

WORTH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
201 NORTH MAIN STREET
SYLVESTER, GEORGIA 31791

MONDAY DECEMBER 22, 2008
SCHEDULED WORK SESSION 5:00 P.M.

Chairman Miller called the meeting to order at 5:18 P.M.

Present at the Work Session were as follows:

County Administrator Robert Zellner, Commissioner Fred Dent, Chairman Dan. E. Miller, Commissioner Bettye Bozeman, Commissioner Jerry Childree, County Attorney Clarence Miller and County Clerk Deborah Robinson.

Commissioner Tony Hall was not present.

First item on the Work Session Agenda was the amendment to the Alcohol and Beverage Ordinance.

Attorney Miller commented that this was just a minor amendment which clarifies that Wine and Malt Beverage License go together. He added that all the Board was doing is modifying two (2) sections into one (1).

Everyone was in agreement with the amendment.

Chairman Miller suggested Ms. Robinson conduct a phone poll the next day on this issue as a vote cannot be made in a work session.

Next item for discussion was in reference to a letter Mr. Zellner wanted to send out to all Worth County Residents with the next garbage bill.

The Commissioners asked Mr. Zellner to delete the next to the last paragraph which stated if you pay your garbage bill (1) one year in advance that you receive a free month. Commissioner Dent commented that he did not think we should do that anymore even though it had been done in the past as the County could not afford to lose such a large amount of income. All Commissioners agreed to omit that paragraph. Commissioner Childree mentioned the Hunting Club on Hwy 256, stating that they are paying for an extra garbage can giving them a bill of \$30 a month but they are only there 3 times a year. Mr. Childree thought it was unfair to charge them for the extra can all year round. Chairman Miller and Commissioner Dent stated that you cannot make special exceptions; it must to be the same for everyone. It was suggested that the Hunting Club owner only have one (1) can and on the occasions when they are at the Hunting Club and have extra garbage they could take it to the landfill.

Mr. Zellner also mentioned that he was working with Kannetha Clem and Tina Ward on the Mapping project for County addresses. Mr. Dent commented that the Board had passed an Ordinance that all residents had to have their address in the front of their house in 3 or 4 inch letters. Chairman Miller commented many other Counties are doing this.

The third item for discussion was the forming of a Board of Elections & Registrar's. Attorney Miller addressed the Board on this matter.

In selecting an Election Board you need to appoint a Joint Board of Registration. This Board will consist of (5) five members. Presently the Chief Registrar and the Superintendent of Elections who is the Judge of Probate Court perform all duties as stated by State Law.

Attorney Miler stated the first thing he would suggest is to look at the Budget.

Second thing would be who would be appointed by the Board and would have power to make it work. Mr. Miller stated this person would be either a Chairman or as he looks at it a supervisor. This person would be paid directly by the County and would advise the Board of necessary changes in order to comply with State Law. The Board would have the power to see this was done. Attorney Miller stated the Board would need to establish how to appoint these positions, which could be done by allowing municipalities to appoint 2 or 3 or the Election Board appoint 2 from each political party. Attorney Miller's final comments were to recommend contacting the Secretary of State for advice before deciding on this Board.

At this time Attorney Miller invited Ms. Sue Potts to address the Board to give further explanation from her point of view.

Ms. Potts stated that she and Probate Judge Sheryl Hall had determined a 3 member Board with 2 full time employees who would not serve on the Board would work well. There would be a Supervisor and 1 other full-time employee in the office. This Supervisor would be responsible for training the Board and making sure the Board knew what they were doing. Ms. Potts stated they would need a full time person for "Keying In" on the computer each day. This would be the primary clerk position.

Ms. Potts stated that the Chairman of the Board would work randomly and the other 2 members would only work when there was an election. However they would have to attend a once a month meeting. Ms. Potts stated that during holding an election the State requires 3 people working full time in the Registrar's Office. Ms. Potts stated that during an election the Board would have to work approximately 2 weeks; however, this would not necessarily be consecutive days. This would be on an as needed basis.

Ms. Bozeman asked how much we are paying the members of the Board when they work now. Ms. Potts replied \$71.50 per day.

Ms. Potts commented that she hoped the New Board would be a working Board.

Probate Judge Sheryl Hall addressed the Commissioners.

Ms. Hall commented that the work in her office had increased so much it was becoming difficult to keep up with her office especially since she had lost her part-time employee. Ms. Hall commented that she felt it would be advantageous for the County to have an Election Board as well as for her department and the Registrar's office. Ms. Hall stated that space would definitely be an issue because of all the L& A equipment as well as having extra people working in the office.

Chairman Miller mentioned the fact that eventually the EDA will be moving out of the governmental building and that may be a possibility. Commissioner Bozeman stated she thought it would be better to keep voting in the Court House and consider moving the Building & Zoning Department when the time comes.

There were no more questions for Ms. Potts or Judge Hall. Chairman Miller thanked them both for attending.

There was some discussion between the Board of Commissioners in reference to making sure qualified people were appointed to the new board when the time comes. Commissioner Bozeman stated that the problems in the past with the Probate office and the Registrar's office working together have been in reference to whose personnel would perform what duties. Ms. Bozeman also stated that there were conflicts due to employees' personalities clashing. Ms. Bozeman stated that the offices were separated because it was so difficult to see who was spending what. When Ms. Potts came before the Board during Budget Session she was given exactly what she requested.

Attorney Miller stated that, creating a Board of Elections would solve many of the issues surrounding the two departments. Also, the Commissioners would have total control of the budget. Mr. Miller also said if the Commissioners decided on a three (3) member board they would only appoint the Chairman's position. Local political committees would appoint the other two (2) members.

Commissioner Dent stated he thought it would be a good thing and if it was necessary to hire extra help during an election the Commissioners would be able to oversee that process and also would be cost effective.

Attorney Miller recommended that if the majority feels this is the right thing to do then he would set up a meeting with Mr. Zellner and they would draft a proposal for the Board to review.

Last item for discussion was the Garbage Ordinance. Ms Bozeman recommended deleting the sentence stating a new application for waiver of fees should be submitted each year. Also, the requirement of the last (3) three months bank statement because all people on social security do not have bank accounts.

There was a discussion on a resident who had for the past 3 years been granted a waiver of fee in reference to paying his garbage. This person does not meet the age requirement as he is only 57 years old. The Board stated that at this time the age requirement should stay at age 65. This was an issue that would require more time which could be discussed at a later time and date. The resident mentioned above would have to pay for garbage in order to be in compliance with the existing Ordinance.

With no further items for discussion the Board adjourned at 6:37 P.M.

Deborah Robinson
County Clerk

Dan E. Miller
Chairman