



Action Agenda

Board of Commissioners

June 14, 2012

7:00 P.M.

The Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia, met in Official Session on June 14, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Public Meeting Room of the Fayette County Administrative Complex, 140 Stonewall Avenue, Fayetteville, Georgia.

Commissioners Present:

Herb Frady, Chairman
Robert Horgan, Vice Chairman
Lee Hearn
Allen McCarty

Commissioner Absent:

Steve Brown

Staff Present:

Jack Krakeel, County Administrator
Scott Bennett, County Attorney
Carol Chandler, Executive Assistant
Floyd Jones, Chief Deputy Clerk

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Frady called the June 14, 2012 Board of Commissioners Meeting to Order at 7:01 p.m.
Commissioner Hearn gave the Invocation and led the Audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Acceptance of Agenda.

Commissioner Horgan moved to Accept the Agenda as published. Commissioner Hearn seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0. Chairman Frady informed the Board that Commissioner Brown was absent from the meeting due to family vacation.

PRESENTATION/RECOGNITION:

- Presentation by Fire and EMS to recognize Fire Apparatus Operator Russell Sharpe as the 2012 Fayette County Firefighter of the Year and Firefighter/EMT Joshua Sisk with a Distinguished Service Award.**

The Board recognized Fire Apparatus Operator Russell Sharpe and Firefighter / EMT Joshua Sisk, and Public Safety Director Allen McCullough presented each of them with a plaque honoring them for their service.

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Public Hearing on the County's proposed Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2013 which begins July 1, 2012 and ends June 30, 2013.

Chief Financial Officer Mary Holland spoke about the proposed Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2013, and answered questions from the Board. She also informed the Board that it would need to give direction to the staff pertaining to the Fire Services Fund, and she updated the Board on the Early Retirement Plan.

Chairman Frady opened the meeting for public input. No one spoke in favor of the proposed Fiscal Year 2013 budget.

Randy Ognio: Mr. Randy Ognio told the Board that he had a number of concerns with the proposed budget such as how next year's budget will look as the economy continues to decline, his understanding that the Early Retirement Plan did not benefit the County as expected, and the financial burden to be expected by consolidating the City of Fayetteville's Fire Services with the County's Fire Services.

Steven Woodworth: Mr. Steven Woodworth acknowledged that Ms. Holland had just provided an excellent report, but that he also had concerns with the proposed budget. His concerns centered mostly with the ongoing discussion about consolidating the City of Fayetteville's Fire Services with the County's Fire Services. He said that he could not understand why, when the County was experiencing a budgetary shortfall, it would take on further financial obligations such as capital improvement projects by consolidating fire services. He asked if consolidation would lower his fire tax while speculating that it would not. He understood that the initial analysis stated that consolidation would not provide any initial savings, but questioned how long "initial" was since no definition was given. He asked if there would be a benefit to the people by consolidating the services, but suggested there would be no real benefits but only increased fire taxes. He mentioned that he lives in the southern part of Fayette County, has lived in Fayette County for 25 years, and has worked in fire services for 30 years. He said his longevity in the fire services has taught him how fire services works and all of its various responsibilities, and so he was concerned that during his years living in the southern part of Fayette County he witnessed the fire services decrease from an International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Class 9 to an ISO Class 8-B. He continued that his portion of Fayette County is the only ISO Class 8-B in the entire State of Georgia, and that there are volunteer fire departments that are rated ISO Class 6; meaning they pay less insurance than he does. He closed his remarks saying he had reviewed the reports and, as a professional, could not find where a consolidation of fire services would help him as a taxpayer.

No one else spoke in opposition to the proposed Fiscal Year 2013 budget.

The Board took no action on this item. The Board is expected to vote on the proposed Fiscal Year 2013 budget at the June 28, 2012 Board of Commissioners Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Samuel McKeough: Mr. Samuel McKeough agreed with the Mr. Woodworth's comments concerning consolidating the City of Fayetteville's and Fayette County's fire services. He asked how would the consolidation save the people from higher taxes. He was concerned that as millage rates continue to be raised there was also talk of layoffs. He asked how would the people be served through the layoffs, and said he could not understand why the County would continue to hurt itself.

Randy Ognio: Mr. Randy Ognio expressed his concerns and suggestions on Consent Agenda Items 3, 4, 6 and 7. He also agreed with both Mr. Woodworth and Mr. McKeough's concerns about consolidating the City of Fayetteville's and Fayette County's fire services. He thought the consolidation would hurt Fayette County's Fire Fund, especially in the initial years when the County would not have money to pay for the consolidation.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Chairman Frady asked to remove Consent Agenda Number 9 since he was absent from the meeting held on May 10, 2012.

Commissioner Horgan moved to approve Consent Agenda Items 1-9 excluding Consent Agenda Items 4 and 9. Commissioner Hearn seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

1. **Approval of staff's request to accept a donation of \$8,000 from a private citizen to the Animal Control Department.**
2. **Approval of staff's recommendation that John Dunlap be appointed as the representative from Peachtree City Fire and Rescue to the Region 4 EMS Council for a two-year term which commences July 1, 2012 and ends June 30, 2014.**
3. **Approval of staff's recommendation to purchase a spare Radio Transfer Unit (RTU) for use in existing sirens and an RTU controller for the 911 Center with funding to come from the 2012 Warning Siren Fund budget CIP for siren purchase, at a cost not to exceed \$8,300.**
4. **Approval of staff's recommendation to amend the one year contract renewal for the period July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 with Midwest Employers Casualty Co. for excess workers' compensation insurance and claims service to reflect a net premium increase of \$6,971 due to a premium calculation error and to authorize the Chairman to execute any agreements pending review by the County Attorney.**

Commissioner Horgan asked for further information to the citizens regarding this request. President John Young of Atlanta General Underwriters explained how the mistake occurred, publically took responsibility for it, and spoke about efforts to mitigate the mistake.

Commissioner Horgan moved to approve Consent Agenda Item 4. Commissioner Hearn seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

5. **Approval of a request from the Sheriff's Office to amend the Overtime Budget Account for the Criminal Investigations Division by \$11,531.57 for reimbursement for employees assigned to work with various Federal agencies.**
6. **Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with the Town of Tyrone that establishes cost sharing and data consistency between Fayette County and Town of Tyrone for floodplain mapping of tributaries of Line Creek and upper Whitewater Creek and its tributaries and authorization for the Chairman to execute the Agreement pending review by the County Attorney.**
7. **Approval of the Water Committee's recommendation to install rip rap stone to protect the 17th Green of Planterra Ridge Golf Course from wave action coming from Lake McIntosh, at a cost not to exceed \$39,000.**
8. **Approval of staff's recommendation that the July 5, 2012 County Commission Workshop be cancelled.**
9. **Approval of minutes for the Board of Commissioners Budget Meeting held on May 9, 2012 and the Board of Commissioners regular meeting held on May 10, 2012.**

Commissioner Horgan moved to approve Consent Agenda Item 9. Commissioner McCarty seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0-1 with Chairman Frady abstaining from the vote since he was not present at the May 10, 2012 Board of Commissioners Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Consideration of the appointment of Geoff Fulton to the Fayette County Recreation Commission Post 4 seat, for a four-year term which began April 1, 2012 and which will expire March 31, 2016.**

Commissioner Horgan moved to appoint Geoff Fulton to the Fayette County Recreation Commission, Post 4 seat, for a four-year term which began on April 1, 2012 and will expire March 31, 2016. Commissioner McCarty seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Update concerning the rotation of the County's elected representative on the Board of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District from the Mayor of the City of Fayetteville back to the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, as required by law.**

Commissioner Horgan moved to appoint the Chairman of the Fayette County Board of Commissioners to the Board of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District to represent Fayette County. Commissioner McCarty seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0-1 with Chairman Frady abstaining from the vote.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS:

Fire Services Consolidation: County Administrator Jack Krakeel said he wanted to follow up on the discussions concerning the consolidation of fire services between Fayette County and the City of Fayetteville. He stated that he had alluded to the Board at its last meeting that there was an initial request by the City of Fayetteville that the County conduct a joint City Council - County Commissioners Workshop Meeting in order to discuss the issue of consolidating the fire services. He told the Board that the meeting will take place on Thursday, June 21 beginning at 5:30 p.m. [at Fayetteville City Hall]. He said staff has been requested to attend the meeting and provide any information regarding the process that has so far taken place. He also took exception to Mr. Woodworth's comments given during Public Hearing concerning fire ratings in south Fayette County. He told the Board that Fayette County is not an 8B County, but that it is a 48B County, meaning that if a house is within 1,000 feet of a fire hydrant, you have a class 4 ISO rating. He continued that the 8B rating is attached to properties that are more than 1,000 feet from a fire hydrant. He closed saying that he just wanted to make that issue clear.

ATTORNEY'S REPORTS:

There was no Attorney's Report.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS:

Commissioner Hearn: Commissioner Hearn responded to the questions that were given about consolidating the County's Fire Services with the City of Fayetteville's Fire Services by asking the people to understand that all the parties recognize that there is still much discussion that needs to take place. He added that if the consolidation of fire services does actually occur then there would be a cash funding stream that comes with that from the City of Fayetteville that the County currently does not have access to. He explained that part of the valuation of the City's Fire Department involved looking at the City's liabilities, their financial status, and the status of their equipment. He said this consolidation would need to make sense for the County in order for him to vote for it. He stated that the County needs to look also look to the future with regard to this issue and not simply how a consideration affects Fayette County in the next year or two. He told the people that he heard their concerns, and that while he understands and appreciates them there is still much work to be done before that comes to fruition.

Chairman Frady: Chairman Frady added to Commissioner Hearn's statement by noting that a common complaint about the Board concerned a lack of transparency. He told the audience that transparency was before the audience now and that the people could comment about the issue before a decision was made.

Commissioner Horgan: Commissioner Horgan agreed with the Chairman Frady's comments. He then spoke briefly about other consolidation requests concerning the city's Water System and Building Inspection Department, and he said the same considerations would be taken on those issues as well. He emphasized that all these issues were very much in a preliminary state. He agreed with the people and their statements that the Commissioners needed to seriously study the issues.

Chairman Frady: Chairman Frady thought the Board always took these types of decisions very seriously, but added that when opportunities like these come around they need to be considered. He said if a person is going to be a good businessman then he would have to study these types of opportunities since it is not possible to know what is going to happen later by reading a few paragraphs of something. He said if a person does not study the issues and get all of the information together then it would be harder to make a good business decision. He said it is easy to just say "no" without studying the issues, and he recommended that the Board seriously study the issue.

Commissioner McCarty: Commissioner McCarty suggested that the County needs to also look at the location of the city's fire services as compared to what is in the county and what is going to be needed in the county. He said that it is possible that, by taking over some of the city's services and fire stations, that the county can eliminate the expense of having to provide more fire services. He told the audience that the Board was looking at everything very carefully and that it would not jump into anything without reasonable assurance that it would work. He said his comments were given simply as a Commissioner but as a taxpayer. Chairman Frady agreed with Commissioner McCarty's comments.

County Administrator Krakeel: County Administrator Jack Krakeel said his intention with respect to the issue was to clearly convey that the City of Fayetteville approached Fayette County about requesting consideration for a joint exploration of a possible consolidation of services. He said after next Thursday night's meeting, the Fayette County will have better information from the City of Fayetteville regarding this particular initiative. He explained that if the city chose not to pursue the initiative any further then there would not be any need for further dialog with the Board of Commissioners on this issue, however, if they decide to continue pursuing consolidation then he would return to the Board at a future Workshop in order to provide updated information and all of the analytical findings that have been accomplished in order to give the Board all of the necessary financial information from which to make an informed decision.

Chairman Frady: Chairman Frady agreed that the County was approached by the City on the issue and that the County was not out trying to initiate this discussion.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Hearn moved to adjourn the June 14, 2012 Board of Commissioners Meeting.
Commissioner McCarty seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

The Board adjourned the June 14, 2012 Board of Commissioners Meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Floyd L. Jones, Chief Deputy Clerk