

**MINUTES  
BIBB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
FY 2009 BUDGET ADOPTION**

**JUNE 27, 2008**

The Bibb County board of Commissioners met on Friday, June 27, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. for the purpose of adopting the FY 2009 Budget.

Commissioners present were Chairman Charles W. Bishop, Commissioner Bert Bivins, III, Commissioner Elmo Richardson, Jr., Commissioner Joe O. Allen and Commissioner Lonzy Edwards.

Staff in attendance:

Virgil Adams, County Attorney	Shelia Thurmond, Clerk of the Board
Deborah Martin, Finance Director	Tony Rousey, IT Director
Christy Iuliucci, Asst. Finance Director	

Media in attendance:

Jennifer Burk, The Telegraph	Charles Reid, WMAZ TV 13
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Guests in attendance:

Andy Galloway, Central GA Health Systems	Chief Deputy David Davis, LEC
Sheriff Jerry Modena, LEC	Danny Thompson, LEC

Chairman Bishop called the meeting to order and stated that the purpose of the meeting was to adopt the budget Resolution for FY 2009. He then called on County Attorney Virgil Adams to read the Resolution by caption:

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BIBB COUNTY, GEORGIA, ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2008, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2009 COVERING THE VARIOUS FUNDS OF BIBB COUNTY, APPROPRIATING THE AMOUNTS SHOWN IN EACH BUDGET AS EXPENDITURES; ADOPTING SEVERAL ITEMS OF REVENUE ANTICIPATIONS; PROHIBITING EXPENDITURES TO EXCEED APPROPRIATIONS; PROHIBITING EXPENDITURES TO EXCEED ACTUAL FUNDING AVAILABLE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Chairman Bishop called for a motion to approve the Budget Resolution.

***Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the budget resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Richardson.***

## DISCUSSION

Commissioner Edwards stated he regrets that he was not present at the public hearing because of a previously scheduled vacation. He stated that he did have the opportunity to get the minutes of the hearing from Mrs. Thurmond and he appreciated that very much. He stated that there were two comments made at the hearing that really struck him. He stated that one was the comment made by a citizen about the effect of gas prices on them personally and the disparaging comment about County employees driving County vehicles and getting gas for those vehicles. He stated that he, personally, would like to see the Board take up at the earliest possible time is an effort to reign in any improper use of County vehicles or any that are not necessary. He stated that he certainly agrees if that's happening, the way it was described in the minutes, it's wrong.

Commissioner Edwards stated the other thing was the comment made by Captain Helen Jackson about not benefiting from the merit increases that are proposed. He stated since he read that comment he's talked to some other County employees trying to understand why that is, and he understands now why that is. He stated that it makes no sense to him that long term employees can hang around here and come up against that cap or ceiling or whatever it's called for their particular positions and not be entitled to any additional compensation. He stated that he thinks that is having a devastating effect on the moral of employees and the ability to retain employees. He continued that at some point he would like to see the Board consider doing something with its pay plan to see if it can't address that so that law enforcement people and other employees who are being driven off because they are up against that ceiling can at least have the option of staying here. He stated that at a minimum, it seems to him that, even though they can't extend the scale out, they ought to get whatever raise the Board authorizes for other employees in the name of fairness.

Commissioner Edwards stated that the only other thing he'd like to say is this – he was in Louisville, Kentucky and he might as well been in Bibb County because the same arguments this Board has heard and he's even heard since he got back, are the same ones being made in Louisville, Kentucky. He mentioned gas prices, people pleading for nonprofits about having been cut. He stated that it was the same issue everywhere and one of the unpleasant realities that he's coming to terms with, reluctantly, is that they can't control some forces that are beyond their control, like fuel prices. He continued that they can't insulate nonprofit, authorities and other agencies against forces that beyond their control. He stated the ultimate answer is to make sure that they do everything they can to assure our citizens that the integrity of the Revaluation is beyond question, and whatever it takes to do that and he'd like for this Board to get Mr. Davis and Mr. Vaughn here to talk to the Board about it because everything he reads in the newspaper, he thinks it's causing people to have negative feelings about that process and if they aren't careful, they're going to be right back where they started and he hates to say it, some of these nonprofits, authorities and other agencies of government are going to be facing the same problems that they are confronting this year. He stated it's critical that this Board sends a message to the Board of Tax Assessors and Chief Appraiser that they've got to have a Digest on time and one that has integrity so the people will have confidence in it and they won't get all of those appeals that they got the last time around.

Commissioner Allen stated in all of the years he's been on this Board, this has probably been the hardest budget the Board has ever had to do. He stated that the County has a strong Fund Balance and that there will be a lot of things come up because of the rising gas

prices. He asked that the Board hold any kind of special appropriation to a minimum until the County can get a stronger Fund Balance within the next 12 months that some of these agencies and some of these employees who are topped out, that the Board look at bring them to where they need to be and putting this County back to where it should be.

Chairman Bishop stated that this was a collective effort by all of the commissioners and it was obvious by the fact that it was a unanimous decision as they went through the budget process. He stated that they are the fiscal agents for Bibb County and are the people who decide how the money that's collected from the taxpayers is spent. He stated that he thinks they have put forth the best combined effort they could to make sure that everybody is getting a dollar service for every dollar spent. He stated that he doesn't know of anything else they could have done under the circumstances. He stated, too, that every year they've had increases in spending in the budget process, necessary increases, but when you look at the total picture, he thinks they have been responsible to the taxpayers and tried to do the best thing they could do for employees as a whole and for the citizens. Chairman Bishop then called for the vote.

The Budget Resolution for FY 2009 was approved by a 4-1 vote. Commissioner Bivins cast the dissenting vote.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

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Shelia Thurmond  
Clerk of the Board