

JONES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Jones County Government Center
Charlotte C. Wilson Conference Room
Planning and Zoning / First Tuesday Meeting 6:00 PM
September 1, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT: Members present representing a quorum of the board was:

Preston Hawkins-Chairman
Larry Childs - Vice-Chairman
David Gault – District 2 Commissioner
Tommy Robinson - District 3 Commissioner
Bert Liston- District 4 Commissioner

County Attorney Frank Childs was present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Amend agenda:

1. NB # 6 – Amend Ordinance for Historic Preservative Committee; 1st reading of Ordinance
2. OB # 1 – Approval of new tentative millage rate for 2010 Fiscal Year
3. NB # 7 – Amend LARP submission
4. NB # 1 – add to #1 to add resolution

Motion: Motion by Liston, second by Childs: to accept agenda with amendments.

Vote: Adopted unanimously.

AGENDA:

Call to Order by Chairman Hawkins: 6:04 p.m.

Invocation: Pastor Gary Thomas, Elam Baptist Church

Pledge: Pastor Gary Thomas, Elam Baptist Church

PLANNING AND ZONING:

Item A: Grady Miller: Request a Conditional Use to allow a pet crematory. Property is located at 260 Joe Miller Rd, parcel size is 2+/- acres, zoned AG-1 (Agricultural – Rural). See attachments to the minutes.

Motion: Motion by Gault, second by Childs that we deny this request for a pet crematory on 260 Joe Miller Road.

Vote: Approved motion unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Minutes: Call Meeting Work Session August 18, 2009 5:00 p.m.
2. Minutes: Call Meeting Work Session August 18, 2009 5:30 p.m.

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3. Minutes: Third Tuesday Meeting August 18, 2009
4. Minutes: Call Meeting Work Session August 26, 2009
5. Minutes: Call Meeting Work Session August 28, 2009

Motion: Motion by Childs, second by Gault to accept the minutes.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

VISITORS:

1. Donald Black – Georgia Initiative for Community Housing Update and Resolution from the Board agreeing to participate in the Three Year Georgia Initiative for Community Housing. The Board agrees to provide support for the creation of a locally based plan to meet the housing needs of Jones County. The City Council and the Jones County Chamber of Commerce have already given a letter of support. See attachments to the minutes.

Motion: Motion by Gault, second by Liston to give a letter of support to the Housing Initiative for Jones County by adopting the resolution presented to start the three year study.

Vote: Adopted unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Agreement for Transportation Enhancement Activities between DOT and Jones County (Project CSTEE-0008-00 (165), P. I. No. 008165, Jones County – Note: Civic Center. Also, adopt the attached resolution. See attachments to the minutes.

Commissioner Childs left the room at 6:43 p.m.

Motion: The county administrator called for a motion to authorize the Chairman to sign all the necessary documents to send the contract back and also to sign the resolution adopted by the Board saying that we will abide by all the requirements of the contract. Gault so moved, Liston seconded.

Vote: Approved and adopted unanimously by those present: Gault, Liston, Robinson.

2. Approve going out for bid on the base and paving of Homer Roberts Road.

Motion: Motion by Robinson, second by Liston that we do advertise for bids on the base and paving of Homer Roberts Road.

Vote: Approved unanimously by those present: Gault, Liston, Robinson.

3. Right-of-way certification for Bowen Hill Road (CR 292) 3.93 Miles – from Smith Road to State Route 49. See attachments to the minutes.

Motion: Motion by Gault, second by Liston to get the right-of-way certification for Bowen Hill Road for the mileage specified.

Commissioner Childs returned to the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

Vote: Approved unanimously by those present: Childs, Gault, Liston, Robinson.

4. Award bid for 30 cubic yard trash compactor and two 30 cubic yard roll off containers. See attachments to the minutes.

Motion: Motion by Robinson, second by Childs to go with the bid from BWE.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

5. Award bid for 2010 Ford Expedition. See attachments to the minutes.

Motion: The county administrator requested a motion to award the bid to Brannen Motors with the low bid of \$22,392.36. Motion by Childs, second by Gault to approve.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

6. First reading of amendment to section 50-33 of the Jones County Historic Preservation Ordinance. The inability to fill vacancies on the commission reciprocated this change. Currently the ordinance has a two year consecutive term limitation and this change would strike that section. The section currently reads: "Members of the historic preservation commission shall serve three-year terms. Members may not serve more than two consecutive terms. The initial members of the commission shall be appointed in such a manner as to achieve staggered terms." The proposed change would delete the sentence: "Members may not serve more than two consecutive terms". The purpose of the change is to eliminate the restriction on the number of consecutive terms a board member may serve. The new section as amended would read: "Members of the historic preservation commission shall serve three-year terms. The initial members of the commission shall be appointed in such a manner as to achieve staggered terms". See attachments to the minutes.

Action: No action taken by the Board. Tim Pitrowski, Director of Planning and Zoning read the amendment.

7. Amend LARP submission. The county has requested assistance from DOT with problem areas of Greene Settlement Road and Joycliff Road. Chairman Hawkins said that the State has put LARP funds in the budget for this year and Jones County's already got two miles approved. We have a mile and a half left, but we stand a better chance of getting more mileage if we do these two roads this year. We would do from Oliver Greene to Comer Road and then the two bottoms, and from Baker Road to Highway 49 on Joycliff Road. All of the stimulus money is going to Bowen Hill Road. Comm. Gault expressed his appreciation and thanks to the efforts of Rep. Epps. We had eight roads approved, but due to changes (and funding); we will only have Bowen Hill Road that will be resurfaced. To clarify our options and to ensure adding portions of the two roads to the LARP would provide the most resurfacing for the county over the next two years, Comm. Childs discussed this at length. Comm. Childs also discussed repairs and maintenance of several other county roads. Comm. Robinson discussed the time frame of stripping the roads that have been chip sealed. Chairman Hawkins asked the assistant director of public works to mention the stripping to Wendell and then call David. See attachments to the minutes.

Motion: Motion by Gault, second by Liston and Childs to amend the LARP list to include Joycliff Road and Green Settlement Road for the areas that need resurfacing to be contracted by the state under the LARP Program.

Vote: Amended unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Approval of new millage rate. The county administrator, Michael D. Underwood, explained that at the last called meeting the Board adopted a millage rate of 14.68 mills for the incorporated area and 13.33 mills for the unincorporated area in Jones County. He met with the tax collector and worked off of a gross millage and then reduced from the gross millage the roll backs for insurance premium tax and the local option sales tax roll back. The figures are given to the tax collector by the state and there is no way we can put those same figures back in. The administrator is requesting that the millage for the incorporated area change from 14.68 to 14.72 and the millage rate for the unincorporated area would be the same. This represents a millage increase of four-hundredths of a mill increase on last year. The rate has not been officially set at this point. This is a tentative rate established, five year history will be posted and run in the paper, and then at the end of the two week period of Public Hearings, and they will establish a millage rate at that time and adopt a budget. See attachments to the minutes.

Motion: The county administrator requested a motion to approve this amendment which would then allow the county to advertise the five year history and then adopt the millage at the end of the two week period. Liston so moved, Robinson seconded.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

1. Don Graham, EMA Director – will get with Chairman Hawkins to sign a cooperative lease agreement after the meeting.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:

Commissioner Childs: Comm. Childs discussed applying for a CDB (Community Development Block) Grant to fund a new facility for the Senior Center Building. The current facility is quite old and quite small. Over the next five or ten years, we could see the older population almost double in Jones County. The county provides recreation for everybody. Seniors don't have much they can do except for that center. We should consider the next CDB Grant to build that facility and also use future TE grants (Transportation Enhancement) to put sidewalks and walking trails around it. He would like to find another location for the center. The piece of land that Mr. Underwood has been working on is not moving forward. There may be about a 13 acre tract available a little further out that could be incorporated into Old Clinton because it has historical value and we might could work with Historical Society on that. Comm. Gault said that he had brought this up at the last meeting and has already talked to Ms. Smith with Allen Smith Consulting, our grant writer, and she is looking for grant money for us for the new Senior Center. We have also discussed one of the possible uses of the old building being a records storage facility. Comm. Childs recommended renovation for the Boys and Girls Club. Comm. Childs said that we have until April to submit an application, so time is of the essence.

Motion: Motion by Childs, second by Gault to proceed with the CDBG Block Grant towards building the senior citizen center for the seniors of Jones County located somewhere in the Gray to immediate Gray city limits vicinity.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

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Commissioner Liston: Comm. Liston said that half of Joycliff Road is in good shape and the other half is not. He has received several complaints about Joycliff Road and he is overjoyed that at the end of the tunnel there is a light to getting that road fixed. One thing that the residents of Joycliff Road are very pleased about is the stop light that the county put in there at Highway 49.

Commissioner Gault: Comm. Gault said that he has spoken to John Lowe, Assistant Director of Public Works about getting the low boy, and to John Anthony, the plant manager with Rheem Manufacturing in Milledgeville, about the five picnic tables that Rheem is donating to the Haddock recreation park. The tables need to be picked up Friday morning about 10:00 a.m. There are people that play baseball at the park that will help load the tables.

Motion: Motion by Gault, second by Childs for Comm. Gault to use a piece of county equipment to go to Milledgeville to pick up donated property for the use in Jones County specifically five picnic tables to be used in the Haddock baseball park.

Discussion: Comm. Childs said that he would really prefer that a county operator to drive that truck. Although Comm. Childs acknowledged Comm. Gault's experience, they drive every day. Comm. Gault said that he drives when employees go to take the CDL test. He also said that it would save overtime bringing someone in. Chairman Hawkins said that things would just go smoother to let Jonathan come in and drive. Consensus of the Board was for Jonathan to pick up the tables on Friday. Chairman Hawkins then called for a vote.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

Comm. Gault then continued with his comments. He said that by the actions of some of the members of our Board, he has no alternative but to go forth with his charges of violation of the Sunshine laws. He is filing charges in Superior Court for violation of the Sunshine Laws and he is also filing charges with the EEO Commission for discrimination by exclusion along with several other charges. He is asking that the county attorney not be allowed to represent our commissioners because he was present at the last Board meeting when actions were taken. Comm. Liston stated for the record, Comm. Gault, that whatever meeting you are talking about I was not there, so there were not three commissioners there. Just for the record to get it straight; and I want everybody to know that. And we're not, whatever, the meeting you're talking about, I think I know what you're talking about. Comm. Gault said that decisions were made.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Motion: Motion by Childs, second by Liston to adjourn and go into executive session for litigation.

Vote: Unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Litigation

RECONVENE: The meeting reconvened after executive session at 7:26 p.m.

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Comm. Childs discussed a point that he had omitted from his comments earlier. Comm. Childs is concerned with the abuse of compensatory time being abused. He has given each commissioner a file to review in each one of their boxes. With employees ability to cash out sick and vacation time, it is costing the county probably \$50,000 - \$75,000. Comm. Gault agreed with the fact that employees have the ability to abuse comp time and we need to put a stop to it. Comm. Childs agrees with suggestions that have been discussed previously to allow sick leave to accumulate and count towards years of service credit in the retirement plan. He also feels that there are better ways to structure the sick leave policy that would be a cost savings to the county. Ms. Brittain said that the quote she had received from GEBCorp in 2006 to amend the retirement plan to allow for accumulated sick leave to provide additional years of service credit was \$6,000 in additional funding based on the sick leave balances of the employees at that time. Comm. Childs requested that the county schedule a work shop on this. In the taxpayers' best interest, we need to take a look at this. The salaried employees need to take vacation time for vacation. This is something that the hourly employees don't have; they have overtime. County Administrator Michael D. Underwood said that it wasn't really abuse; it was within the guidelines of the policy. He also explained that the hourly employees do have this. We really don't pay overtime; we generally pay compensatory time in lieu of overtime for the sake of saving money. We ask that to keep from having to pay overtime, we try to pay them out of comp time. Comm. Childs said we at least need to fix the comp policy where if you earn a certain range, it doesn't start over once you use it. Consensus of the Board was to schedule the work shop after the budget is completed.

INFORMATION:

1. Letter from DJ George – Public Works – **Chairman Hawkins read the letter.**

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Motion: Motion by Liston, second by Gault to adjourn.

Vote: Unanimously approved.