

Baldwin County Commissioners
Regular Meeting
October 20, 2009
6:00 p.m.

A Meeting of the Baldwin County Commissioners was held Tuesday, October 20, 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
Cindy Cunningham
Ralph McMullen
Linda Zarkowsky
Dawn Hudson
Scott Deason

Call to Order

Chair Bubba Williams called the October 20, 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 September 15, 2009, Regular Meeting as presented. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

SPLOST Bond / Tax Resolution

Mr. Warren Plowden, Jr. Attorney for the Baldwin County Board of Education presented, for the Board's consideration, a Resolution providing for the levy and collection of an annual ad valorem tax to provide funds for the second part of a bond issue approved by the voters of Baldwin County in 2007. Mr. Plowden stated the County Attorney has reviewed the Resolution and that in order to issue remaining bonds the Resolution has to be authorized by the levying authority. Mr. Plowden requested approval for the Resolution as presented.

Vice Chair Faye Smith made a motion to approve the SPLOST Bond / Tax Resolution as presented. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

The Resolution is herewith attached and made an official part of the minutes at pages _____ and _____.

2010 Census

Ms. Sonja Daugherty, Partnership Specialist of the U.S. Census Bureau, presented information regarding the 2010 Census. She stated one of the primary goals of the 2010 Census is to increase response from all residents because accurate census information is essential for making vital decisions for each community. Census data is used in determining congressional seats and federal funding, determining where jobs and job programs are needed and for market research to determine locations for commercial enterprises as well as many other important uses.

Ms. Daugherty stated a major resource for planning and implementing a complete census count is the establishment of a Complete Count Committee (CCC) to develop and implement a locally based outreach and awareness campaign for the 2010 Census.

Ms. Daugherty provided information for the composition of the Complete County Committee for Baldwin County to work with the U.S. Census Bureau to determine the best ways to reach all areas of Baldwin County for the census. Chairman Williams will present information regarding this Committee at a future Board of Commission Meeting.

Road Department Report

Rick Arp of the Public Works Department presented information regarding the staff and activities of the Road Department. He discussed road maintenance including repair of potholes, grassing, and blading, miles of unimproved roads remaining in the County, inspection of driveways and subdivision roads, acquisition of right-of-way, the County Work Order System, the proposed Fall Line Freeway and By-Pass.

Fire / Rescue Five Year Plan

Fire Chief Tommy Smith reported the county has begun work on a Five Year Strategic Plan which will serve as a planning document for the Fire / Rescue Department. He stated the Middle Georgia Regional Commission is assisting the County with the project, and he introduced Nick Kouloungis of the Regional Commission to discuss the Plan.

Mr. Kouloungis discussed the purpose of the plan which is to improve services and prepare for the emergency response needs of the future. He reported the plan addressed current facilities, equipment and vehicles, analysis of incident statistics for each fire district / census tracts, identification of vehicle and equipment replacement priorities as well as capital improvement needs for the next five years. He reported the plan also addresses future personnel and training needs.

Parks and Recreation Policies, Procedures and Ordinances

County Manager Joan Minton reported that County staff, along with the County Attorney, began working on formalizing policies, procedures and ordinances for the Recreation Department in July. She stated this was in response to addressing concerns from County commissioners, the Recreation Department, citizens and various sports associations. She stated policies from other communities were collected; and over the last three (3) months staff meetings were held to compile the proposed document.

The County Manager reported the Health, Environment, Recreation and Conservation Committee, Chaired by Commissioner Fussell with Commissioner Hall as member, met to review the proposed Policies, Procedures and Ordinances. The Committee approved these policies at their September 18th meeting, the suggested changes by the Committee were made and each Commissioner was provided with a copy of the policies on September 15th.

County Manager Minton discussed various aspects of the policies including the role of the Recreation Director and staff, structure of volunteer organizations, registration and collection of fees, fund raising and sponsorships, facilities use agreement, and by-laws.

Ms. Minton stated the goal of the Committee is to provide formal procedures and policies to insure that there is a structure for Baldwin County to receive revenue from all programs to help with the cost of facilities, to provide full accountability to the community for all the funds collected and to make sure that any activities at the facilities meet the goal of being recreational, educational, cultural or for civic purposes.

She stated the Committee has approved the document, each Commissioner has received a copy for review, and the policies are presented for the Board's consideration for adoption.

Chair Bubba Williams recommended the Committee meet with athletic associations to receive their input and further refine the document.

Commissioner Emily C. Davis made a motion to table this issue until a meeting with representatives of the athletic associations and to place the item on the Agenda for second regular Commission Meeting in November. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

FEMA Grant Award

Finance Director Linda Zarkowsky stated that at the last meeting, the Board decided to delay action on the SAFER grant for fire department staffing in order to gather more information about the County's obligation in future years. She stated County staff has talked to the Middle Georgia Regional Commission who originally wrote the application regarding this matter. She stated it is expected that if the grant is accepted, the County would complete the five year period; but, basically FEMA will be looking for the County to maintain the current level of positions budgeted, even if they are not filled for the entire time.

Ms. Zarkowsky discussed a cost sheet that explains what is currently budgeted and how the department is currently operating. She discussed the current part-time employee costs to fill frozen position, amount budgeted for the positions and the County funding requirement in accepting the grant. She stated that in accepting the grant, it would result in a savings to the County every year based on the budgeted amount until year five. In addition, it would result in the full savings of the part-time employee costs used currently to fill the frozen positions.

Commissioner Emily C. Davis made a motion to accept the SAFER grant award as presented. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Juvenile Offenders Program Purchase of Service

Finance Director Zarkowsky presented a grant award from the Council of Juvenile Court Judges of Georgia in the amount of \$5,000 for juvenile offenders' program purchase of services. She stated this grant is also 100% funding.

Commissioner Emily C. Davis made a motion to accept the Juvenile Offenders Program Purchase of Service award as presented. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program

Finance Director Linda Zarkowsky reported the Office of Justice Programs has approved funding under the FY 09 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program in the amount of \$16,048 for purchase of three used vehicles for the Sheriff's Department. She stated there is no match required for the funds.

Commissioner Emily C. Davis made a motion to accept the grant award in the amount of \$16,048 for the purchase of vehicles as presented. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Legislation Regarding Election of Commissioners

County Attorney David Waddell reported that at the last meeting, the Board requested that he prepare proposed legislation for discussion regarding non-partisan Commission elections, election of Chair at-large and staggered terms for Commissioners. Mr. Waddell stated he had prepared sample local acts which were given to Commissioners for their review. He stated the sample legislation presents only substance for discussion by the Board, and he has not attempted to put any in its final form.

Commissioner Sammy Hall stated there are currently two pieces of legislation pending regarding non-partisan elections, and he recommended waiting until action, if any, is taken on them. He stated he would like for the Board to pursue electing the Chair at-large and staggered terms for Commissioners.

At this time, Commissioner Emily C. Davis made a motion to table all issues of non-partisan elections, election of Chair at-large and staggered terms until a future date. The motion was seconded and passed by the following vote:

Aye: Davis, Smith, Fussell, Williams

Nay: Hall

Bids for Breathing Apparatus Equipment

Finance Director Linda Zarkowsky stated a bid opening was held October 12th at 11:00 a.m. for self-contained breathing apparatus for the fire Department. She stated this equipment would be funded with the 2008 Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the amount of \$255,240 with the County's share being \$28,260.

Ms. Zarkowsky presented bid information from Fireline at \$4,652.00 per apparatus and Ten 8 Fire Safety Equipment in the amount of \$7,204.00 each. She recommended the bid be awarded to the low bidder, Fireline, for \$4,652.00 per apparatus to purchase forty units for a total of \$186,080.00 with the County match being \$18,608.00. Ms. Zarkowsky said sales tax funds will be used for the County match, and the remainder of the grant award will be deobligated.

Commissioner Emily C. Davis made a motion to award the bid for breathing apparatus equipment to Fireline as presented. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Business Inventory Tax

Chair Bubba Williams requested consideration of the Board in rescinding the business inventory tax. He stated the previous Board, with his vote of Nay, approved the program.

County Attorney Waddell stated the business personal property tax is established by State statute, and the previous Board voted to contract with independent auditors to ensure everyone was returning their personal property in the same manner and everyone was treated fairly.

Other Business

Commissioner Emily C. Davis made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. The motion was seconded.

County Attorney Waddell stated the law is very specific regarding what constitutes a personnel matter that can go into closed session. County Attorney Waddell advised against Executive Session and recommended that employees be instructed to follow steps outlined in the personnel policies and procedures regarding grievance procedures. He stated the policies and procedures are in place for protection of employees.

Commissioner Emily C. Davis rescinded her motion to adjourn into Executive Session.

Accounts Payable List Dated October 20, 2009

Commissioner Emily C. Davis made a motion to approve the Accounts Payable list dated October 20, 2009. 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 7:40 p.m. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Bubba Williams
Chairman

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk