

The Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia met in Official Session on Wednesday, June 2, 2004, at 3:30 p.m. in the public meeting room of the Fayette County Administrative Complex, 140 Stonewall Avenue, Fayetteville, Georgia.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Greg Dunn, Chairman
Linda Wells, Vice Chair
Herb Frady
Peter Pfeifer
A.G. VanLandingham

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Chris W. Cofty, County Administrator
William R. McNally, County Attorney
Carol Chandler, Executive Assistant
Karen Morley, Chief Deputy Clerk

Chairman Dunn called the meeting to order, offered the Invocation and led the pledge to the Flag.

RECOGNITION OF THE DIRECTOR OF ANIMAL CONTROL BILL NEWMAN UPON HIS RETIREMENT:

The Board recognized and congratulated the Director of Animal Control Bill Newman for his 24 years of service to Fayette County.

Commissioner Wells said Bill was a native of Atlanta and had one son. She stated that he had been with the county for the last 24 years and had started the county's first animal shelter and helped get the county's first leash laws on the books. She commented that Bill came to Fayette County government after working for fifteen years as the Director of Operations at the Atlanta Humane Society, where he was hired after discharge from the Army. She said the Board greatly appreciated everything that Bill had done for Fayette County. She said the animal shelter had grown from absolutely nothing to a wonderful facility and Bill had been at the heart of all of it. She said one of the things that she remembered about Mr. Newman was when she was working with the Fayette County Battered Women's group, he would show up at her door with gallons of bleach that had been donated to the shelter. She said he was very good at creative begging and that was one of the reasons that the county's shelter had done as well as it had. She said Bill was always out there telling people and preaching his mission for taking care of all four legged creatures.

Commissioner Wells further remarked that Bill had also worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife where he was trained in law enforcement in the area of animal welfare. She said he was considered statewide as an expert in animal care and was called upon by officials from throughout the State of Georgia and the Southeast to assist in animal cruelty and abandonment cases. She said he had provided expert consultation and testimony in many

cases over his career. She said Bill had spent his entire career promoting the humane treatment of animals. She said he had been instrumental in the passage of State legislation and local ordinances dealing with animal care. She recalled many years ago when the issue of mandatory spaying of strays was discussed. She said the room full of people could not have been stirred with a stick and yet Bill handled it extremely well. She said this had been a very volatile issue and Bill had done a great job.

Commissioner Wells further remarked that Bill had been the custodian of a number of wild and exotic animals confiscated from illegal environments and had nursed them back to health and found permanent homes for them. She said above all, Bill Newman had been passionate in his belief that people must make informed decisions when choosing an animal for their family and must be responsible and serious in caring for those animals. She said he had never ceased to preach this message. She asked Chief Jack Krakeel to come forward to make the official presentation to Bill.

Chief Krakeel remarked that it had been a distinct pleasure for him to have worked with Bill over the last twenty years. He said there was no one more passionate about animals and animal care and control than Bill Newman. He felt it was appropriate at this time to let the Board and the public know what kind of a job that Bill had done. He said Bill had recently been recognized in the publication "Metro Pets". He said there were a number of statistics in the publication that dealt with effective and efficient animal control services in the twenty county metro Atlanta area. He said Fayette County ranked second amongst all of those agencies in terms of the total number of animals that were returned to their owners. He said this demonstrated not only Bill's passion and love for animals but ensuring that they were brought back to their rightful owners when a pet was lost and misplaced. He said Fayette County was second among agencies in the twenty county area in terms of total number of animals impounded annually. He felt this was reflective of the progressive animal control policies that Bill had been responsible for presenting to the Board of the Commissioners as well as their adoption of those policies. He noted that Fayette County did not take owned pets into the shelter. He said Bill strongly agreed and he also firmly agreed with Bill that pet owners have a responsibility to their pets. He said for these pet owners to just drop a pet off at an animal control facility when they got tired of them was not the appropriate thing to do. He felt Fayette County was probably one of the first, if not the first, to institute that type of program. He felt this had helped Fayette County maintain and control the animal population here.

Chief Krakeel said it was a well known fact that Bill was an expert in animal control. He said Bill was called upon quite frequently by State agencies to assist them with wild animals that they absolutely had no idea what to do with and they turn to Bill for advice and care. He said Bill had done this throughout his career. He felt that Bill's retirement would not be one where he was sitting in a rocking chair. He wished Bill the best of success in his retirement.

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Chairman Dunn said when he became a Commissioner he had received a call that Bill Newman had just caught a lion. He said he could not believe what he heard but it was true. He asked Bill how many lions had he captured in this county.

Mr. Newman said these wild animals had been brought to the shelter for care and over the years there had been approximately six.

Chairman Dunn commented that most recently there had been calls regarding a strange wild cat.

Mr. Newman replied that the cat turned out to be an African Jungle Cat and someone had turned it loose in Peachtree City.

Chairman Dunn said one of the things that had really impressed him was the pride that Bill took when he and the rest of the county employees rebuilt the animal shelter. He said this had been done with obvious love and affection for the job and the things that he was doing for the animals that he was sheltering. He said he did not think the citizens of Fayette County would ever realize how much Bill had done for them. He pointed out that Fayette County had one of the best adoption programs in the metro area. He said he hoped and prayed that this could be continued in Bill's absence. He remarked that Bill Newman had done one heck of a job for Fayette County and everything he had done was greatly appreciated.

Mr. Newman said that during the years with each Board of Commissioners that he had seen, this county had a lot to be thankful for. He said he had been to other counties during his years here and the citizens of Fayette County had a lot to be thankful for. He said there were some super people working for Fayette County. He said the animal shelter had always had a Board of Commissioners that had stood behind his department and supported everything they had done. He said the animal shelter would not have what it did now without all of the prior support of these Commissions. He remarked that Fayette County's animal shelter was doing some of the things that other counties were not doing. He said this had definitely paid off. He said a lot of other animal shelters take in owned animals and Fayette County's shelter did not. He said Fayette County's shelter was trying to put the responsibility back where it belonged and that was on the pet owner. He said owned animals were not the responsibility of the taxpayers of Fayette County. He said he was only as good as what the personnel at the shelter made him. He said he had an outstanding group at the shelter and he wished they could all have been here. He said each and every individual at the shelter had a lot to do with the success of the shelter. He said it was a dangerous job and very, very emotional job to say the least. He said no one would realize some of the things that one was called upon to do in animal control.

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Mr. Newman thanked the Board for everything. He said he certainly would not be totally leaving the shelter. He said he would definitely go to the shelter and volunteer to help with anything that needed to be done. He said no one could just totally walk away from this type of work.

Chief Jack Krakeel remarked that in the next couple of weeks a date would be announced for a reception that would be held in Bill's honor. He said all of Bill's employees would be attending the reception as well.

COUNTY'S CONTRACT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA TO PAY ALL SALARIES AND RELATED BENEFITS BY THE UNIVERSITY FOR THE LOCAL SUPPLEMENT FOR STATE EMPLOYEES IN THE COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE:

Director of Finance Mark Pullium remarked that this item was for the Board's consideration to approve the county's contract with the University of Georgia to pay all salaries and related benefits by the University for the local supplement for State employees in the County Extension Office. He said this was a revision to the existing contract. He remarked that the revisions in the new contract, if approved, would result in the University of Georgia paying all of the salaries and related benefits including the F.I.C.A. and the payroll taxes. He said the county would pay them once per month as a reimbursement. He said this would clean up the paperwork and make this contract more straight forward. He asked for the Board's consideration to authorize the Chairman to execute this agreement which would be effective July 1, 2004.

On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Pfeifer to authorize the Chairman to execute the county's contract with the University of Georgia to pay all salaries and related benefits by the University for the local supplement for State employees in the County Extension Office effective July 1, 2004. The motion carried 5-0. A copy of the contract, identified as "Attachment No. 1", follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

CONSENT AGENDA: On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion carried 5-0.

COMMISSIONERS' LODGING AND MEALS BUDGET: Approval of request to increase revenues from donations received in the amount of \$2,400 and to increase expenditures for Commissioners' lodging and meals budget. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment No. 2", follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

LIBRARY: Approval of request from the Director of the Library Chris Snell to increase revenues and expenditures within the general fund for the Library by \$3,548 and increase expenditures by \$51,250 for S.P.L.O.S.T. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment No. 3", follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

EMERGENCY SERVICES: Approval of request from Director of Emergency Services Jack Krakeel to increase Emergency Services and the Fire Department's gasoline budget by \$4,000 each for a total of \$8,000. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment No. 4", follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

SUNBELT STRUCTURES, INC. - AWARDED BID: Approval of recommendation from Director of Finance Mark Pullium to award bid to Sunbelt Structures, Inc. in the amount of \$196,950 for Goza Road Culvert Replacement. A copy of the memorandum and bid award, identified as "Attachment No. 5", follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

PUBLIC WORKS: Approval of recommendation from Director of Public Works Lee Hearn to transfer \$120,800 from the McDonough Road/County Line Road CIP project (C2004) to the Goza Road Culvert Replacement (P0023). A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment No. 6", follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Members of the public are allowed up to five minutes each to address the Board on issues of concern other than those items which are on this evening's agenda.

There was no public comment.

STAFF REPORTS:

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Assistant County Attorney Dennis Davenport requested an executive session to discuss two legal items.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Pfeifer to adjourn to executive session to discuss two legal items with the Board. The motion carried 5-0.

LEGAL: Assistant County Attorney Dennis Davenport discussed a legal item with the Board.

The Board took no action on this matter.

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The Board took no action on this matter.

EXECUTIVE SESSION AFFIDAVIT: On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Pfeifer to authorize the Chairman to execute the Executive Session Affidavit affirming that two legal items were discussed in executive session. The motion carried 5-0. A copy of the Affidavit, identified as "Attachment No. 7", follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Dunn adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Karen Morley, Chief Deputy Clerk

Gregory M. Dunn, Chairman

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia, held on the 24th day of June, 2004.

Karen Morley, Chief Deputy Clerk