

Baldwin County Commissioners
Regular Meeting
March 3, 2009
6:00 p.m.

A Meeting of the Baldwin County Commissioners was held Tuesday, March 3, 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 March 3, 2009, meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Emily C. Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2009, Meeting as presented. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Departmental Report

Fire Chief Tommy Smith and Assistant Fire Chief gave a presentation on the Baldwin County Fire / Rescue Department, the Transit Program, training programs and future needs and challenges.

Resolution for Public Health Facilities Hospital Authority

Milledgeville/Baldwin County Development Authority Executive Director Angie Gheesling stated local officials have been approached by a company that is interested in bidding on an expansion of the old Kidd building at Central State Hospital for a forensic hospital which should bring approximately 300 jobs. She reported the Development Authority is not set up legally to enter into bond issues for these type projects since the State of Georgia will continue to be involved, and the proposed Authority will not be in conflict with the existing Hospital Authority. Ms. Gheesling presented a joint City / County Resolution creating and activating the Milledgeville/Baldwin County Public Health Facilities Hospital Authority to facilitate bond transactions. She stated the joint authority would be set up so that any company can utilize this economic development mechanism.

Vice Chair Faye Smith made a motion to approve the Joint Resolution creating the Public Health Facilities Hospital Authority 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 _____.

Victim's Assistance Grant for Solicitor General's Office

Finance Director Linda Zarkowsky presented a grant award for the Solicitor General's Victim Assistance program. She stated the award is in the amount of \$50,128.00 with a required match of \$12,532.00 for a total of \$62,600.00 for the period January 1, 2009 to September 30, 2009. Ms. Zarkowsky reported the grant match will be paid through 5% add-on fines collected through the State Court.

Vice Chair Faye Smith made a motion to accept the grant award as presented and to authorize the Chair to sign necessary documents. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Bids for 2008 CDBG Water Improvements Project

Finance Director Linda Zarkowsky reported bids for the Harrisburg water improvements project were opened February 26th with eight (8) bids being received as follows: Townley Construction - \$163,244.26; TLC Lawncare - \$195,862.20; Savan - \$198,458.96; Pyles Plumbing - \$205,815.00; John R. Walker - \$228,769.73; Strack - \$257,228.58; Tommy L. Griffin - \$308,125.42; and Sam Hall & Sons - \$349,921.30. Ms. Zarkowsky stated the apparent low bidder, Townley Construction, submitted a five percent (5%) bid bond. County Attorney Waddell has researched this issue, and Baldwin County may waive the technicality and accept the low bid from Townley Construction since they have since provided the ten percent (10%) bid bond. She stated that based on the County Attorney's ruling, the engineer is recommending the bid be awarded to Townley Construction in the amount of \$163,244.26. Ms. Zarkowsky stated the bid is under budget, and the County can apply for DCA approval to use the remainder of the grant award.

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to award the bid for the 2008 CDBG water improvements project to low bidder Townley Construction in the amount of \$163,244.26. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Report on Economic Stimulus Program

County Manager Joan Minton presented an update on the economic stimulus program. She reported that in January the Board approved some water and sewer projects that demonstrated Baldwin County's shovel ready projects if stimulus funding is approved by Congress. She stated that since that time the Middle Georgia RDC has been contacted to provide technical assistance to the County to research funding for potential projects and to provide assistance when funds become available in preparing and submitting documentation and applications for projects approved by the Board. Ms. Minton stated as information becomes available regarding funding to various agencies more information will be provided to the Board.

Accounts Payable List Dated March 3, 2009

Commissioner Emily C. Davis made a motion to approve the Accounts Payable list dated March 3, 2009. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Addition to Agenda

Chair Bubba Williams requested an amendment to the agenda to allow for discussion of property taxes. Commissioner Linda Fussell made a motion to amend the Agenda to include discussion of property taxes.

Chair Bubba Williams again requested that a 3% cap be placed on homestead property, and information be sent to the legislative delegation regarding this request.

After discussion, Vice Chair Faye Smith requested the County conduct a full scope of pros and cons of such a cap and investigate other possible mechanisms of addressing this issue before any action is taken.

Vice Chair Faye Smith made a motion to send a letter to the Governor asking for his support of HB 233 providing for a moratorium period on valuation increases of property. 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 7:35 p.m. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Bubba Williams
Chairman

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk