

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Thursday, March 12, 2009, at 6:00 p.m. in the courtroom. 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; and Mrs. Roxanne B. Ashmore, County Clerk. Mr. Barry Fleming, County Attorney was unable to attend. Mr. Stephen Brown, an associate of Mr. Fleming's was present.

1.

Call Meeting to Order

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order.

2.

Invocation

Mr. Bill Luking opened the meeting with prayer.

Chairman Johnson informed everyone that Mr. Allen Goldman, a former commissioner had passed away on Tuesday. He asked that everyone remember Mr. Goldman's family in their prayers.

3.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed the invocation.

4.

Approval of Minutes

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

5.

Approval of Agenda

On motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Henderson, the board voted unanimously to add as Item 5A: Approve Contract with Corps of Engineers for Patrolling Lake.

On motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Robinson, the board voted unanimously to approve the agenda with the addendum.

5A.

On motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Henderson, the board voted unanimously to approve a contract with the Corps of Engineers for patrolling the lake in the amount of \$17,140.62 with the contract period being from April 1, 2009 through September 7, 2009.

6.

Upcoming Efforts

Chairman Johnson went over the recent budget cuts that were made due to the projected \$321,000 shortfall. He reported that now the projected shortfall is down to approximately \$28,000, which is due to the furloughing of employees, limiting the number of hours that part-time employees are working, and budget cuts in several departments.

Chairman Johnson reported that the associated cost of bringing the pool up to standard is approximately \$3,300 and that the local Masonic Lodge has agreed to pay for those expenses.

Chairman Johnson informed the board that the City has agreed to provide the water for the pool, which is a cost of about \$600. He said that the county will still have to pay for the lifeguards and the ongoing upkeep of the pool.

Chairman Johnson announced that the pool will be open from June 1 through August 1, on Tuesday through Saturday from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Gas Light for Veterans

Chairman Johnson informed the board that there is a citizen in the community that is willing to provide a gas light to be installed at the veterans' monument at his expense, installation at his expense, and to furnish the gas for one year. The gas light will be turned over to the county once it is installed.

On motion by Commissioner Henderson, seconded by Commissioner Robinson, the board voted unanimously to accept the gas light and to have it installed at the monument.

7.

Departmental Reports

Public Safety Department

Ms. Wanda Duncan, Interim Director, reported a total of 80 calls for the month of February. The revenues for the month were \$20,249.

Recreation Department

Director Davis reported that the floor in the gym and the fitness room had been poured and that the final inspection of the gym will be scheduled within the next couple of weeks.

Director Davis also reported Little League baseball registration is underway with the season scheduled to begin in April.

Director Davis reminded everyone that the Lincoln County American Cancer Society Relay for Life will take place on April 24 and 25 at the recreation complex.

Director Davis talked about what it will take to bring the pool up to federal standards.

Finance Department

Director Bussey submitted her written report to the board.

Public Works Department

Director Seymour reported a total of 1,344 water customers and 491 availability customers with a monthly billing of \$49,536.21.

Planning and Zoning Department

Director Seymour reported a total of 4 new and 21 renewal business licenses for February for revenues of \$1,550, along with zoning revenues of \$400. There were 22 permits and 4 renewal permits issued for revenues of \$1,070.50. There were 60 building inspections conducted.

8.

Public Hearing

Variance Request

Applicant: Brian and Joanne Ely

On motion by Commissioner Henderson, seconded by Commissioner Collins, the board voted unanimously to grant a side setback variance on .46 acres owned by Brian and Joanne Ely on Overlook Road to accommodate a two car garage.

9.

Swimming Pool/Employees/County Departments

Rev. Denise Freeman was not present at this time.

10.

Request to Waive Penalties on Tax Bill

Mr. Keyser was not present.

11.

Tax Penalties

Chairman Johnson informed the board that he had talked with Mrs. Moody and she said that she will pay her penalties.

12.

Delinquent Taxes and Penalties

Mr. Bill Atwell came before the board to request that the penalties, interest, and collections fees be waived on two 2005 tax bills. He said that he had purchased this property in 2005 and that the bills were going to the previous owner and that he was never told that the taxes were due. He said he assumed that he had paid all that he had owed for 2005.

On motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Collins, the board voted unanimously to waive \$1,634.89 in penalties, interest, and collections fees for the 2005 tax bills.

Chairman Johnson told Mr. Atwell that he would also need approval from the Lincoln County Board of Education for the waiver.

13.

Dealing with County's Economic Situation

Mr. J.B. Mathews thanked the board for allowing him to speak to them about how the board of commissioners responds or not to the economic challenges that they and all of us face. Mr. Mathews said that the board of commissioners should be applauded for having begun preparation and actions early.

In other remarks, Mr. Mathews said his purpose is to present support for the view that continued and probably even more efforts in controlling expenditures are needed.

In closing, Mr. Mathews asked the board to consider putting more information to keep citizens informed on developments in the economy affecting Lincoln County Government, conducting sessions for citizen input and ideas possibly under each board member, and organizing or inviting presentations to the board on important issues in the county.

In summary, Mr. Mathews said that these are especially challenging times in our economy. He said that he supports and applauds the board's continuing efforts to prepare for and deal with these challenges in Lincoln County government.

14.

Alcoholic Beverage License Ordinance Amendment

The board discussed Sheriff Lawson's participation in the investigation of individuals applying for new and renewal alcoholic beverages licenses and possibly changing the ordinance.

Following some discussion on amending the county ordinance, the board agreed the current ordinance will remain the same and that the Sheriff will work with the county clerk and commissioners if needed.

15.

Alcoholic Beverage License

On motion by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Henderson, the board voted unanimously to approve a new alcoholic beverage license for Mr. Stephen Lindsey, d/b/a Griff's Place.

16.

Emergency Management Ordinance

On motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Henderson, the board voted unanimously to adopt a resolution approving a joint Lincoln-Lincoln County Emergency Management Plan.

Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) requires counties to update their emergency management resolution with each revision of their Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). The county revised its EOP in 2008.

17.

Lincoln County Transit System Vehicle Preventive Maintenance Policy and Program

On motion by Commissioner Henderson, seconded by Commissioner Robinson, the board voted unanimously to adopt the Lincoln County Transit System Vehicle Preventive Maintenance Policy and Program.

Outlined in the policy are the responsibilities of the transit director and drivers, along with the required pre and post trip inspections, and scheduled vehicle maintenance.

18.

Fare Collection Procedure

On motion by Commissioner Collins, seconded by Commissioner Cliatt, the board voted unanimously to adopt the Lincoln County Transit System Fare Collection Procedure.

Outlined in the policy are the procedures that the drivers must use to collect and remit fares, along with the daily trip log, to the transit director. The policy also requires that funds are to be counted by two people and submitted to the county's finance director on a weekly basis.

19.

Inmate Phone System

On motion by Commissioner Robinson, seconded by Commissioner Henderson, the board voted unanimously to authorize Sheriff Gerald Lawson to sign a contract for inmate telephone services and to allow him to be responsible for maintaining the phone system with revenues being turned over to the county finance office on a regular basis.

20.

Approve Printing for Drug Awareness Material and Payment for Materials from Drug Education Fund

On motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Robinson, the board voted unanimously to pay out of the Drug Education Fund an amount not to exceed \$600 to purchase books for second graders at the elementary school titled "Little People's Guide to the Big World."

21.

Approve Payment of Invoice for Jail Camera from Jail Fee Fund

On motion by Commissioner Henderson, seconded by Commissioner Robinson, the board voted unanimously to pay \$1,150 out of the Jail Fee Fund for the replacement of a camera in the recreation area at the Lincoln County Law Enforcement Center.

22.

Cooperative Lease Agreement for Rural Fire Defense with Georgia Forestry Commission

Director Seymour informed the board that this is a lease agreement with Georgia Forestry Commission for rural fire defense. He said that the Georgia Forestry Commission provides certain equipment to the rural volunteer fire departments in the county. He said that all of the

volunteer fire departments have some type of equipment that belongs to Georgia Forestry Commission and that this agreement allows these fire departments to have this equipment and maintain it and that these fire departments respond to grass fires, forest fires, etc. to help Georgia Forestry out.

Director Seymour said that attached to the agreement is a list of the equipment that Georgia Forestry says each fire department has on hand today. He said that he has not been able to confirm all of the equipment at this time.

On motion by Commissioner Cliatt, seconded by Commissioner Collins, the board voted unanimously to authorize the Chairman to sign the lease agreement with Georgia Forestry Commission pending verification of the equipment that each fire department has in their possession.

Rev. Denise Freeman

Rev. Denise Freeman arrived and asked to still be allowed to address the board. Rev. Freeman asked that the Board reconsider the matter of opening the swimming pool.

Chairman Johnson informed Rev. Freeman that the pool will be opening this summer.

Rev. Freeman also said that she hopes the county will display the same kind of equity with all of the departments, including the county employees.

23.

Adjourn

On motion by Commissioner Henderson, seconded by Commissioner Collins, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:35 p.m.

H. Wade Johnson, Chairman

Roxanne B. Ashmore, County Clerk