

**MINUTES
BIBB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

January 3, 2008

A Called meeting of the Bibb County Board of Commissioners was held in the Commission Boardroom on Thursday, January 3, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

Board Members present: Chairman Charles W. Bishop, Vice Chairman Bert Bivins, III, Commissioner Joe O. Allen, Commissioner Elmo A. Richardson, Jr. and Commissioner Lonzy Edwards.

Staff present: Ms. Deborah Martin, Finance Director; Mr. Doug Furney, Director of Lake Tobesofkee; Mr. Tony Rousey, Director of Information & Technology Services; Mr. Ken Sheets, County Engineer; Mr. Tommy Brown, Human Resources; Mr. Sam Kitchens, Director of Buildings & Properties; Mrs. Shelia Thurmond, Clerk of the Board; Mrs. Janice Ross, Board of Commissioners; Mrs. Barbara Wood, Public Affairs Officer.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Reverend Ronald E. Terry, Pastor of New Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, rendered the prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

ANNOUNCEMENTS - NONE.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Richardson, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and carried, the Minutes of the Regular meeting of December 18, 2007 were approved as written.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Chairman Bishop recognized and welcomed the following visitors:

Hazel Giddens

REFERRALS:

The following items were referred to **Engineering/Public Works:**

1. Correspondence from Roy P. Ruda, Associate General Counsel and Senior Real Estate Manager, The Sembler Company, requesting an exchange of properties located at Bass Road, New Forsyth Road and Wesleyan Drive in Bibb County.

2. Correspondence from Dan Wallace, Principal Engineer, Hulsey, McCormick & Wallace, Inc. requesting on behalf of SD Investment Properties LLC to purchase a portion of the right-of-way on the north side of New Forsyth Road from Bibb County.

RECORD AND INFORMATION: NONE.

ACTION: NONE.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – No Report.

LICENSE & TAX COMMITTEE – No Report.

ENGINEERING/PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE – Committee Chairman Bivins reported the following:

1. The Committee recommends that the petitions to register Mercer Junction Road and Garrison Road be approved and that said roads be placed on the Official Road Register for maintenance by Bibb County forces.

On motion of Commissioner Bivins and carried, the before mentioned recommendation was approved as presented.

2. The Committee recommends that the Chairman be authorized to sign the Seventh Extension Agreement between Bibb County and Moreland Altobelli Associates, Inc. for program management services for the Macon-Bibb County Road Improvement Program.

On motion of Commissioner Bivins and carried, the before mentioned recommendation was approved as presented.

3. The Committee recommends that the request of Heather Robison, 5288 Barnard Road, for an exemption from garbage service and related fees be respectfully denied.

On motion of Commissioner Bivins and carried, the before mentioned recommendation was approved as presented.

MACON WATER AUTHORITY – No Report.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT – No Report.

LAND BANK AUTHORITY – No Report.

HUMAN RESOURCES AND INFORMATION SERVICES COMMITTEE – No Report.

FINANCE, TAX AND REVENUE COMMITTEE – No Report.

TOBESOFKEE COMMITTEE – No Report.

PROPERTIES COMMITTEE – No Report.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE – No Report.

RISK MANAGEMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY – No Report.

COUNTY ATTORNEY – No Report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Chairman Bishop announced his committee appointments for 2008:

<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>CHAIR</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>
Engineering / Public Works	Bert Bivins	Elmo Richardson	Lonzy Edwards
Finance, Tax & Revenue	Elmo Richardson	Joe Allen	Lonzy Edwards
Human Resources / Info Services	Lonzy Edwards	Bert Bivins	Elmo Richardson
License & Tax	Bert Bivins	Joe Allen	Lonzy Edwards
Ordinances & Resolutions	Joe Allen	Elmo Richardson	Bert Bivins
Properties	Joe Allen	Elmo Richardson	Lonzy Edwards
Risk Management/Public Safety	Elmo Richardson	Lonzy Edwards	Bert Bivins
Tobesofkee	Lonzy Edwards	Elmo Richardson	Bert Bivins
*** The Board Chairman is an ex-officio member of all Committees ***			
Committee Meetings are held on the 1 st and 3 rd Tuesday of each month. Meeting times will be determined by the Board Chairman.			
Regular Board Meetings are held on the 1 st and 3 rd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.			
<u>Agency / Authority Appointments:</u>			
Macon Water Authority	Bert Bivins		
Land Bank Authority	Bert Bivins		
Board of Health	Bert Bivins		
Regional Development Center	Chairman Bishop		

After much discussion, Chairman Bishop called for the vote. The appointments, as noted above, were approved unanimously.

Next, Chairman Bishop announced the staff appointments for 2008:

Chief Administrative Officer	Steve Layson
Clerk of the Board	Shelia Thurmond
Finance Director	Deborah Martin
County Engineer	Ken Sheets
Human Resources Director	Tommy Brown
Information & Technology Services Director	Tony Rousey
Buildings & Property Director	Sam Kitchens
Lake Tobesofkee Director	Doug Furney

Chairman Bishop expressed his appreciation to the staff for the good job they've done in the past and stated that he hopes they will continue their good work. He then called for a vote to ratify the staff appointments.

On motion of Commissioner Edwards and seconded by Commissioner Richardson and carried, the before noted staff appointments were ratified unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS - Chairman Bishop called for a **Vote to Discuss.**

On motion of Commissioner Edwards and seconded by Commissioner Richardson and carried, the following matter was allowed for discussion.

Chairman Bishop stated that he has some serious concerns regarding the pensions for elected and/or appointed officials. He stated that he thinks the Board needs to look at it the issue closely. He stated that they should not be in the employees' pension fund. He stated that it has gotten to the point that there are pensions going to estates and elsewhere. He stated if the County wants to give any type of pension plans to anybody, there is an explicit rule that says that if an employee quits and comes back to work, he's got two options. One option is to draw his pension and not have any pension rights or he's got the option to not draw his pension and open his pension back up and gain other rights. He stated that he doesn't see any other way to do it for anybody else. He stated that new commissioners (i.e. Commissioner Edwards) are not allowed to participate in the County pension plan.

Chairman Bishop further stated that the Board needs to look at a system. He stated, too, that the commissioners, in their infinite wisdom, voted to put a \$500 per month minimum after only ten (10) years of service which he stated is the same thing that some employees make after 25 years of service if they made a similar salary. With that, he continued that the Board needs to look at some way to do a 401(A) for all elected officials and to also look at a plan for appointed officials. The latter of which, he could stay in the pension system or they can elect to start drawing their retirement and go into a 401(A) whichever is the most beneficial to the employees. He stated that he thinks it would be benefit the employees and it would take them out of the pension system.

Chairman Bishop stated that he knows some people that despise the fact that they've put in a portion of their salary for 20 and 30 years and there are part-time people that end up drawing more money than they do. He stated that he thinks it's deplorable and the Board should look at it. He added that if the Board doesn't want to address it, he thinks the public should address it later on.

Both Commissioners Bivins and Allen suggested that the matter be referred to committee for discussion. Chairman Bishop then agreed to assign the matter to the pension committee. He added that the pension plan is now qualified and that they need to stop playing politics with plan. He added that the only way to do that was to get the politicians out of the pension plan and put them in a separate plan.

Chairman Bishop added that he can't see how a person that is passed away gets a raise from \$200 to \$500 per month and it goes into an estate.

Commissioner Edwards asked if the County hired any part-time people for any extended periods of time. Tommy Brown, HR Director, responded yes sir. Commissioner Edwards then asked if these employees were eligible for a pension. Mr. Brown responded no sir. Commissioner Edwards then stated that he wouldn't vote to give part-time county commissioners a dime for any kind of retirement.

Commissioner Allen responded that happened a long time ago.

Chairman Bishop added along with the pensions, the Board needs to look at health care benefits that are given to part-time people after they retire. He stated that most of them are 65 and have had other full-time jobs and probably pay their own insurance anyway and are also eligible for Medicare. He stated they can cost the taxpayers of Bibb County a million dollars right quick (*part-time employees with ten years of service*).

Chairman Bishop added that the commissioners were elected by the people in Bibb County to be good stewards of taxpayers' money and by the same token, they look at the pension plan that was funded by employees up until 1987. He added that they put in a portion of their salary which a hybrid, participatory pension plan. He further added that the vesting time was raised from five to ten years and increased minimum.

Chairman Bishop reiterated that they will start working on it at the next pension board meeting and the pension advisory committee will be notified of the meeting so they can listen in and see whether they think they'll benefit or not.

There being no further business and on motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Shelia Thurmond, Clerk of the Board