



The McDuffie County Board of Commissioners held a Regular Commission Meeting  
Wednesday Morning, March 3, 2021, 10:00 am  
Government Center Meeting Room

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Charles Newton, IV, Chairman  
Sammie Wilson, Vice Chairman  
Bill Jopling, Commissioner  
Fred Favors, Commissioner  
Gloria Thompson, Commissioner

**COUNTY REPRESENTATION:**

David Crawley, County Manager  
Nikki Milburn, County Clerk  
Pam Workman, Finance Director  
Chase Beggs, Planning & Zoning  
Stacey Thomas, Tax Commissioner  
Gail Newsome, Code Enforcement

**MEDIA:**

Others: 1

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Newton called the meeting to order at 10:00 am, acknowledged a quorum of commissioners present and welcomed everyone in attendance.

**INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Favors offered the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVALS**

Agenda (Current)

Chairman Newton asked if there were any corrections to the current agenda or minutes.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Wilson to approve the current agenda and was seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously.

Minutes

**Regular Meeting-** February 16, 2021

**Executive Session-** February 16, 2021

**Called Meeting-** February 22, 2021

Commissioner Jopling made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Wilson and passed unanimously.

**INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS**

None

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Consideration to Approve Alcohol License for Happy Valley Store.**

Gail Newsome presented the application for an alcohol license for Happy Valley Store. This new package store will be on the same property as the current convenience store but will have a separate entrance. They are completed all the requirements for the license.

Commissioner Thompson made the motion to approve the alcohol license for Happy Valley Store. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Wilson and passed unanimously.

### **2. Consideration to Approve HPC Grant & Design Guidelines.**

Chase advised that as discussed in the previous work session, this grant would allow design guidelines to be set that would make HPC processes for the city more uniformed. This grant has a city/county portion, the county's portion is \$11,475 and will be funded by SPLOST.

Commissioner Jopling made the motion to approve the HPC Grant. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thompson and passed unanimously.

### **3. Consideration to Approve TUSA Consulting Agreement.**

David advised that as discussed previously in the work session, TUSA is a consulting firm that would come in and audit the currently radio system and help us engineer a plan for upgrades. The cost for Phase 1 is \$39,006.00 and will be funded by SPLOST VII.

Vice Chairman Wilson made the motion to approve the consulting agreement with TUSA. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously.

### **4. Consideration to Approve Courthouse AV System Upgrades.**

Chairman Newton stated that as discussed in the previous work session, the courtrooms are needing upgrades due to the COVID restrictions for court hearings. The cost for courtroom A is \$8,278.93 and courtroom B is proposed at \$28,788.43.

Commissioner Jopling made the motion to approve the AV system upgrades. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thompson and passed unanimously.

### **5. Consideration to Approve Vehicle & Equipment Purchases.**

David stated that as discussed in the previous work session, there are several departments that are in need of vehicles and equipment. David advised that his recommendation is for the board to approve the Dodge trucks for the recreation department and road department, 2 Dodge 2500 for Fire and 4500 ambulance. He also suggest the CAT 420 backhoe loader and CAT 920 wheel loader for the road department.

Commissioner Thompson made the motion to approve these vehicle and equipment purchases. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Wilson and passed unanimously.

### **6. Consideration to Approve Travel Allowance.**

Chairman Newton advised that since he came in the work session late Monday that he missed this discussion. He expressed concerns over the travel allowance, he feels that no one is traveling enough to justify \$200. Commissioner Jopling and Commissioner Thompson share the same concern with the vehicle allowance. They all agreed that the phone allowance is more justified.

Commissioner Jopling made the motion to continue this item for now. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thompson and passed unanimously.

**7. Consideration to Approve Additional Holiday.**

David advised that as discussed in the previous work session, having President's Day added back to the paid holiday leave. Pam calculated the cost of the additional leave and it would be \$25,908.61. Chairman Newton stated that equals about 1 holiday a month and he doesn't see the need in adding back to the holiday leave.

Vice Chairman Wilson made the motion to approve adding President's Day. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Favors. Commissioner Jopling asked how many holidays the employees currently receive. Chairman Newton advised currently the employees have 11 paid holidays in the calendar year including the floating holiday. Commissioner Jopling stated that he was no in favor of adding an additional holiday. Vice Chairman Wilson asked for a roll call vote.

**Roll Call**

Favors- Yay

Thompson-Nay

Wilson- Yay

Jopling- Nay

Newton- Nay

Vice Chairman Wilson stated that he feels like this is unfair and walking a racial line because they are always taking but not giving. Commissioner Jopling stated that his vote was financial and has nothing to do with race. Chairman Newton stated that their discussion can continue outside the meeting.

**8. Consideration to Approve Vehicle Surplus.**

David advised that there is a Crown Victoria that was being used by the custodial staff that is no longer usable.

|                  |                         |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Date</b>      | <b>3/3/2021</b>         |
| <b>Equipment</b> |                         |
| <b>ID #:</b>     | <b>CUSTODIAN 4</b>      |
| <b>VIN:</b>      | <b>2FALP71W7VX20989</b> |
| <b>Make:</b>     | <b>FORD</b>             |
| <b>Model:</b>    | <b>CROWN VIC</b>        |
| <b>Year:</b>     | <b>1997</b>             |
| <b>Price:</b>    | <b>\$16,000.00</b>      |
| <b>Fuel:</b>     | <b>GAS</b>              |
| <b>TAG :</b>     | <b>GV28051</b>          |

Commissioner Thompson made that motion to approve the surplus of the vehicle. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously.

**9. Consideration to Approve Equipment Surplus.**

David advised that there is an old rotary lift that is not usable in the shop due to a bent arm, he is requesting to surplus.

|                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Date</b>      | <b>3/3/2021</b> |
| <b>Equipment</b> | <b>SHOP</b>     |

|             |                |
|-------------|----------------|
| ID #:       | 199            |
| VIN/Serial: | 7089           |
| Make:       | Fenner AB-1009 |
| Model:      | Rotary Lift    |

Commissioner Thompson made the motion to approve the surplus of equipment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously.

**10. Consideration to Approve Rescheduling March 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting Due to Election.**

David advised that due to the Election Day and the use of meeting room to count ballot, the board may concern moving the next meeting to March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**11. Consideration to Approve ACO Report for February 2021.**

Stacey presented the ACO report for February 2021. There was a decrease of \$9,115.58 to the Property Tax Digest due to appeals and corrections in the tax assessor's office. There was a decrease of \$620.61 to the Mobile Home Digest due to homestead exemptions.

Commissioner Thompson made the motion to approve the February 2021 ACO report. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Wilson and passed unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Wilson to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:30 am, seconded by Commissioner Jopling and passed unanimously.

**MCDUFFIE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

  
Charles G. Newton, IV, Chairman

ATTEST:   
Nikki Milburn, County Clerk