chairman Collins P. Lee made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2007, regular meeting with the corrections as presented by Commissioner Williams. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

YES Program Update

Mr. Nick Prezioso, Director of the Youth Enrichment Services (YES) program, presented information about the YES Program which is a collaborative project of Georgia College & State University, Baldwin County Schools, Baldwin County Parks and Recreation Department and local citizens. He reported the program exists to raise achievement and educational aspirations for students in grades 6-12 as well as their adult family members. He encouraged everyone to become involved in this important effort.

Grant Awards

Finance Director Linda Zarkowsky presented a grant award from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for the Sheriff's Department in the amount of \$10,445.00 with a required match of \$10,445.00 which will be paid from the jail vending fund. She stated these funds will be used to purchase computers and software for criminal analysis and the tracking of sex offenders.

Vice Chairman Collins P. Lee made a motion to accept the grant award as presented and to authorize the Chairman to execute all related documents. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Finance Director Zarkowsky also presented a grant from the Council of Juvenile Court Judges of Georgia for the Purchase of Services for Juvenile Offenders Program. She reported this is a 100% grant in the amount of \$7,500.00.

Commissioner Bobby Blizzard made a motion to accept the grant award as presented and to authorize the Chairman to execute all related documents. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Budget Amendment for Court Expenses

Finance Director Linda Zarkowsky requested a budget amendment for Superior Court services. She reported due to the Brookins death penalty case, the Judge has ordered trial transcripts in the amount of \$57,000.00. She stated a budget amendment is requested in the amount of \$65,000.00 for the trial transcripts and funds to continue Superior Court operations. Ms. Zarkowsky reported funds would come from the County's contingency fund.

Commissioner Bubba Williams made a motion to approve a budget amendment in the amount of \$65,000.00 for Superior Court. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Resolution Regarding Cable Franchises

Assistant County Manager Ralph McMullen reported Baldwin County currently collects a franchise fee of 5% of annual gross revenues generated by cable or video service providers within the unincorporated areas of the County pursuant to existing franchise agreements and intends to collect the same on gross revenues generated pursuant to any state franchise.

He presented a Resolution Relating to State Cable and Video Service Franchises. He stated in 2007 the General Assembly approved the Consumer Choice for Television Act authorizing a statewide franchising option for cable and video service providers. As authorized by law, this Resolution allows Baldwin County to collect a franchise fee from any cable or video service provider providing services under state franchises within the unincorporated areas of Baldwin County.

Commissioner Bobby Blizzard made a motion to adopt the Resolution Relating to State Cable and Video Service Franchises as presented. 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 _____.

Accounts Payable List Dated January 15, 2008

Vice Chairman Collins P. Lee made a motion to approve the Accounts Payable list dated January 15, 2008. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

Chairman Epps opened the floor for nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Commissioner Bubba Williams made a motion to nominate Collins P. Lee as Chairman and Geneva Davis as Vice Chairman. The motion died for lack of second.

Commissioner Geneva David made a motion to nominate Bobby Blizzard as Chairman and Collins P. Lee as Vice Chairman. The motion was seconded and the nominations closed.

The Board voted as follows to elect Bobby Blizzard as Chairman and Collins P. Lee as Vice Chairman

Aye: Blizzard, Davis, Lee, Epps
Nay: Williams

Update on State Tax Proposals

Mr. Mike Stewart of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia presented an update on the tax proposals being introduced in this session of the General Assembly including Speaker Richardson's GREAT Plan. He also discussed assessment caps and how this has impacted other communities.

Property Taxes

Commissioner Bubba Williams discussed property taxes and asked Commissioners to consider some type of freeze or cap on homestead property assessments.

Appearances

The following persons addressed the Board regarding property taxes: Dr. Roger Stembridge, Rev. Dan Hodges, Mr. Corkey Freeman, Ms. Iva Griffin, Ms. Dotty Jones and Mr. Ralph Shaw.

Adjournment

Commissioner Bobby Blizzard made a motion that the Board of Commissioners meeting be adjourned at 8:25 p.m. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

William R. (Bobby) Blizzard
Chairman

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk