

Baldwin County Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
May 19, 2009  
6:00 p.m.

A Meeting of the Baldwin County Commissioners was held Tuesday, May 19, 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  
Dawn Hudson  
Scott Deason

Call to Order

Chair Bubba Williams called the May 19, 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 May 5, 2009, meeting as presented. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Recognition of Department of Family and Children Services

Chair Bubba Williams commended the Department of Family and Children Services and Director Eva Stevenson for the outstanding job they do in providing much needed programs and services to the citizens, especially children, in Baldwin County.

Proposed Abandonment of Water Tower Road

Assistant County Manager Ralph McMullen stated a letter was presented to Commissioners at their last meeting requesting that the County consider abandoning a portion of Water Tower Road due to maintenance and drainage issues. He stated the proposed abandonment would be the section of Water Tower Road beginning at its most westerly intersection of Highway 22 / 24 East to the most westerly county property line of Baldwin County. Mr. McMullen stated all legal requirements have been met to include publishing a notice in the legal organ, posting a sign on the road proposed to be closed, as well as notifying property owners on the road.

Mr. McMullen opened the floor for public comments on the proposed abandonment of a portion of Water Tower Road

Mr. Charles Thompson addressed the Board regarding his opposition to the abandonment of a portion of Water Tower Road.

Ms. Amy Wright addressed the Board requesting the abandonment of a portion of Water Tower Road due to severe drainage problems affecting the pond on her property.

Assistant County Manager Ralph McMullen presented information on the abandonment subject to certain reservations regarding easement rights, rights of ingress and egress for limited purposes involving the installation and maintenance of utility lines deemed necessary by the County, access by authorized personnel to the water tower site and related facilities and access to take necessary measures to minimize erosion, runoff and address drainage issues.

Commissioners discussed the situation and recommended that State Transportation Board Member Bobby Parham be contacted to request DOT's assistance in addressing this problem.

Vice Chair Faye Smith made a motion to table the issue of abandoning a portion of Water Tower Road until Transportation Board Member Bobby Parham has been contacted regarding this situation. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

### Departmental Report

Recreation Department Director Bill McNair gave a presentation on various programs, activities and facilities of the County's Recreation Department.

### Joint City / County CDBG Stimulus Program Application and Resolution

County Manager Joan Minton presented a Resolution to submit a joint application with the City of Milledgeville for funding from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs under the Community Development Block Grant Stimulus Program Fund for an amount up to \$800,000. She stated the project must create jobs, must be shovel ready and will be a public – private partnership with a local developer. She stated, if funded, the County will serve as lead applicant for the grant and no match is required.

Mr. Chan Layson of the Middle Georgia RDC discussed the project activities which will include storm water drainage, transforming the alley into an entranceway rather than an alley, and realigning planters to provide additional parking spaces for the downtown area. He stated the local developer will build a hotel which will create jobs as required by the guidelines, and the developer will pay costs associated with the submission of the grant application. Mr. Layson reiterated the fact there is no required match for the project.

Vice Chair Faye Smith made a motion to adopt the Resolution as presented for the submission of a joint application to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for CDBG stimulus funds and to authorize the Chair to execute necessary documents and agreements. 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

### Baldwin County Tier Redesignation

County Manager Joan Minton reported that in March Baldwin County asked the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) to consider reducing Baldwin County's tier designation which is based on economic conditions such as unemployment, per capita income and other related factors. She stated DCA has approved lowering Baldwin County's designation from Tier 2 to Tier 1. She reported the State provides business development incentives to encourage economic development based on the tier level; and now that this redesignation has been approved, the State of Georgia will now

provide, to qualifying businesses creating five or more jobs in Baldwin County, a \$4,000 state tax credit for every job created, and the credits can be claimed on their State tax liability excess to withholding tax. Assistant County McMullen will begin providing the program information to businesses that make an application for commercial development in Baldwin County.

#### Appointments to the Board of Department of Family and Children Services

Chair Bubba Williams presented recommendations from the Department of Family and Children Services to fill three vacancies on the Board. He stated the Department is recommending the reappointment of Chief Woodrow Blue and the appointment of Ms. Alice (Cookie) Noel and Mr. John Sallstrom.

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion that Chief Woodrow Blue, Ms. Alice (Cookie) Noel and Mr. John Sallstrom be appointed to serve on the Board of the Department of Family and Children Services. The motion was seconded, and the motion passed by the following vote:

Aye: Hall, Fussell, Smith and Williams

Commissioner Emily C. Davis abstained from voting on the motion citing she felt she did not have adequate knowledge of the nominees.

#### Recommendations from Revenue, Finance and Budgets Committee

Finance Director Linda Zarkowsky presented an update on the proposed budget which would have a \$1,500,000 shortfall even with the inclusion of solid waste fees of \$13.50 per user or approximately \$1,600,000. She detailed recommended budget cuts in the amount of \$1,320,000 which were approved by the Revenue, Finance and Budgets Committee.

Ms. Zarkowsky presented recommendations from the Revenue, Finance and Budgets Committee as follows:

FY 2009 Budget – Committee recommendation not to approve request in the amount of \$2,000 for the adult literacy program; but to provide payroll administration with full cost reimbursement to the County.

FY 2010 Budget – Committee recommendation to approve request in the amount of \$5,000 for the adult literacy program and to approve \$5,000 for the Clean Community Program for a total of \$10,000 from existing funding in the Community Promotions budget line item which is being reduced from \$20,000 to \$10,000.

Commissioners discussed methods of solid waste collection and disposal.

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to keep as many of the current convenience centers open as feasible and to adopt a Resolution to implement a fee of \$13.50 for solid waste collection and disposal. 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

#### GEFA Application for Water Improvements Funded by Stimulus Program

County Manager Joan Minton reported the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA) has approved Baldwin County's water projects to be on a fundable priority list for stimulus funds for elevated tanks at Hopewell, Highway 212 and Lake Laurel Road, to resolve water issues from growth in the County. Projects also include a water line on Highway 212 and booster pump station on Lake Laurel to fill the new tank. If funded, the County could expect a 70% grant from the stimulus money and a 20 year low interest loan from GEFA to be repaid by the water fund.

County Manager Minton presented a Resolution for the Board's consideration to make application for the \$4,000,000 project and to authorize the Chairman to execute appropriate documents.

Commissioner Linda Fussell made a motion to adopt the Resolution for the submission of a GEFA application for water improvements and to authorize the Chairman to execute necessary documents. 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 May 19, 2009

Commissioner Emily C. Davis made a motion to approve the Accounts Payable list dated May 19, 2009. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

#### Adjournment

Commissioner Linda Fussell made a motion that the Board of Commissioners meeting be adjourned at 7:05 p.m. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Bubba Williams  
Chairman

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Cynthia K. Cunningham  
County Clerk