

**MINUTES OF THE CALL MEETING OF THE
JONES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

August 3, 2010
5:00 PM

The Jones County Board of Commissioners held a Call Meeting at 5:00 p.m. August 3, 2010 in the Charlotte C. Wilson Conference Room at the Jones County Government Center.

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

Preston Hawkins-Chairman
Larry Childs - Vice-Chairman
District Two Commissioner – Vacant Office
Tommy Robinson - District Three Commissioner
Bert Liston – District Four Commissioner

County Attorney Frank Childs was present. David C. Gault vacated his office April 29, 2010 when he qualified to run for the State House of Representatives, District 125. An election will be held November 2, 2010 to fill the vacancy.

Chairman Hawkins exercises his voting rights in the case of a tie or to constitute a quorum of the full board. Attachments to the minutes are filed separately from the minutes in clasp envelopes labeled by meeting in the commissioner vault. An audio copy of the meeting is kept on file in the County Clerk's office.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Hawkins called the meeting to order at 5:12 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Work Session: Hitchcock Road
Mary Hitchcock

Mary Hitchcock had not arrived at the meeting so Rodney Hitchcock, 131A Hitchcock Road, discussed problems with contaminated wells on Hitchcock Road. Pipes to lay waterline have been delivered to the area. Residents met last year at the fire station in Haddock to discuss issues including payment arrangements of tap fees.

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Several residents have paid tap on fees; some in full, and some have made partial payments.

County Attorney Frank Childs had spoken with the new county attorney in Baldwin County. Baldwin's attorney had not been made aware of the situation.

County Administrator Mike Underwood reported that he had spoken with the Assistant County Manager and that Baldwin is not ready to sell Jones County water yet. They have just now gotten to the point where they are not purchasing water from the City of Milledgeville. They are not pumping enough capacity to meet their own needs during peak times. Issues still need to be resolved as to ownership of the waterlines in Baldwin and Jones counties as well as the rate that Baldwin County would charge for the water. He explained that Baldwin's cost for the installation of the line in Baldwin with a meter could raise the cost charged to Jones County. His concern was that Jones County could install a line in Jones and the final rate charged for water may not be affordable for the residents. Mr. Underwood recommended returning the tap fees that have been collected so that the county is not holding the residents' funds an indefinite period of time while issues remain unresolved. He also recommended contacting Greene's Well Boring about a UV light type system for treating the water and filtration systems. They could look into taking the money they have paid in on tap fees and use that towards the cost of the UV light system.

David Gault gave a brief history of the ongoing situation and asked that Commissioner Childs, Freddie Wiggins, Mike Underwood, and he schedule a meeting in Baldwin County to iron this out. He stated that he felt that the issue was almost resolved after the meeting on April 29, 2010 in Baldwin County. Commissioner Childs asked that the meeting be scheduled next week and to work around the scheduled budget meetings.

The sheriff from Baldwin County, Bill Masee, addressed the Board. He discussed possible causes of the contamination of water on Hitchcock Road. He explained the situation requiring an intergovernmental agreement to the audience and that the issue is between the two Boards of Commissioners. Although this is not a sheriff issue, he offered to speak to the people in Baldwin County.

Mary Hitchcock came before the Board and answered questions about possible previous uses of the land and the location of her well and others in relation to the vicinity of the well the sheriff had discussed.

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Louise Halcomb asked that the Board please keep the residents informed with any new information about the ongoing issue. She spoke to the Board about water contamination, the hardships that the residents have endured over a number of years without good water, and health conditions of her granddaughter.

Betty Hitchcock asked questions about the refund of tap fees.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

Motion: Motion by Robinson, second by Liston.

Vote: Unanimously approved. (3-0).

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MINUTES APPROVED

Jones County Board of Commissioners:

Preston Hawkins, Chairman

Larry Childs, Vice-Chairman, District 1

Tommy Robinson, District 3 Commissioner

Bert Liston, District 4 Commissioner

Leila Brittain, Clerk of the Board