

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BIBB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 19, 2010

The regular monthly meeting of the Bibb County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, January 19, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Boardroom at the Bibb County Courthouse.

Board Members present were Chairman Samuel F. Hart, Sr., Vice Chairman Joe O. Allen, Commissioner Elmo A. Richardson, Jr., Commissioner Bert Bivins, III and Commissioner Lonzy Edwards.

Staff in attendance was Steve Layson, Chief Administrative Officer; Virgil Adams, County Attorney; Doug Furney, Director of Lake Tobesofkee; Sam Kitchens, Director of Buildings & Property; Deborah Martin, Finance Director; Ken Sheets, County Engineer; Marilu Cowan, Director of Human Resources & Risk Management; Kari Kitchens, Grant Resources Administrator; Shelia Thurmond, Clerk of the Board and Janice Ross, Administrative Assistant - BOC.

News media in attendance: Mike Stucka of The Telegraph.

In the absence of a guest pastor, Commissioner Lonzy Edwards rendered the Invocation.

Chairman Hart invited members of the Central Georgia Council of the Boy Scouts of America, who were in attendance, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Hart recommended the following **Committee/Agency and Staff Appointments for 2010:**

Vice – Chairman: Joe O. Allen

<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>CHAIR</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>MEMBER</u>
Engineering/Public Works	Joe Allen	Elmo Richardson	Lonzy Edwards
Finance, Tax & Revenue	Elmo Richardson	Joe Allen	Bert Bivins
Human Resources/Info Services	Lonzy Edwards	Bert Bivins	Joe Allen
License & Tax	Elmo Richardson	Joe Allen	Lonzy Edwards
Ordinances & Resolutions	Bert Bivins	Elmo Richardson	Joe Allen
Properties	Bert Bivins	Elmo Richardson	Lonzy Edwards
Risk Management/Public Safety	Lonzy Edwards	Elmo Richardson	Bert Bivins
Tobesofkee	Joe Allen	Lonzy Edwards	Bert Bivins

Agency / Authority Appointments

Macon Water Authority	Bert Bivins
Macon-Bibb County Land Bank Authority	Bert Bivins
Macon-Bibb County Board of Health	Bert Bivins
Middle Georgia Regional Commission	Sam Hart

Staff Appointments

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

Commissioner Richardson offered a motion that the Chairman's Appointments for 2010 as outlined above be approved. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bivins.

DISCUSSION

Commissioner Edwards stated that he would like to register his objection to the committee structure. He stated that he had previously indicated that it was his strong belief that committees needed to be reformed and for that reason, he intends to vote against the committee appointments. He stated that he had some concerns also about some of the staff appointments. He stated to his knowledge some of the staff has not been evaluated and that he has not been privy to the results of any evaluations of any department heads of the CAO and for that reason he intends to vote against the appointments.

Chairman Hart stated that in response to staff evaluations, it is his understanding that all of them have been evaluated and that he, personally, met with all department heads and also has an evaluation for the CAO. He stated that in his conversation with the CAO, he noted any concerns that commissioners had given to him. He stated that he has the CAO's evaluation for the Board's review. Chairman Hart added that in his conversation with all department heads, he was told that they had been evaluated and they even discussed some of the objectives that came out of the evaluation.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Hart called for the vote. The motion passed 4-1 with Commissioner Edwards casting the dissenting vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Richardson, seconded by Commissioner Bivins and carried, the Minutes of the regular meeting on December 15, 2009 were approved as written.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Chairman Hart recognized and welcomed students from Howard High School, who were present to thank the Board for a Work Ready Aerospace Grant, which enabled them to create a First Robotics Team to compete in a national competition in March.

Kari Kitchens, Grant Resources Administrator, addressed the Board stating this came out of the Regional Work Ready Grant which ended December 31st. She stated that Bibb County is still working to become a Certified Work Ready Community and that we are about 400 shy. She stated that once we become a Work Ready Community, it means about \$10,000 to Bibb County.

Mr. Joe Finkelstein of the CTAE (Career Technical Agriculture Education) Department at Howard High School addressed the Board. He recognized Dr. Joyner, who supervises the department for the whole county as well as Cassandra Washington, Supervisor over Howard High, Central and Westside along with the feeder schools. From the Business Department, he recognized Ms. Aiken, who is a Physics Teacher and Dr. Ekong from Mercer University, who has been acting as a mentor and helping with some of the programming in those areas. He also noted that some parents were in attendance.

Mr. Finkelstein stated that the Team name is Robbo Bibb. He stated that the Bibb is to thank Bibb County for its support. He stated that they are Team 3404, which means there are some 3400 teams that have been put in place in the 19 years. He stated that the first robotics competition started with an entrepreneur who worked for NASA at one point. He stated that about 20 of them went to Georgia Tech in Atlanta a couple of Saturdays ago where they made the announcement of what this year's competition is going to be. He stated that it would resemble soccer and the robot is going to have bells and whistles. He added that this is an opportunity for the students to learn valuable life skills while competing. He stated they will be competing in Gwinnett County in March and the winners there will go on to the nationals which, this year, will be in Atlanta, GA. He added that 10% of the freshman incoming class at MIT has participated in first robotics teams in their high school.

Several students addressed the Board with some brief comments about their experiences including Victoria Pham (sophomore at Howard High School) Nathan Cowart (junior at Howard High School) Brandon Simmons (junior at Howard High School) and Mr. Meneve Conn (freshman at Howard High School) who is spearheading the Marketing/Promotion area.

Mr. Finkelstein thanked the Board for opportunity afforded these students.

Next, Chairman Hart recognized Mr. Hunter Johnson and presented him with a Resolution from the Board of Commissioners for his service on the Development Authority of Bibb County.

Mr. Johnson stated that over a period 40 years, he has served on many boards, commissions and authorities and that he has had the opportunity to serve on three (3) consolidation commissions. He added that the Board has a big job and he appreciates what they do for the community and without equivocation, he stated consolidation is the way to go.

Next, Chairman Hart recognized and welcomed Mr. Dennis Floyd of 2668 Bonner Gilbert Road for some comments. Mr. Floyd expressed concerns about the proposed consolidation of Macon and Bibb County.

REFERRALS:

The following item was referred to: **Engineering / Public Works Committee:**

1. Petitions from Cunningham & Company Engineers to register Barrington Place Way and Barrington Place Lane as public roads of Bibb County.

The following item was referred to: **Properties Committee:**

1. Discussion regarding new Fire Station #109.

RECORD AND INFORMATION:

1. Monthly departmental reports and agency activities received for record: Coroner.
2. Correspondence from the Board of Tax Assessors advising that it has completed the majority of the work on the 2009 Digest. The number of resolved appeals is currently 11,818 with 5,249 pending. The value in dispute is currently 3.2% which is below the required 5% required to submit a Digest under Georgia Code Section 48-5-304.

ACTION: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

1. The Committee recommends approval of the ordinance to fix the maximum speed limit on Foster Road, from a point 600' north of Calvin Dr. to a point 600' south of Calvin Dr. The Committee further recommends that the Traffic Engineer look at all school zones for the purpose of speed zone regulation and signage.

Commissioner Allen read the Ordinance by caption as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BIBB COUNTY, GEORGIA, TO FIX THE MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT ON A SECTION OF FOSTER ROAD AT 25 MILES PER HOUR; TO PROVIDE PUNISHMENT FOR VIOLATION HEREOF; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

On motion of Commissioner Allen and carried, the before mentioned ordinance was adopted.

TOBESOFKEE COMMITTEE – Committee Chairman Allen reported the following:

1. The Committee recommends approval of the request from Johnny James, representing Optimus Energy Sports Beverage, to host a kid's fishing tournament at the Duckponds on Saturday, April 17, 2010.

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

2. The Committee recommends approval of the request Central Georgia Council of the Boy Scouts of America to use Sandy Beach Park for a scout campout during the weekend of March 19th - 21st, 2010, and that all fees be waived.

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

HUMAN RESOURCES AND INFORMATION SERVICES COMMITTEE – Committee Chairman Edwards reported the following:

1. The Committee recommends accepting the recommendation of the Human Resources Director, Marilu C. Cowan, in regards to the personnel matter of the ITS Department.

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

2. The Committee recommends that Steve Layson, Chief Administrative Officer, serve as Interim Director of the Information Technology Systems department, effective January 1, 2010, furthermore, the Chief Administrative Officer will make assignments of the ITS personnel.

Additionally, the committee approved three (3) part-time positions in the ITS department, with Mr. Tony Rousey approved as a temporary employee to work up to 30 hours per week and Ms. Lynn Davis as a temporary employee to work up to 24 hours per week, pending a review of full-time employee hiring needs.

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

RISK MANAGEMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – Committee Chairman Edwards reported the following:

1. The Committee authorizes the Chairman to initiate conversations with the Mayor of the City of Macon to move forward in re-establishing the City/County Drug Task Force.

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

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE – No Report.

PROPERTIES COMMITTEE – No Report.

MACON WATER AUTHORITY – No Report.

LAND BANK AUTHORITY – No Report.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT – No Report.

FINANCE, TAX AND REVENUE COMMITTEE – Committee Chairman Richardson reported the following:

1. The Committee recommends approval of the Commitment of \$400,000 by Bibb County for Project R.

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

2. The Committee recommends approval of a supplemental appropriation to the FY 2010 Commissary Fund budget in the amount of \$3,010 for the purchase of television sets.

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

3. The Committee recommends approval of the qualifying fees for the 2010 elections as presented and attached.

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

4. The Committee recommends approval for the Board of Commissioners Office to fill the vacant position of Microfilm/Mailroom Operator.

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

5. The Committee recommends approval for the Probate Court to fill the vacant position of Deputy Clerk I.

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

6. The Committee recommends approval for the Tobesofkee Fund to fill the vacant position of Law Enforcement Ranger.

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

7. The Committee recommends approving Change Order #2 to Vision Contractors in the amount of \$9,371.00 regarding the New Bathhouse for Lake Tobesofkee.

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

8. The Committee recommends awarding the bid for Vehicle Setups to Macon Communications at the unit prices bid.

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

LICENSE & TAX COMMITTEE – Committee Chairman Richardson reported the following:

1. The Committee recommends approving the New 2010 alcoholic beverage license applications for the following establishments:
 - * YJJ Corporation d/b/a Marathon #18 located at 5250 Riverside Drive
 - * RRPB LLC d/b/a Citgo Food Mart located at 3705 Irwinton Road

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

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – Chairman Hart reported the following:

1. Ratification of action of the Committee of the Whole recommending that the Chairman be authorized to sign the agreement between Bibb County, City of Macon and Town of Payne City regarding Animal Control effective March 1, 2010. No license fees shall be implemented by Bibb County at this time.

On motion of Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner Bivins and carried, the before mentioned action was ratified.

2. Ratification of action of the Committee of the Whole authorizing the staff to issue an RFQ for the Construction Manager at Risk for the construction of the new Judicial Center, the renovation of the courthouse and the construction of the Juvenile Center providing there are no costs other than incidental expenses and no fees from the architect.

On motion of Commissioner Edwards, seconded by Commissioner Allen and carried, the before mentioned action was ratified.

3. Ratification of action of the Committee of the Whole recommending that the Grant Administrator proceed with the application for a Federal Grant for the Juvenile Treatment Drug Court.

On motion of Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and carried, the before mentioned action was ratified.

4. Ratification of action of the Committee of the Whole approving the Resolution for the Board to commence negotiations for consolidation of County and City Departments and Services and establishing a ten-year schedule for such consolidation.

On motion of Commissioner Bivins, seconded by Commissioner Richardson and carried, the before mentioned action was ratified by a 4-1 vote. Commissioner Allen cast the dissenting vote.

5. Ratification of action of the Committee of the Whole authorizing the County Attorney to draft an ordinance similar to the City of Macon's version so as to limit signage on convenience store windows.

On motion of Commissioner Allen, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and carried the before mentioned action was ratified by a 3-2 vote. Commissioners Richardson and Bivins cast the dissenting votes.

6. Ratification of action of the Committee of the Whole endorsing and supporting the Macon Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee and also supporting the Grant Administrator looking for grant opportunities to sponsor four Civil War site markers.

On motion of Commissioner Richardson, seconded by Commissioner Bivins and carried, the before mentioned action was ratified.

7. Ratification of action of the Committee of the Whole recommending Dr. Kirby Godsey be appointed to the Development Authority of Bibb County. His term will begin on January 19, 2010 and will expire on April 1, 2011.

On motion of Commissioner Richardson, seconded by Commissioner Allen and carried, the before mentioned action was ratified.

8. Ratification of action of the Committee of the Whole approving that the Macon-Bibb County Industrial Authority authorize the Middle Georgia Regional Commission to apply for Brownfield Redevelopment Grant funding to benefit Allied Industrial Park.

On motion of Commissioner Richardson, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and carried, the before mentioned action was ratified.

PENSION BOARD – No Report.

NEW BUSINESS – Chairman Hart announced that the next Board meeting would be **Thursday, February 4, 2010**.

There being no further business and on motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Shelia Thurmond, CCC, Clerk of the Board