

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, February 12, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. Those present were Chairman H. Wade Johnson; Commissioner Darrell Henderson, District One; Commissioner Larry Collins, District Two; Commissioner Cooper Cliatt, District Three; Commissioner Rob Robinson, District Four; Mr. Barry Fleming, County Attorney; and Mrs. Roxanne B. Ashmore, County Clerk.

1.

**Call Meeting to Order**

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order.

2.

**Invocation**

Rev. Elton Lawson opened the meeting with prayer.

3.

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

Commissioner Henderson led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

4.

**Approval of Minutes**

On motion by Commissioner Henderson, seconded by Commissioner Robinson, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the previous meetings.

5.

**Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Collins asked that item 20 be moved to item 14.

On motion by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Cliatt, the board voted unanimously to approve the agenda with Commissioner Collins' request for moving item 20 to item 14.

6.

**Departmental Reports**

**Public Safety Department**

Mr. Ernie Doss, Public Safety Director, reported a total of 99 calls for the month of January. The E-911 center operators monitored 5,219 radio transmissions and dispatched a total of 521 public safety, law enforcement, and fire calls.

### **Recreation Department**

Ms. Kathie Davis, Recreation Director, reported that Mr. Scott Reeves with Dynamic Sports Construction suggested that the gym floor be shot blasted, saying that he feels this will bring the moisture levels down enough to install the floor. The total cost for shot blasting will be \$2,500 and S.D. Clifton has agreed to absorb that cost.

Director Davis said that several areas of the floor were shot blasted on February 5<sup>th</sup> and as of February 9<sup>th</sup>, the floor readings were between 3.5 and 4, and this reading included areas of the floor that have not been shot blasted yet.

### **Finance Department**

Mrs. Traci Bussey, Finance Director, submitted her written to the board.

### **Public Works Department**

Mr. Roby Seymour, Public Works/Planning and Zoning Director, reported a total of 1,347 water customers and 491 water availability customers with a monthly billing of \$44,117.78.

### **Planning and Zoning Department**

Mr. Roby Seymour, Public Works/Planning and Zoning Director, reported a total of 3 new licenses and 48 renewal licenses for revenues of \$2,950. There were 24 permits issued and 3 renewal permits issued for revenues of \$1348.

7.

### **Public Hearing**

#### **Variance Request**

#### **Applicant: Marilyn T. Dotson**

On motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Henderson, the board voted unanimously to grant a plat approval variance request made by Ms. Marilyn T. Dotson for property on Tankersley Road to provide for the division of a 13 acre tract into two parcels.

8.

### **Request to Waive Penalties on Tax Bill**

Mr. Michael Keyser had requested to be put on the agenda but was not present at the meeting.

Mrs. Brenda Danner-McGahee, Tax Commissioner, was present and reported that Mr. Keyser has requested that the board waive interest and penalties on a tax bill for some land belonging to him in the amount of \$268.57. She said that Mr. Keyser had stated that he didn't receive the original tax bill.

On motion by Commissioner Henderson, seconded by Commissioner Robinson, the board voted unanimously to table this item until the next meeting.

Chairman Johnson requested that all delinquent tax bills from 2005 to 2007 be published in The Lincoln Journal in the March 12, 2009 issue.

9.

**Employees and Swimming Pool**

Rev. Denise Freeman asked the board to revisit its decision to close the pool. She also requested that the board to reconsider the furloughs and cuts that have already been made.

10.

**Swimming Pool**

Rev. Willie J. White told the board that the county needed a pool for the community and asked the board to help with this issue.

11.

**School System's Relationship with Public Safety Director Ernie Doss**

Dr. Becky Barden went over the many things that Mr. Doss does as the public safety director for the schools in the county and also the many things that he does personally to help the schools.

In her closing remarks, Dr. Barden asked the board to keep Ernie Doss as the public safety director.

12.

**Accomplishments of Public Safety Director Ernie Doss**

Mr. Kevin Wade made several remarks in support for Public Safety Director Ernie Doss and also talked about the accomplishments that had been made while he has been the public safety director.

13.

**Support for Public Safety Director Ernie Doss**

Mr. Glenn Creech made several remarks in support for Public Safety Director Ernie Doss. Among his remarks, Mr. Creech asked the Chairman to do the right thing and to keep Ernie Doss because it benefits the citizens of the community.

14.

**911 Call Center**

Commissioner Collins gave a little history on the 911 call center. He said that at a called meeting of the Board of Commissioners on September 22, 2005, OES Director Casey Broom made a presentation to the board and recommended moving 911 from the Sheriff's office and upgrading the 911 system.

This recommendation was made on the advice of Ms. Elaine Sexton, Program Administrator for GEMA's statewide 911 system, who advised Mr. Broom that the county's practice of using dispatchers as jailers and/or records clerks in the Sheriff's Office was in violation of the Georgia

code. Ms. Sexton also advised that the county could not use E911 fees to pay the salaries of dual role employees and that the county needed to upgrade its 911 system to handle wireless calls since the county was collecting wireless 911 fees.

Commissioner Collins said that the Board of Commissioners authorized Chairman Norman to gather information and work on a proposal and at the December 2005 regular meeting, the board voted to create the Department of Public Safety which would house E911, EMS, Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Management and the Board of Commissioners also authorized the chairman to search for a public safety director.

A motion was made by Commissioner Collins that this board re-affirms the decision made by the Board of Commissioners in December 2005, which created the Department of Public Safety and that the Department of Public Safety continues its responsibility for E911, emergency medical services, fire and rescue services and emergency management under the direction of Director Doss. Commissioner Cliatt seconded the motion. Commissioner Robinson and Commissioner Henderson voted against the motion. Commissioner Collins and Commissioner Cliatt voted in favor of the motion, creating a tie. Chairman Johnson indicated his disagreement with the motion, thus the motion failed.

Commissioner Henderson made a motion to move the 911 center back to the Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion. Commissioner Collins and Commissioner Cliatt voted against the motion. Commissioner Henderson and Commissioner Robinson voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed with a 3-2 vote, with Chairman Johnson casting the tie-breaking vote.

On motion by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Robinson, the board voted unanimously to take a five minute recess.

## 15.

### **Amendment to Lincoln County Recreation Advisory Board By-Laws**

Director Davis recommended to the board that the section of the ordinance that states that the recreation advisory board members are to receive a \$10 allotment be removed from the ordinance, which is Section 54-37.

On motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Collins, the board voted unanimously to strike Section 54-37 from the ordinance, the section which allows the board members to receive the \$10 allotment, and insert Reserved in that section.

## 16.

### **Lincoln County Joint Comprehensive Plan – Partial Update**

On motion by Commissioner Robinson, seconded by Commissioner Cliatt, the board voted unanimously to approve the Lincoln County Joint Comprehensive Plan – Partial Update.

17.

**Fiscal Agent Contract for Family Connection**

On motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Henderson, the board voted unanimously to authorize Chairman Johnson to sign the documents that would allow the county to be the fiscal agent for Family Connection.

18.

**Board Appointments**

On motion by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Robinson, the board voted unanimously to approve the following board appointments:

Planning Commission

Mr. Jim Mattison – At Large by Chairman

Development Authority

Mr. George C. Leverett III, By Board of Commissioners

Elections Board

Mrs. Pamela Ham, By Board of Commissioners

Community Service Board of East Central Georgia

Mrs. Frances Aycock, By Board of Commissioner

Department of Family and Children Services Board

Mrs. Trudelle Bentley Leopard, District Three

19.

**Discussion of Clarks Hill Lake Levels**

On motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Robinson, the board voted unanimously to adopt a resolution requesting that the United States Army Corps of Engineers consistently maintain an adequate lake level to enhance the recreation and commerce of Lincoln County.

20.

**Alcoholic Beverage License Renewals**

Commissioner Cliatt suggested that the Sheriff should get involved in the investigation of individuals applying for new and renewal alcoholic beverage licenses.

The board asked the county attorney and clerk to revise the alcoholic beverage ordinance to call for the Sheriff to sign off on all license requests.

The clerk was instructed to put this item on the next month's agenda as an ordinance change.

**21.**

**Executive Session – Legal Matters**

On motion by Commissioner Henderson, seconded by Commissioner Robinson, the board voted unanimously to go into executive session.

On motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Robinson, the board voted unanimously to come out of executive session.

On motion by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Henderson, the board voted unanimously to authorize Chairman Johnson to sign the executive affidavit indicating that there were no votes or action taken while in executive session.

**Clarifying Current Responsibilities of Director Doss**

At this point, Commissioner Collins and Director Doss requested that the board clarify Director Doss' current responsibilities.

On motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Collins, the board voted unanimously to add to the agenda the matter of clarifying the current responsibilities of Director Doss.

On motion by Commissioner Robinson, seconded by Commissioner Collins, the board voted unanimously to approve that the employment responsibilities of Director Doss no longer include any duties related to the 911 center of Lincoln County and that the Chairman oversee the shift in responsibilities from Director Doss to Sheriff Lawson.

**22.**

**Adjourn**

On motion by Commissioner Henderson, seconded by Commissioner Robinson, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:13 p.m.

---

H. Wade Johnson, Chairman

---

Roxanne B. Ashmore, County Clerk