

## THIRD TUESDAY MEETING

January 15, 2008

The Jones County Board of Commissioners met for their Third Tuesday meeting at 6:30 p.m. January 15, 2008, in the Charlotte C. Wilson Conference Room at the Jones County Government Center. Members present were:

Preston Hawkins - Chairman  
David C. Gault – Vice-Chairman  
Larry Childs – District 1 Commissioner  
Mell Merritt – District 3 Commissioner  
Bert Liston – District 4 Commissioner

County Attorney, Frank Childs, and his assistant William Noland were present.

Chairman Hawkins called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.  
(Chairman Hawkins exercises his voting rights in the case of a tie.)

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Michael D. Underwood, County Administrator, requested to amend the agenda to add himself to Department Heads to discuss Tax Allocation Districts. Comm. Gault made a motion to approve the agenda with the amendment as noted. Comm. Liston seconded the motion. Vote – unanimous.

Frank Childs, County Attorney, opened the meeting with an invocation followed by the flag pledge.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Comm. Gault requested to amend the Second Tuesday, January 8, 2008, minutes to reflect: Comm. Gault was not present due to the fact his daughter was in the hospital and his granddaughter was in the intensive care unit. Comm. Liston made a motion to approve the January 8, 2007, minutes as amended. Comm. Childs seconded the motion. Vote – unanimous.

**VISITORS:**

1. Sharon Clifton, a resident of 3730 Upper River Road, discussed trash problems on Upper River Road and requested that the county to budget for quarterly cleanups. Comm. Childs explained that he had contacted the Sheriff's Department concerning trash on Upper River Road and had it cleaned up at Christmas. Chairman Hawkins said approximately two weeks ago the Sheriff's department had begun having prisoners clean trash off the roads. Comm. Gault said there is a county law that requires trash to be covered in back of pickup trucks and proposed increasing the fines.
2. Mary Ann Smith was on the agenda to discuss animal control issues but was not present. No action was taken.
3. Birdie Faulkner, a resident of County Line Road, asked when County Line Road would be paved. Ms. Faulkner said County Line Road was approved by the Board to be paved three years ago. Chairman Hawkins informed Ms. Faulkner that County Line Road is number nine on the paving list and suggested she obtain a petition with signatures from all property owners granting sixty foot rights of way that are required by the county. If this is obtained it would move the road ahead of the others on the list who have not met the requirements. No action was taken.
4. Frank Childs, County Attorney, discussed the proposed resolution concerning the gap in the right of way along Highway 129, which borders the historic district. Mr. Childs read aloud the resolution. (See attached). Mr. Childs said the Chairman would need to sign it in order to present it to City Council at their Monday night meeting. This document, if agreed by the county and city, would be presented to the legislative delegation for consideration to then be enacted into law. Comm. Gault made a motion to authorize Chairman Hawkins to sign the Resolution to take to the City on behalf of the Historic Society contingent no changes are recommended by the contact in Atlanta. Comm. Childs seconded the motion. Vote – unanimous.
5. Patrick Hubbard was on the agenda but was not present. No action was taken.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Comm. Childs discussed the proposed increase for commissioner's salaries; the last increase was in 1979. The proposed increase would begin after the new Board takes office. The proposed increase in commissioner salaries can be enacted by the Home Rule but Legislators can override it.

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Comm. Liston opposed the increase in commissioner's salaries because of the increase in taxes. Consensus of the Board was to postpone the increase in commissioner's salaries for the Call Meeting, January 24, 2008, at 11:00 a.m.

2. The Board discussed nonpartisan terms and staggered terms for the commissioners. Comm. Childs spoke in favor of staggered terms but feels commissioners should stay in line with the school board. Commissioners Merritt, Gault and Liston also expressed their support for staggered terms and agreed that the terms should be the same as the Board of Education. Comm. Childs made a motion to start the process to move toward staggered terms for the commissioners. Commissioners Merritt and Liston dually seconded. Vote – unanimous. It was further discussed as to whether there would be ample time to have this in place for this election. If it can be in place for this year's election it would affect districts two and four, if it has to wait until the next commissioner election, it would affect the Chairman and Districts 1 and 3.
3. Comm. Merritt discussed paving for Stewart Farm Road. Mr. Curtis gave the rights of way for the additional 2,000 feet needed to complete the paving of Stewart Farm Road. Comm. Merritt made a motion to approve including the extra 2,000 feet for paving on Stewart Farm Road. Comm. Gault seconded the motion. Vote – unanimous.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Leila Brittain, Clerk of the Board / Human Resource Director, discussed the proposed Email Address Policy with the Board. Ms. Brittain's goal is to set up an exchange server that will allow county emails to be web based. Email addresses to be used by county employees shall be the address provided in conjunction with the county web site. This will enable internet access at any location and will present a more professional image. The change will reduce the charges incurred for additional Alltel Email address. Michael D. Underwood requested to keep his current Alltel address. As county information has been printed, such as the ACCG Yearbook and the State of Georgia Official Directory, the county provided email addresses are the ones that Ms. Brittain and Ms. Hatton have given. Comm. Childs recommended that business cards include the new email address just the next time they are printed. Comm. Gault made a motion to approve the Email Address Policy as set forth by the County Clerk. Comm. Liston seconded the motion. Vote – unanimous. See attachments for specifications.

2. Michael D. Underwood gave the Board a handout and discussed Ellistine and Roosevelt Thompson's request for a refund of property taxes. Mr. Underwood had researched the information provided to him by Attorney John E. Robinson and suggested the Thompson's obtain a survey. The Tax Assessor's office relies on documents filed in the Superior Clerk's office to determine acreage. Mr. Underwood stated that this dispute, on the size of the parcel and taxes, should have gone through the appeals process. John E Robinson, the Attorney representing Ellistine and Roosevelt Thompson, stated that on July 23, 2007, he sent a letter by Federal Express to the Jones County Tax Assessors Office requesting an appeal. Brian Jackson, Tax Commissioner, sent a letter in response. Linda Sibley, Chief Appraiser, said she had never seen the letter of request for an appeal and does not have the property under an appeal status. Mrs. Thompson said she has not received this year's tax bill. Frank Childs, County Attorney, rendered his legal opinion that the previous action of the Board stands which was to deny the request. Attorney Robinson requested for the Board to refund the last three years of taxes plus interest. Frank Childs said he was unaware of the request for an appeal and said that it needs to be looked into. Mrs. Thompson became irate and Frank Childs declared her out of order and asked the Chairman to move to the next item on the agenda.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

1. Leila Brittain, Clerk of the Board / Human Resource Director, discussed the following:
  - a. Ms. Brittain requested to remove the discussion for labor charge for the shop. Consensus of the Board was to remove the request for labor charges for the shop.
  - b. Discount programs for Health Club's. Ms. Brittain presented the Board proposals from Elite Fitness, Curves, and Gray Athletic Club. Gray Athletic Club requires a \$600 corporate fee and employees cost would be \$100 per year; the other fitness clubs do not require a corporate fee. Gray Athletic Club provided the lowest cost to employees. Ms. Brittain recommended offering all three clubs to employees. Comm. Merritt was in favor of the athletic clubs who do not require a corporate fee and requested to inquire on how many employees would be interested in participation before committing to the \$600 fee. Consensus of the Board was for Leila Brittain to send

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a memo to see how many employees are interested in participating in the health club membership. See attachment for specifications.

At this time Comm. Gault requested for the record to show that he was advised by Frank Childs, County Attorney, in the case of possible litigation not to speak, and that is the reason for not returning Mrs. Ellistine Thompson phone calls.

- c. Ms. Brittain discussed a request from Freddie Wiggins, Water Superintendent, to change the open position for full time cashier at the water department to a part time position. This would create one full time position and one part time cashier at the Water Department. The Board had previously voted to move the full time water accountant to the government center building. Michael D. Underwood recommended the proposed change. Comm. Liston made a motion to change the advertised position for a full time clerk at the water department to a part time position. Comm. Gault seconded the motion. Vote – unanimous.
2. Michael D. Underwood, County Administrator, gave the Board a handout and discussed the City proposing a Tax Allocation District. If a Tax Allocation District is created, the City will request for the County to participate. The City has been approached by a developer, who has proposed to spend approximately 20 to 25 million dollars to improve an area within the City of Gray, located on approximately a 17 acre tract behind Piedmont Bank and the Dairy Queen. Mr. Underwood discussed the steps in creating a Tax Allocation District. See attachments for specifications.
3. Bobby Waldrop, Public Works Director, discussed charging county departments for shop services. The Board had voted at a Call Meeting, December 12, 2007, to allow Public Works to charge \$35 per hour to departments for services provided by the shop department. The reason for implementing the charge to other departments was two-fold. The shop would have a record of services rendered for departments other than public works and assist with performance indicators that document downtime for county equipment. The second benefit to departmental cost allocation is to appropriately show the costs for repairs and maintenance in the related department and not all in one shop expense budget. Mr. Underwood recommended not doing this. The process is very complicated for accounting. Leila Brittain reported that Chris Hennessy who works at one of the Recycling Centers has written a Microsoft Access data base program to keep maintenance records on all the county vehicles which will provide reports for all equipment. Comm. Liston made a motion to rescind the motion from the Call

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Meeting, December 12, 2007, to give public works the authority to charge \$35 per hour for all departments effective January 1, 2008. Comm. Childs seconded the motion. Vote 3-1. Comm. Liston, Comm. Gault, and Comm. Merritt voted in favor in favor. Comm. Childs opposed. Mr. Waldrop discussed the county spending \$75,000 on repairs for the Grade All purchased 2001. Mr. Waldrop said it now needs a new switch in the amount of \$5,000.

At this time Chairman Hawkins allowed comments from the audience. Joe Frank Ussery addressed the Board with his concerns.

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS:**

**Comm. Childs:** Comm. Childs discusses money issues concerning Wendell Cannon, a consultant for the county. Comm. Gault said that a consultant is not to receive over time or compensatory time. Michael D. Underwood said the problem occurred when the county was working on Davis Road and it required him being there more than 40 hours; Mr. Cannon's contract is for 40 hours per week. Chairman Hawkins reported that the issued has been resolved and Mr. Cannon and Bobby Waldrop will work out the overtime issue.

**Comm. Gault:** Comm. Gault said he was notified that residents of Old Milledgeville / Fortville Road are taking a petition to change the name of the road. Comm. Gault gave the Board a handout and asked if there were any objections to his joining the Georgia Regional Health Association; the cost is \$20 annually. Comm. Gault received a letter from Ross King, with ACCG's Georgia Environmental Leadership, requesting his acceptance to the IGEL program. There are four sessions and IGEL pays for housing and meals. Comm. Gault asked how the county accounts for recycling fees. Michael D. Underwood said Peacock was the last one to pick up metal.

**Chairman Hawkins:** Chairman Hawkins said we are starting the fourth year of our four year term and he feels we have accomplished a lot in three years. Chairman Hawkins said he is very pleased of how the Board has worked together and he hopes the Board can continue to work together the next twelve months. Chairman Hawkins said he is looking forward to the next twelve months.

**Comm. Merritt:** Comm. Merritt had no comments.

**Comm. Liston:** Comm. Liston wishes the Board was all on the same waive length for the rock quarry.

Comm. Gault asked if a vote was needed for approval of his classes. Consensus of the Board was to place it on the Call Meeting, January 24, 2008.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Comm. Childs made a motion to adjourn. Comm. Gault seconded the motion.  
Vote – unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

**APPROVED**

Jones County Board of Commissioners

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Preston Hawkins, Chairman

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David C. Gault, Vice-Chairman, District 2

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Larry Childs, District 1 Commissioner

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Mell Merritt, District 3 Commissioner

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Bert Liston, District 4 Commissioner

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Leila Brittain, Clerk of the Board