

**Baldwin County Commissioners**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**February 3, 2015**  
**6:00 p.m.**

The Regular Meeting of the Baldwin County Commissioners was held Tuesday, February 3, 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  
Sammy Hall  
Henry Craig  
Johnny Westmoreland

Members Absent: Tommy French

Also Present: David McRee  
Ralph McMullen  
Dawn Hudson  
Cindy Cunningham

Call to Order

Chair Hall called the February 3, 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 January 20, 2015 Work Session and Regular Meeting as submitted. Commissioner John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Recognition of Finance Director and Staff for Financial Achievement

County Manager Ralph McMullen expressed his appreciation to Finance Director Dawn Hudson, Assistant Finance Director Jill Adams and the entire financial staff for their hard work and excellent performance in the County's financial reporting. He presented an Award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada for Financial Reporting Achievement to Finance Director Dawn Hudson in recognition of her contribution to the government unit achieving a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. This award is presented to those government units whose annual financial reports are judged to adhere to program standards and represents the highest award in governmental financial reporting.

Mr. McMullen also presented a GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the Baldwin County Board of Commissioners for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2013.

Commissioners congratulated Ms. Hudson and her staff on this outstanding achievement.

Update on County Extension Services

County Extension Agent Robbie Jones presented an update on Extension Service activities from October 1, 2014 – January 31, 2015. He reported on the 4-H events and participation numbers, office contacts and visits, FACS support and agriculture samples. He discussed 4-H program highlights and accomplishments and upcoming programs. Mr. Jones distributed information on "Walk Georgia" program and the educational road trip - Clover Road Challenge II - with stops in Washington, D.C.; Philadelphia, PA; Cleveland, OH; Dayton, OH; Lexington, KY and Gatlinburg, Tn.

### Ethics Ordinance

County Attorney McRee stated the Ethics Ordinance has been discussed numerous meetings and revisions have been made as recommended. He stated this draft incorporates corrections, additions and deletions from previous drafts. Mr. McRee reported that if it is the pleasure of the Board to move forward with the proposed Ethics Ordinance a public hearing must be held prior to the Board taking action.

The Board recommended the County Attorney and County staff proceed with holding the public hearing on the Ethics Ordinance as presented.

### Cable Resolution

County Attorney McRee reported that since the County no longer regulates cable television service delivered in the County a Resolution may be adopted to have the County phone number removed from cable customer bills. Mr. McRee presented a Resolution for the Board's consideration to remove the County's number from cable bills.

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to adopt the Resolution as presented regarding removal of the County phone number from cable bills. Vice Chair Emily C. Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

A copy of the Resolution is herewith attached and made an official part of the minutes at pages \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

### Timber Ordinance

County Attorney David McRee reported the proposed Timber Ordinance has been discussed at previous meetings, and he has updated the ordinance as recommended by Commissioners. Mr. McRee stated this ordinance must also be presented at a public hearing prior to Board action.

The Board recommended the County Attorney and County staff proceed with advertising and holding a public hearing on the Timber Ordinance as presented.

### Real Estate Agreement

County Attorney McRee presented an Agreement to Sell Real Estate from Winston Sibley, Jr. for a tract of land consisting of 2.93 acres located on Allen Memorial Drive adjacent to the Baldwin County Water Department Warehouse. The purchase price for the property is \$30,000 and authorization is needed for the Chair to execute the Agreement to purchase the property from Mr. Sibley. County Manager McMullen stated money for the land purchase will come from SPLOST dollars.

Vice Chair Emily C. Davis made a motion to approve the Agreement to purchase the property as presented and to authorize the Chair to execute the Agreement. Commissioner John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

A copy of the Agreement is herewith attached and made an official part of the minutes at pages \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

### Resolution for Central Georgia Joint Development Authority

Chair Sammy Hall presented a Resolution for Baldwin County to join the Central Georgia Joint Development Authority. He stated the Resolution includes the appointment of four Baldwin County representatives to serve on the Authority Board.

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to approve the Resolution as presented. Vice Chair Emily C. Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

A copy of the Resolution is herewith attached and made an official part of the minutes at pages \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

## Transportation Funding

Finance Director Dawn Hudson reported the proposed house bill regarding transportation funding was discussed at the previous Work Session. She again expressed concern regarding the revenue impact of this legislation on counties.

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to send a letter to Senator Burt Jones and Representative Rusty Kidd stating the Board's opposition to the bill as it is currently written.

## County Manager's Report

County Manager McMullen reported on correspondence from the DOT regarding the proposed project for widening Highway 49. He stated the Department notified the County that we must pay for the cost of relocating our utilities along Highway 49. Mr. McMullen stated the County met with DOT representatives at the District Office in July 2014 about this project. Subsequently, Chair Hall sent a letter to DOT to notify the Department of the following: Baldwin County does not have funds available for utility relocation on Highway 49; Baldwin County requested financial aid for the project; Baldwin County requested that DOT fund the project in its entirety; and if 100% funding assistance is not granted, Baldwin County requested that DOT not proceed with the Highway 49 widening project. Mr. McMullen reported the County has already spent approximately \$700,000 to relocate utilities on the Fall Line Freeway project.

Commissioners agreed the County could not afford such an expense for the DOT project, and DOT should be contacted for 100% funding assistance for the relocation costs. If 100% funding is not granted, Baldwin County would request that DOT not proceed with this project.

Vice Chair Emily C. Davis made a motion to send DOT a letter stating the County's request for 100% funding assistance for utility relocation; and if not granted, the widening of Highway 49 should not move forward. Commissioner Henry Craig seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. McMullen discussed property at the Hopewell Church water tank. He reported the adjoining property owner is tearing down his barn. The owner on the opposite side of the tank site will purchase the County property to straighten up the property line. This will enable the County to erect the fence around the water tower as required by EPD and Homeland Security.

## Old Business

There was no old business to come before the Board.

## New Business

Vice Chair Davis requested the County look into getting a traffic light at Highway 49 and Blandy Road to relieve school traffic congestion. Mr. McMullen responded this would be in the City.

## Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Mr. James Andrews addressed the Board regarding the proposed legislation for unification and elections. He also discussed finding ways to bring industry back to Baldwin County.

Mr. Jim Haskins addressed the Board regarding the County's Safe Property Standards and property owned by the County that needs to be brought into compliance with these Standards. He also encouraged the County to hold another property auction as soon as possible, and he recommended notices be placed in the legal organ that are not as detailed with legal descriptions so that they more clearly define property to be auctioned.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Emily C. Davis made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:50 p.m. Commissioner Henry Craig seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sammy Hall  
Chair

Cynthia K. Cunningham  
County Clerk