

MINUTES

BIBB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

October 7, 2008

The regular meeting of the Bibb County Board of Commissioners was held in the Commission Boardroom on Tuesday, October 7, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

Board Members present: Chairman Charles W. Bishop, Commissioner Elmo A. Richardson, Jr., and Commissioner Lonzy Edwards.

Commissioners Bert Bivins, III and Joe O. Allen were absent.

Staff present: Steve Layson, Chief Administrative Officer; Virgil Adams, County Attorney; Deborah Martin, Finance Director, Marilu Cowan, Human Resources Director, Doug Furney, Director of Lake Tobesofkee; Tom Cherry, HR/Risk Management, Bel Wall, Human Resources, Gloria Guy, Human Resources, Brenda Arnett, Human Resources, Barbara Wood, Public Relations Officer and Shelia Thurmond, Clerk of the Board.

News Media: Jennifer Burk, The Telegraph.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Reverend James Goolsby, Jr., Pastor of First Baptist Church, rendered the prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Bishop presented a Resolution in recognition of "Fire Prevention Week" to Chief Mike Smallwood of the Macon-Bibb County Fire Department. Other fire fighters were present but got a call and had to leave before the presentation. Chief Smallwood followed with some brief remarks.

Chairman Bishop called on Commissioner Lonzy Edwards, Chairman of the Human Resources Committee, to present a resolution to Mrs. Bel Wall of the Human Resources Department. Mrs. Wall was honored for her diligence and dedication to task during an interim period of the vacancy of the position of Director of Human Resources and Risk Management. Mrs. Wall performed the duties of the position in an exemplary manner, managing staff, improving processes in the department and insuring the day-to-day activities were handled in a professional and accurate manner.

Chairman Bishop called on Commissioner Elmo Richardson, Jr., Chairman of the Risk Management & Public Safety Committee, to present a resolution to Mr. Tom Cherry of the Human Resources/Risk Management Department. Mr. Cherry was honored for his diligence and dedication to task during an interim period of the vacancy of the position of Director of Human Resources and Risk Management. Mr. Cherry performed the duties of both capacities in an exemplary manner and maintained a high

level of service to the Civil Service Board and successfully managed the Workers' Compensation and risk issues for Bibb County.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Richardson, seconded by Commissioner Edwards and carried, the Minutes of the Regular meeting on September 16, 2008 were approved as written.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Chairman Bishop recognized and welcomed the following visitors:

Hazel Giddens	Carol Lystlund	Alice Boyd
Donald Richardson, Jr.	Sgt. Kelly Potts	Lt. Danny Angelo
Skip Langley	Private Ben Grimsley	Greg Purser
Chief Mike Smallwood	Neal Cowan	

Mrs. Alice Boyd addressed the Board regarding the Forest Hill Road project. She stated that on September 2nd, she and others attended the commission meeting and during that time, Commissioner Richardson gave them a proposal that the Board would be willing to call Mr. Rick Chellman to come down and talk to them. She stated that they were all appreciative of that and that she had written each of them a letter, personally, expressing how grateful they were and how much she thought the Board would be impressed with Mr. Chellman. She stated that she was notified that Chairman Bishop was calling a meeting to announce that all of the road projects had been put on hold until spring because of a lack of funding. She stated also that she attended a public information meeting where Dr. Gena Abraham-Evans, DOT Commissioner, was speaking which she thought was very informative. She added that Dr. Abraham-Evans stated that she knew just about everything that needed to be known about Forest Hill Road and the I-16/I-75 projects. She asked if the Board had received a letter from Mr. Chellman. Mrs. Boyd stated that they would like for the proposal as made by Commissioner Richardson to be followed through so they can have an alternate plan when the time comes to make that assessment because they do want something done for Forest Hill Road, just not as much done as has been drawn out.

Mrs. Lystlund also addressed the Board regarding the Forest Hill Road project. She, too, thanked the Board for its willingness to meet with Mr. Chellman because he is a national and international acclaimed professional in his area and travels around the world as a consultant for cities and communities of various sizes trying to help them come up with a neighborhood friendly, safe, environmentally friendly road program. She stated that they want the best for their community but not the destruction of an over-planned, oversized highway coming through. She asked where they are standing with Mr. Chellman and if the Board has had any other contact with Mr. Chellman.

Chairman Bishop stated that, basically, DOT froze everything because they recommended that Bibb County not spend any money in connection with the Forest Hill Road project until their priority list comes out in March. He stated he was sure on that list will be whatever roads DOT decides they've got the money to fund. He stated that before the Board brings anybody here, it needs to find out from Moreland Altobelli what would or wouldn't qualify for federal and state funds. He stated that DOT made it clear that if the County continued spending any money, the local taxpayers would have to fund it. He added that DOT didn't say the County had to stop the project but rather recommended that they stop it and the County followed their recommendation.

Mrs. Boyd stated that she thought from what Commissioner Richardson said that there would probably be enough money for Mr. Chellman to come down and present his plan.

Commissioner Richardson stated that he wanted to clarify that statement. He stated that he suggested maybe they could round up enough money to do that but Commissioner Edwards countered with the idea that the County meet with Moreland Altobelli before inviting Mr. Chellman to come. He stated this has not been done.

Chairman Bishop clarified that the reason he said that was because if Chellman came and presented his plan and it wasn't in line with what Moreland Altobelli said was the requirement then you'd be back to listening to a suggestion that wouldn't qualify for the money either way.

Commissioner Richardson stated that shortly after he made his suggestion and then Commissioner Edwards made his suggestion, Chairman Bishop received a call from DOT that said just freeze everything right now.

Chairman Bishop further stated that if DOT comes out with a priority list and Forest Hill Road isn't on that list, then it's not even an issue. He continued that the County would be spending money to bring somebody here and the road may not even be on the priority list.

Mrs. Boyd asked if they had a plan approved by the GDOT, and Mr. Chellman knows what they will approve, and it was far less expensive to still do the job and would still do the job, wouldn't that bring the priority rating up.

Commissioner Richardson responded, no. He also stated that he attended a meeting where DOT gave a preliminary look at the various criteria that they will be using to evaluate these projects and some costs benefit analysis, more on the benefit side as opposed to anything else. He added that any number of factors enter into the evaluation (*e.g. if it's a great benefit, safety issue*). He stated that cost is not always the overriding factor. He continued that Forest Hill Road can be scaled back and maybe meet some of that criteria, but at the same time, DOT may decide not to do it.

Chairman Bishop explained that if DOT were to decide they are not going to do anything with the road that would mean the City would have to take the contract and pay for it out of the local tax revenues.

He stated that a lot of people in competition for those dollars.

Commissioner Richardson added that Forest Hill Road is not forgotten and they've got to just wait and see right now as far as DOT's priority list is concerned.

Chairman Bishop reiterated that the project has to get back on DOT's priority list because they've already spent money on mediation and money is not appropriated.

Mrs. Boyd continued that they will, if necessary, take the money up themselves if the Board will listen to Mr. Chellman.

Chairman Bishop responded that he doesn't want them to waste their money.

Commissioner Edwards stated that he applauds Commissioner Richardson's suggestion. He stated, too, that it would be great to listen to Mr. Chellman, but it would be academic if he comes with suggestions that are contrary to what DOT or anybody who has put money in the pot will fund. He stated that he would support the idea of having Mr. Chellman come at the appropriate time.

Chairman Bishop stated to continue on doing anything on the project will cost the taxpayers money and it may not happen. He stated that they just need to wait until the priority list comes out. And if they say Forest Hill Road is on go, then at that time, Mrs. Boyd and Mrs. Lystlund could come back and the Board would be glad to listen.

Mrs. Boyd then asked if DOT takes the project off the priority list if the City would begin to maintain their road.

Chairman Bishop responded that the City has a contract right now to maintain her road.

Mrs. Boyd responded that they hadn't done anything because there are potholes up and down the road.

Chairman Bishop says the City has a contract just like County does which says that the County will maintain the parts in the County and the City will maintain the parts in the City. He added that they get LARP money for that.

Mrs. Lystlund stated that they would be happy to write Mr. Chellman and tell him the project is delayed and the reason why but she thought that, from a professional standpoint, if the Board of Commissioners communicated that they would be interested in meeting with him at a later time, but it's premature at this time.

Commissioner Edwards stated that he has no problem with that and would make that a motion.

Chairman Bishop stated the Board would send Mr. Chellman a letter telling him that it will be after March before they find out whether or not the project is on the priority list.

REFERRALS:

The following items were referred to the **Engineering and Public Works Committee:**

1. Petitions from Danny Harrison, Harrison Construction, for the registration of Grand Harbour Court, Lake Helen Court and Grand Harbour Drive as public roads of Bibb County.
2. Petitions from James Frith, Wheeler's Landing, LLC, for the registration of Rocker Circle, Crabapple Drive (Extension) and Maddux Drive as public roads of Bibb County.

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

1. Correspondence from the Macon-Bibb County Board of Tax Assessors requesting the following:
 - a) additional space located at 653 Second Street, previously occupied by River Edge
 - b) that the County inquire about leasing a vacant lot at 687 Second Street for additional parking during the appeal period (*April - May 2009*)
 - c) use of a satellite location during the appeal period
 - d) some security measures to protect their employees.

RECORD AND INFORMATION:

Monthly departmental reports and agency activities received for record: Clerk, State Court.

ACTION:

1. Ratification of the Georgia Department of Transportation contracts respecting the Houston Avenue, Phase II, plant mix resurfacing project.

Chairman Bishop called for the vote to ratify. Commissioners Richardson and Edwards responded in favor; the motion was carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ENGINEERING/PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE – In the absence of Committee Chairman Bivins, Commissioner Richardson reported the following:

1. The Committee recommends that the request of the Department of Transportation to use material from Bibb County's borrow pit off Houston Road for the purpose of repairing slopes and ditch lines on SR247 be approved subject to clarification of the amount needed and subject to a legal opinion regarding whether or not this constitutes a gratuity.

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

2. The Committee recommends that the Chairman be authorized to sign the agreement between Bibb County and Georgia Power Company for maintenance of high mast lighting at the Zebulon Road/I-475 Interchange.

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

3. The Committee reports that bids were received on June 25, 2008, for milling and resurfacing Houston Avenue from Pio Nono to Troup Street, Project RIP#36-3 and that the low responsive bidder was Georgia Asphalt with a total bid of \$474,253.90. The Committee recommends that award be made to Georgia Asphalt subject to successful negotiations to bring the amount in line with the GDOT County Contract.

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

4. The Committee recommends that Budget Modification No. 27 for the Macon-Bibb County Road Improvement Program be approved.

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

5. The Committee recommends that the Chairman be authorized to sign documents granting an easement to Georgia Power Company on property known as 2444 Avondale Mill Road for the purpose of installing a distribution line for the Sardis Church Road Connector.

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

6. The Committee recommends that the petition to register Dobson Road as a public road be approved and that said road be placed on the Official Road Register for maintenance by County forces.

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

LICENSE & TAX COMMITTEE – In the absence of Committee Chairman Bivins, Commissioner Lonzy Edwards reported the following:

1. The License and Tax Committee respectfully denies the request of Mr. Robert Spiegel regarding waiving back taxes totaling \$22,437.26 for property located at 3539 Stalling Drive.

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

MACON WATER AUTHORITY – No Report

HEALTH DEPARTMENT – No Report

LAND BANK AUTHORITY – No Report

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

1. The Finance Committee recommends approval of authorization for Chairman Bishop to sign a contract between Bibb County and Bentley and Sons Funeral Home that allows the Coroner's Office to store decomposed bodies in its cooler at a rate of \$100.00 per day. The authorization is subject to changes to the contract to be made by the County Attorney.

Mr. Adams stated that the changes have been made.

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

2. The Finance Committee recommends waiving the performance bond requirement on the conditions that the County receive credit for the cost of the bond, and on the condition that the County Attorney establish a satisfactory means of protecting the County in the event of default on the contract by the contractor.

Committee Chairman Richardson stated that this is in reference to performance bond requirements for the Inmate Medical Services contract.

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

RISK MANAGEMENT/PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – No Report

ORDINANCE & RESOLUTION COMMITTEE – No Report

PROPERTIES COMMITTEE – No Report

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

1. The Human Resources and Information Services Committee approves the recommendation of the Chief Administrative Officer, Mr. Steve Layson, to utilize the Regional Development Center (RDC) to help research the issue of the four (4) day, 10 hours staggered workweek.

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

2. The Human Resources and Information Services Committee approves the recommendation of the Human Resources Director, Mrs. Marilu Cowan, to create the new position of Assistant Human Resources Director (T37/01). Funding for this position is from existing salaries.

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

3. The Human Resources and Information Services Committee recommends approval of a temporary position (Secretary) to handle appeals for the Board of Equalization until June 30, 2009. The secretary will work under the District Attorney's Office supervision. Funding will be provided from existing salaries in the Board of Assessors Department.

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

4. The Human Resources and Information Services Committee approves the recommendation of the Chief Tax Appraiser, Ms. Andrea Crutchfield, for the reorganization of the Tax Assessors' Office (providing funding is available from existing salaries) as follows:
 - o Eliminating the position of Deputy Chief Appraiser T37
 - o Creating the position of Assistant Chief Personal Property T-36-07
 - o Upgrade the vacant position of Appraiser IV T20 to Residential Supervisor T24-09
 - o Upgrade the salary of Ms. D. Murray, Personal Property Appraiser II to Personal Property Supervisor T-24/02

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

5. The Human Resources and Information Services Committee recommends that the Chief Administrative Officer, Steve Layson, notify all County departments, offices and Elected Officials that: If offices are closed early due to a holiday or any other closing, the employees must use their annual leave to cover these hours or not get paid for leaving early, unless authorized by the Board of Commissioners.

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

TOBESOFKEE COMMITTEE – Committee Chairman Edwards reported the following:

1. The Tobesofkee Committee recommends approval of the request to waive admission fees at Sandy Beach Park on November 29, 2008 for the Tobesofkee Christmas Regatta.

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

2. The Tobesofkee Committee recommends approval of the request from the Little Red Wagon Foundation Inc. to waive camping fees for one campsite November 2 -5 during a walk from Tallahassee to Atlanta to raise funds to build a home through Habitat for Humanity.

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

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – No Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – County Attorney Adams stated that he had the ordinance change respecting Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control. He read it by caption as follows:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BIBB COUNTY, GEORGIA, TO AMEND § 14-5 (b) OF CHAPTER 14 OF THE CODE OF BIBB COUNTY, GEORGIA, ENTITLED SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Chairman Bishop called for a vote to adopt the aforementioned ordinance. Commissioners Edwards and Richardson voted in favor. The motion was carried.

NEW BUSINESS – None.

There being no further business and on motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Shelia Thurmond, Clerk of the Board