

Baldwin County Commissioners
Regular Meeting
September 15, 2009
6:00 p.m.

A Meeting of the Baldwin County Commissioners was held Tuesday, September 15, 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
Linda Zarkowsky
Dawn Hudson
Scott Deason

Call to Order

Chair Bubba Williams called the September 15, 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 August 18, 2009, Regular Meeting as presented. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Appreciation Ceremony

Chairman Bubba Williams stated he attended an appreciation ceremony at Discipleship Christian Center on August 23, 2009, where a Certificate of Appreciation was awarded in recognition of the valuable contributions the Baldwin County Board of Commissioners and County employees make to the citizens of Baldwin County.

Pandemic Flu Presentation and Update

Mr. Colin Duke, Environmental Health Specialist, presented an update on the seasonal flu, H1N1 flu virus and the pandemic flu.

Report on County Surplus Sale

Purchasing Officer Sherri Arp stated the County will have a surplus equipment sale on Saturday, September 26th beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the County Maintenance Department on Linda Drive. She stated notice of the surplus sale has been published in

the Union Recorder, Baldwin Bulletin, Wilkinson County and Hancock County newspapers and approximately two thousand brochures have been mailed. Ms. Arp reported auction items are up for bid on-line until September 26th, and L. W. Benton Company will conduct the live auction.

2009 Tax Levy

County Manager Joan Minton reported all legal requirements have been met for advertising the five (5) year digest and levy history, and notice has been given that the County levy would be presented for adoption at tonight's meeting. She stated the 2009 levy is based on the budget approved by the Board in June, and as presented and discussed during the budget process. She reported the 2008 County levy was 8.64 mills, and the levy for 2009 remains the same at 8.64 mills. Ms. Minton presented the Board of Education Resolution requesting that the County accept their education tax of 16.07 mills for collection purposes.

County Manager Minton presented the 2009 County Tax Levy and the BOE Resolution for the Board of Commissioners' consideration for adoption.

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to adopt the 2009 millage rate of 8.64 and to accept the Resolution from the Board of Education to collect the education tax of 16.07 mills. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

A copy of the County Millage Rate Certification for Tax Year 2009 and a copy of the Board of Education Resolution are herewith attached and made an official part of the minutes at pages _____ and _____.

Appointment to Oconee Community Service Board

Chair Bubba Williams stated the County received a letter from Oconee Center Director Angela Hicks-Hill regarding an appointment to the Oconee Community Service Board. He stated the Oconee Center recommends the appointment of either Ms. Faye Smith or Ms. Traci Kitchens to this Board. Vice-Chair Faye Smith declined appointment due to the meeting schedule of the Oconee Center Community Service Board.

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to appoint Ms. Traci Kitchens to serve on the Oconee Center Community Service Board. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

FEMA Grant Award for Fire Department

Finance Director Linda Zarkowsky reported that for several years the County has been applying to FEMA for grant funds for additional firefighter positions, and the County has received notice that the FEMA Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant has been approved. She stated the approved project costs total \$571,064 with the federal share being \$276,480 and the County's portion of the costs being \$294,584. Ms. Zarkowsky reported it is a five year grant of November 28, 2009 to November 27, 2014; and during that time, the County's percentage of the required contribution of \$294,584 would be as follows: 1st year – 10% or \$10,649; 2nd year – 20% or \$22,044; 3rd year – 50% or \$57,029; 4th year – 70% or \$82,649 and 5th year – 100% or \$122,203. Ms. Zarkowsky stated if the Board accepts the grant, the 10% share for the 1st year would have to be paid through cutbacks in the Fire Department budget; and thereafter, the share would have to be included in the yearly budget.

After discussion regarding the SAFER grant award, Vice Chair Faye Smith made a motion to table this item until the October 20, 2009, meeting. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Accounts Payable List Dated September 15, 2009

Commissioner Linda Fussell made a motion to approve the Accounts Payable list dated September 15, 2009. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Appearances

Mr. James Hammock addressed the Board regarding County roads, specifically the Local Assistance Road Program.

Mr. James Ogiba addressed the Board regarding solid waste collection.

Other Business

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to begin the process to develop legislation to provide for non-partisan elections for Commissioners; to elect the Chair at-large and to have staggered terms for Commissioners. The motion was seconded.

After discussion, Vice Chair Faye Smith made a motion to amend the motion on the floor to state that proposed legislation regarding these issues be reviewed at the October 20, 2009, meeting. The motion was seconded.

Commissioner Hall accepted the amendment and withdrew his initial motion.

Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to ask County Attorney Waddell to prepare proposed legislation for discussion at the October 20, 2009, meeting regarding non-partisan Commission elections; election of Chair at-large and having staggered terms for Commissioners. 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 7:00 p.m. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Bubba Williams
Chairman

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk