

**MINUTES  
WORTH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Tuesday November 4, 2008**

**8:00 A.M.**

The Worth County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, November 4, 2008 in the Commission Board Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Courthouse.

Chairman Miller called the meeting to order at 8:03 A.M.

**Present:** Commissioners Tony Hall, Fred Dent, Bettye Bozeman and Jerry Childree. Chairman Dan Miller, County Administrator Robert Zellner and County Clerk Deborah Robinson.

Commissioner Bozeman motioned to add Meredith Yancey to the agenda under invited guests. Commissioner Childree seconded. Motion carried with yes vote from all.

Attorney Miller arrived at 8:07 A.M.

**Public Hearing:**

**Approval of Minutes:** February 4, 2008

October 16, 2008

Motion to approve: Bettye Bozeman. Second: Fred Dent. Motion carried yes votes from all.

**Invited Guests:** Lester Green, Annual Report Georgia Forestry Commission.

Mr. Lester Green, Chief Ranger from the Georgia Forestry Commission/Worth County Unit presented the Board with the Annual Report for 2007/2008. The report covered all aspects of the work the Worth County Unit does in great detail. The topics covered by Mr. Lester were as follows;

Forest Fire Activity in Worth County.	Training and Experience of employees.
RFD Fire Summary.	School and Community Programs.
Reforestation.	Plowing and Burning Assistance.
Permits issued.	Discontinuance of Annual Permits.

The Board thanked Mr. Lester for the Annual Report and commended him and his unit for the excellent job they are doing.

**Meredith Yancey: Director/Worth County Department of Family & children Services.**

Ms. Yancey explained to the Board of Commissioners a mandatory furlough that began November 1, 2008 and remains in effect through FY'2009. Ms. Yancey stated for the last few years the Worth County DFCS Office had returned approximately \$9,000.00 each year in unspent funds but was now requesting to use these funds to supplement the (9) staff members being affected by the furlough. Ms. Yancey stated that the supplement would be solely based on the mandatory furlough; therefore, should the furlough be lifted the supplement would cease.

Chairman Miller thanked Ms. Yancey and informed her that the Board would take her request under consideration and let her know once a decision had been made.

**Reports from Attorney, Administrator, Commissioners, Department Heads & Committees:**

**Attorney Miller:**

Attorney Miller updated the Board in regards to legal matters in which he is representing the County stating that he would be scheduling mediation in reference to the EEOC report against the County. Monitoring very closely a claim involving one of our ambulances and a new claim of alleged faulty design and lack of rumble strips on a County road but stated that there was nothing critical happening with any of them at the present time. Commissioner Bozeman addressed Attorney Miller as to the current status of our road projects. Attorney Miller stated that good progress was being made and completion should be very soon.

**County Administrator:**

Mr. Zellner informed the Board he had several items for discussion, the first being a letter of resignation from Dr. Larry Daugherty who served on the Worth County Board of Health. He informed the Commissioners that the Worth County Board of Health was recommending Dr. Edward Bass as the replacement.

After a brief discussion:

Commissioner Hall motioned to appoint Dr. Edward Bass to the Worth County Board of Health. Commissioner Childree seconded. Motion carried with yes votes from all.

Mr. Zellner then informed the Board of a letter received from Crisp County Solid Waste Authority stating that as of January 1, 2009 their landfill fees will increase from \$40.27 to \$52.00 per ton. Chairman Miller suggested sending a letter asking for a breakdown per ton as he felt this was too high. Commissioner Dent stated that he had spoken with Mike Powell and he had offered to help negotiate with Crisp Solid Waste. Chairman Miller also recommended looking to see if there was a way to buy out of the contract so that we would be able to use other locations if we wanted to at a cost we could negotiate. Mr. Zellner then asked the Board if they wanted to set the County's tipping fee as under our new contract with Advance Disposal Services it was going to be \$47.33 per ton and currently we were only charging \$35.00 per ton.

After a brief discussion:

Commissioner Dent motioned to increase the tipping fee to \$48.33 per ton effective November 1, 2008. Commissioner Hall seconded. Motion carried with all yes votes.

Next item from Mr. Zellner was in reference to ACCG 10<sup>th</sup> District County Officers Meeting on November 20, 2008 at 10.00 A.M. in Albany, Georgia. Mr. Zellner asked who would be able to attend. Chairman Miller, Commissioner Hall, Commissioner Bozeman and Mr. Zellner stated they would attend.

Mr. Zellner then informed the Board that we had received the 2007 Revised State Wide Equalization Tax Ratio. It showed Worth County at 33.64% overall ratio, our adjusted 100% digest as 1 Billion, two hundred & fifty seven million, five hundred thousand, three hundred & eighty seven.(1,257,500,387.00).

Mr. Zellner stated that he had also received a letter from our Local Government Risk Management Services through ACCG. They had made two recommendations:

1. Anytime two Fire Fighter Personnel enter a burning building there should be two other Fire Fighting Personnel fully suited and ready to go in the event that the first two require emergency assistance.
2. Certificate of Insurance should be provided by all outside contractors.

Mr. Zellner informed the Board of Commissioners that this was being taken care of now.

Mr. Zellner explained to the Board that the preliminary County Wide Flood Insurance Study for the proposed Digital Maps was going well. He explained that he had met with the Cities and corrections have been made to street and road names on the maps and also other areas prone to flood were being added. Mr. Zellner explained that from 10:30 a.m. until

12:00 p.m. the following day a meeting had been set for the County and City representatives to attend a closed meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Courthouse in the small Conference Room. Then from 12:00 p.m. until 1:30 p.m., it would be opened to the public. Mr. Zellner said it would be nice if County Commissioners attended.

Next item for Mr. Zellner was in reference to SPLOST. He explained that if we wanted to continue doing this, we would need to start the paperwork soon in regards to a list of projects, explaining the next election would be in 2010. He mentioned that a Jail and an Administrative Facility was just a couple of items that had been mentioned so far. Commissioner Dent commented that in a five year period there would not be 25% of the money collected to build a jail. Mr. Zellner stated that a bond was a possibility. Chairman Miller suggested Mr. Zellner schedule a Work Session.

Mr. Zellner's next item was to inform the Board of the meetings he had been having with the Public Works Director Clay Smith and the Assistant Director David Farley on Friday mornings. He explained they planned the work week in reference to items needing attention and discussed ideas in reference to costs of projects. He went on to say that Clay and David had an idea about crushing the large amount of concrete and asphalt the County has at the landfill. He stated that Clay Smith was talking with someone from Tifton who had the machine needed to do this. Commissioner Dent mentioned he had looked at one of the Crushing Machines at Southern Concrete. The Board agreed for Mr. Zellner to get some quotes together and they would make a decision at a later date.

Final item for Mr. Zellner was to inform the Board that Veolia had removed all of the concrete pillars and posts from the landfill. The purpose of these is to maintain all the garbage in the designated area and allow the operator to push the garbage into the transfer vehicles without loosing it over the side. Mr. Zellner said he was going to contact Southern Concrete to see how much it would cost to replace them. Mr. Zellner stated he thought Veolia was going to leave some behind, but they had sent in extra trailers and picked up all them. Veolia purchased them from Seminole Sanitation. Mr. Zellner also informed the Commissioners that the drain was clogged up and that he had spoken with Clay Smith in regards to getting that cleaned out. He also explained that there was going to be an inspection of the premises once they had got everything cleaned up and in place, Advance Disposal Services would sign off on this contract which would become part of the agreement and in the event that the contract with them was not renewed next time, they would be responsible financially for any damages. Mr. Zellner stated that Advance Disposal is still in the process of putting out containers due to lack of information from Veolia on

some of the addresses. He also said that instead of the 4200 estimated customers, it was actually closer to 5000. Mr. Zellner stated that a new gate had been installed at the landfill.

### **Chairman's Report**

Chairman Miller referenced the visitors log from the Commissioners Office which allows everyone to see the volume of people coming in.

A Report from the Interim EMS director Kim Gillman, showing response time for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters.

### **District 1 Tony Hall**

Commissioner Hall stated that he had an item to discuss regarding personnel and that he would bring that to everyone's attention during Executive Session. He went on to say that he thought the County Policy referencing the way we do things should be reviewed. He stated that some things had come up lately that conflict to our policy and that maybe we should have the County Attorney look at the policy.

### **District 2 Fred Dent**

Commissioner Dent stated he had an item for discussion during Executive Session also. He went on to say that he had a few questions in reference to the budget to discuss a little later. He asked Mr. Zellner if he had heard anything from the D.O.T regarding the Cotton Road project. Mr. Zellner informed Mr. Dent that we had not. Mr. Zellner stated that he thought it would be quite sometime, probably after the first of the year before we would hear anything due to the budget cut backs with the D.O.T. Mr. Dent stated that later on we may have to look at using SPLOST money for road projects if we were unable to get anything done through the state.

Commissioner Dent brought up the issues with "Rumble Strips" some people asking for them and others are complaining about them. Commissioner Bozeman stated that they had put them on Massey Airport Road and that it did not bother her at all. Chairman Miller stated that the D.O.T requires rumble strips in some cases as a form of safety.

### **District 3 Bettye Bozeman**

Commissioner Bozeman stated we needed to start working on our Employee Christmas party. The available date for the AG Pavilion is December 12<sup>th</sup> 2008. The date was agreeable by everyone.

Commissioner Bozeman motioned to set the County Employee Christmas Party on December 12<sup>th</sup> 2008 at the AG Pavilion at 7p.m. Commissioner Childree seconded.

Motion carried with yes votes from all.

### **District 4 Jerry Childree**

Commissioner Childree expressed concerns about weeds growing on the side of the roads in his district. He stated that when the roads are being scraped the weeds and grass is being pulled up and left in the middle of the roads. He suggested spraying the weeds and grass to stop this from happening. Commissioner Dent commented that we have never sprayed dirt roads. Commissioner Childree also stated that the weeds are covering pipes that would be visible if we sprayed and killed the weeds. Commissioner Dent commented that we had done some spraying this year that worked really well and if we intended to do it again next year we needed to get started in the spring.

Attorney Miller excused himself at 9:07 a.m. stating he had to be in Court.

### **Consent Docket**

The Worth County EMA/Fire/Rescue is requesting to use the Community Center on December 9, 2008 starting at 7:00 p.m.

Motion to approve Bettye Bozeman:            Second Tony Hall:    Carried All YES

### **Action Docket**

Tax Commissioner Tabettha DuPriest is requesting approval on the 2007-08 Tax Digest and E&R's for the month of September 2008 on M/H.

Motion to approve Bettye Bozeman:            Second Tony Hall:    Carried All YES

Tyson Steel Building Products, Inc. submitted a proposal of \$9,917.19 for materials and Labor to repair existing structure at the landfill.

Brief Discussion: Veolia is liable for damage not caused by wind.

No action taken at this time. Waiting on another quote.

SPLOST PROJECT for Glenn Greene & Associates for Survey of CR 88 Seabrook in the amount of \$2,680.00.

Motion to approve Fred Dent:        Second Tony Hall    Carried All YES

Group Health Insurance for EDA Director Greg Sellers.

After some discussion this item was tabled until the meeting on Thursday November 20, 2008, to allow time to speak with the Insurance Company.

Teresa McCall, 5303 Treasure Circle, Worthy Manor requested rumble strips and speed bumps be put in this area due to speeding. Also, she spoke to Sheriff Tompkins and he suggested that speed signs be changed to 15 mph in this area. She has requested a sign **WATCH FOR CHILDREN** several times with no response.

Speed signs and Watch for children signs have already been placed.  
"RUMBLE STRIPS" not approved because the road is not long enough.

Agreement & Resolution for Reimbursement from the Hazardous Waste Trust Fund for costs spent investigating and cleaning up our landfill.

Motion Bettye Bozeman:    Second Fred Dent:    Carried All YES

Resolution closing a portion of CR 65 Souter Road.

Motion to approve Fred Dent:        Second Bettye Bozeman:

Discussion: Re-measure road for exact length.    Motion carried All YES

Application for Malt Beverage License – Leo Williams, 108 Maple Wood Drive, Sylvester, GA 31791 for HWY Food Mart, 2635 US Hwy 82 West, Sylvester, GA 31791.

Motion to approve Tony Hall:        Second Fred Dent:    Carried All YES

Discussion on request from Meredith Yancey: Department of Family & Children Services.

Motion to approve request to use excess funds already in budget for the purpose of off'setting the employees loss of pay due to the State Mandated Furlough: By Jerry Childree. Second.....

Motion died for lack of Second.

Commissioner Bozeman recommended checking to see if there were funds available between now and the next meeting.

**Commissioner Dent asked the following questions in regards to the budget.**

Commissioner Dent brought to the attention of the Board that line item # 100-20-7220-51-1100-00 listed under General Government Department 20 funds had been used that were

specifically for Salary for a position that had not been filled due to the hiring freeze. He went on to say that \$13,407.00 had been used out of the \$35,000.00 set for the salary. Chairman Miller asked Mr. Zellner to check into this.

Landfill phone usage. Why is the phone bill so high? Budget set for \$200. Already used \$293.57 in just 3 months.

Public Works overtime hours should be brought under better control. We have used \$7636.11 (31%) we should be at 25%. Mr. Dent questioned what emergencies have there been to cause employees to work overtime. Chairman Miller stated some of the overtime could have been incurred when we were spraying for mosquitoes in the evenings. Mr. Zellner was asked to check into the overtime usage at the Public Works Department.

Mr. Dent questioned as to whether or not we had paid for the new ambulance. Chairman Miller stated he recalled signing the check last week. Deborah Robinson stated that the Title had been received in the last couple of days.

E-911 Money from Sylvester for dispatchers: Are we billing the City of Sylvester quarterly for the extra dispatchers.

Mr. Dent questioned what the Contractual Services where the E-911 Center was concerned because they were also over budget. Mr. Zellner was asked to look into all of the above budget questions and have information available at the next meeting.

#### **Personnel Considerations:**

##### **Public Works:**

Notification of Employee separation: Charles Brown, Truck Driver. Last day of employment was October 24, 2008. Rate of pay \$12.36 an hour. Employee resigned in good standing (gave 2 weeks notice)

Acknowledged by the Board.

Note: Willie "Bob" McDaniel agreed within one year he would obtain a GED. Proof of GED being completed has not yet been received. Employees were reminded several times (tow other employees have terminated employment with the County). Board approved to hire October 18, 2007.

Mr. Zellner to speak with this employee to see if he is enrolled in a GED program. He should be informed that he has one year from the time of enrollment to complete his GED and that he should enroll the next available time the class is being offered. If he does not wish to enroll in a GED program then he cannot work for the County.

Commissioner Hall motioned to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personal issues at 9:37 A.M.

Reconvene Regular Session at 9:52 A.M.

Mr. Zellner had received the second quote for the work at the landfill.  
Young's quote: \$9500.00 Tyson's quote was \$9,919.19 Chairman Miller suggested more research into what each quote would cover in reference to repair and replacement and then we could do a phone poll.

Commissioner Hall motioned to adjourn. Second Jerry Childree.  
Motion carried with yes votes from all.

Deborah Robinson  
County Clerk

Dan E. Miller  
Chairman

