

**Baldwin County Commissioners
Regular Meeting
August 18 2015
6:00 p.m.**

The Regular Meeting of the Baldwin County Commissioners was held Tuesday, August 18, 2015, at 6:00 p.m., Baldwin County Courthouse, Suite 319, 121 North Wilkinson Street, Milledgeville, Georgia with Chair Sammy Hall presiding.

Members Present: Emily C. Davis
Tommy French
Sammy Hall
Henry Craig
John Westmoreland

Also Present: David McRee
Ralph McMullen
Cindy Cunningham
Dawn Hudson

Call to Order

Chair Hall called the August 18, 2015, Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Emily C. Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2015 Regular Meeting as submitted. Commissioner Henry Craig seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Update on Central State Hospital Local Redevelopment Authority

Director Mike Couch presented information on Central State Hospital Reuse Initiative. Mr. Couch discussed accomplishments including the passage of HB 815; HB 495, SR 788 and HB 85. He discussed the completion of the Comprehensive Strategic Analysis, Correct Life Geriatric Care Facility construction, Youth Challenge Academy, Summit Communiversity, the investment of \$30 million in the past three years and the creation of 400 jobs. He concluded by discussing the local VA initiative and "Agri-Business" initiative. Mr. Couch thanked the Commissioners for their support and participation with the Authority.

Keep Milledgeville-Baldwin County Beautiful

Commissioner Henry Craig expressed his pleasure of being associated with Keep Milledgeville-Baldwin County Beautiful. Commissioner Craig introduced KMBB CEO Andrew Davis who presented information about the national, state and local chapter. He discussed the KMBB mission, various projects and partnerships with other organizations / businesses.

Update on Safe Property Standards Cases

Mr. Marion Nelson presented an update on eleven (11) notices of violation that were issued last year. He discussed the procedure that has taken place in the attempt to resolve these cases of non-compliance with the County's Safe Property Standards Ordinance. He stated three (3) of the eleven (11) cases have been successfully resolved; however, the balance of these cases remain open with continued action needed.

Commissioners discussed ways to continue to monitor properties that are in violation of the Safe Property Standards Ordinance. Commissioner Craig stated the County needs personnel to work on this issue now that Mr. Nelson has retired. He stated he felt a Land Bank would be a great tool to assist with such properties. Chair Hall asked whether Safebuilt's contract could possibly be amended to include these duties.

Discussion continued with County Attorney McRee recommending that the Notice of Violation be recorded on the property so potential buyers would be aware of the violation. He also recommended that the Tax Commissioner be given a copy of the Notice of Violation.

2015 Tax Digest / Millage Adoption Schedule

Finance Director Dawn Hudson stated the 2015 Five Year History and Tax Levy have been prepared and will be published for adoption at a call meeting on August 28, 2015, at 12:30 p.m. She stated the calculated rollback rate is 9.85. She discussed a decrease of (\$172,047) on the net taxes levied. She stated one contributing factor is a \$20 million decrease in motor vehicle taxes due to the way vehicles are now taxed.

Finance Director Hudson stated the state rate is collected by the County along with the tax for the Board of Education. She reported the state rate has decreased by .05, and she anticipates the BOE rate will remain the same at 17.06 mills. Ms. Hudson recommended that a 2015 tax levy of 9.85 mills be adopted at the meeting on August 28th.

Ms. Hudson discussed the upcoming budget process. She reported the first draft of the proposed budget will be presented to the Board by Friday, October 16th with the anticipated budget adoption on November 17, 2015.

Commissioners discussed a change in the County's fiscal year. Finance Director Hudson recommended looking at this matter in the future since a change would affect the County's fund balance.

Fire Department Swearing In

County Manager Ralph McMullen reported Fire Chief Reynolds has made a number of positive changes in the Fire Department which have increased the moral of firefighters and made the department more professional. He stated firefighters who are volunteers attend the same classes as full-time firefighters and should be recognized for their accomplishments.

Chief Reynolds stated he is extremely proud of the Baldwin County Fire Department and all of its firefighters. He said he felt each should be recognized for their training and service to Baldwin County. As part of this recognition, each firefighter will now take an Oath of Office and be sworn in.

Chief Reynolds took the oath of office and was sworn in by County Manager McMullen.

Emergency Notification System GEMA Grant Award

Fire Chief Troy Reynolds reported a notice has been received from GEMA, on behalf of Governor Deal, that Baldwin County has been awarded a \$17,012 Hazard Mitigation Grant for an Emergency Notification System. The award includes a federal share of \$12,759 with the remainder to come from a state share of \$1,701 and a local share of \$2,552. Mr. Reynolds stated the official grant package has not been received; however, he is requesting the Board's approval of acceptance.

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to accept the GEMA grant award for an Emergency Notification System and to authorize the Chair to execute necessary grant documents. Vice Chair Emily C. Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

County Manager's Report

Mr. McMullen presented an update on the veterans' sidewalk project. He stated the Department of Transportation engineers found some additional issues during their second plan review. These were addressed by the project engineer, and plans have been resubmitted to DOT.

Mr. McMullen stated two notices have been received from the City of Milledgeville for annexation of properties located at 1982 North Columbia Street and 108 Roberson Mill Road NW. Copies have been placed in each Commissioner's mailbox for consideration at a later date.

County Attorney McRee recommended placing these annexations on the next Agenda for the Board's discussion.

County McMullen stated Engineer Brian Wood will be on the Agenda for the next Work Session to give a presentation on the County Road System.

Old Business

Commissioner Westmoreland requested an update on the Employee Recognition Program. Mr. Mc Mullen stated another Committee Meeting will be held and a report brought to the Board at the next meeting.

New Business

There was no new business to come before the Board.

Public Comment Period for Non-Agenda Items

Mr. Jim Haskins asked why citations are no longer being issued for violations of the Safe Property Standards Ordinance. He requested violations be addressed especially at the main "gateway" corridors into the County.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Emily C. Davis made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:35 p.m. Commissioner Henry Craig seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sammy Hall
Chair

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk