Minutes

Board of Commissioners
March 3, 2010
3:30 P.M.

Notice: A complete audio recording of this meeting can be heard by accessing Fayette County's Website at www.fayettecountyga.gov. Click on "Board of Commissioners", then "County Commission Meetings", and follow the instructions. The entire meeting or a single topic can be heard.

The Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia, met in Official Session on Wednesday, March 3, 2010, at 3:30 p.m. in the Commissioners' Conference Room, Suite 100 of the Fayette County Administrative Complex, 140 Stonewall Avenue, Fayetteville, Georgia.

Commissioners Present:	Jack Smith, Chairman Herb Frady, Vice Chairman Lee Hearn Robert Horgan Eric Maxwell
Staff Present:	Jack Krakeel, County Administrator Scott Bennett, County Attorney Carol Chandler, Executive Assistant Karen Morley, Chief Deputy Clerk

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Call to Order by Chairman Smith.

Chairman Smith called the March 3, 2010 Workshop Meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

Acceptance of Agenda.

Commissioner Frady moved to accept the agenda as published. Commissioner Horgan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Presentation of an update on the County's 2010 Transportation Work Plan by Public Works Director, Phil Mallon.

Public Works Director Phil Mallon gave an update on the County's 2010 Transportation Work Plan, including resurfacing, new paving, right-of-way maintenance, gravel road maintenance, mowing, SPLOST projects, and projects involving the Georgia Department of Transportation.

Commissioner Hearn requested that Mr. Mallon provide quarterly reports, instead of monthly reports, as they pertain to Georgia Department of Transportation, or GDOT, projects. He added that he wanted state transportation projects completed in a timely manner and that the Board could help expedite those GDOT projects that were "falling behind"by contacting elected officials at the State level. Chairman Smith agreed with Commissioner Hearn, but he emphasized that if there is a major change with the GDOT projects the Board would need to know about it quickly. Commissioner Frady added that he would like to have greater communication between Fayette County and the GDOT.

The Board requested for another update during the April 2010 Workshop Meeting. A copy of the request and presentation material, identified as "Attachment 1", follow these minutes and are made an official part hereof.

B. Tony Parrott, Director of Utility Services, will present an update on the County's Street Light District Ordinance.

Director of Utility Services Tony Parrott updated the Board concerning the County's Street Light District Ordinance by noting deficiencies and inconsistencies in the administration of the ordinance. Discussion followed. The Board and the County Administrator agreed that a comprehensive review of this issue should occur and Mr. Parrott was directed to return to the Board with the results of his review and recommendations for resolving the problems related to this ordinance. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 2", follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

NEW BUSINESS:

C. Probate Judge Ann Jackson will present information concerning an upcoming request for assistance in funding case management software for her office.

Probate Judge Ann Jackson and Chief Probate Clerk Melissa Skiff presented information concerning an upcoming request for assistance in funding to purchase case management software for the Probate Court. Judge Jackson stated that when she began serving as Probate Judge last year the Court did not have an adequate case management system. Complicating the matter is that the State of Georgia has no money available to improve or expand the case management system. She reported that the Court has interviewed and evaluated vendors and systems, and that the Court has decided on a particular case management software system. She explained the aggregate cost of the system would be comprised of an up-front cost of $12,000, the cost to upgrade the Probate Court's computers, and an additional $250 monthly fee. She reminded the Board it had approved $6,000 in her Fiscal Year 2010 budget for audio capability in the Probate courtroom, and she requested the money be transferred to be used for the purchase of the software system. She asked that the remaining $6,000 up-front cost be provided from the County's contingency funds. She explained that funds collected by the court could be used to pay the monthly fees. There was no information regarding how much money would be required to upgrade the computers, but Judge Jackson speculated there funds would be minimal since only six computers would require the upgrade. Discussion followed. County Administrator Jack Krakeel recommended contingency funds be utilized if the Board approves the Judge's request during the March 11, 2010 meeting.

The Board asked for Judge Jackson's request to be placed on the March 11, 2010 Agenda and that information be provided telling how much it would cost to upgrade the Court's computers. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 3", follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

D. Discussion of the International Property Maintenance Code and property maintenance issues.

Community Development Director Pete Frisina and Interim Director of Permits and Inspections Joe Scarborough discussed the International Property Maintenance Code and property maintenance issues; particularly the impact they have in Fayette County. Mr. Frisina informed the Board that, due to the ongoing foreclosure crisis, there are residential structures in Fayette County that have been abandoned and that may present certain hazards to Fayette's citizens. He reported that many of the properties have owners that cannot be located so in order to correct the problems county funds may necessarily have to be expended.

The Board discussed the problem and methods available to address it but gave no direction. A copy of the request, identified as "Attachment 4", follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

E. Presentation of employee health options and various funding methods for the period of June 1, 2010 through May 31, 2011.

County Administrator Jack Krakeel, Human Resources Director Connie Boehnke, Mr. Scott Burrell, President of Pacific General Financial, Account Executive Jacqueline Turner of Pacific General Financial, and Mr. Jeffrey Godfree of Meritain Health discussed employee health options and various funding methods available to Fayette County for the period of June 1, 2010 through May 31, 2011 with the Board.

The Board directed that the recommendations presented to it be placed on the March 11, 2010 Agenda. A copy of the request and presentation, identified as "Attachment 5", follow these minutes and are made an official part hereof.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Google's Broadband Initiative: County Administrator Jack Krakeel reported that Google has begun an initiative where interested communities may apply for a project in which Google will come into the community and provide broadband capability that would increase computing speed 100x. He explained it is a fully-funded, competitive opportunity that will be extremely competitive as other communities around the nation are expected to make application. He informed the Board that a number of Fayette's municipalities have expressed interest in competing for this opportunity and that he has already created a project team, which is internal to the county, to look at the initiative. He asked for the Board to concur with the actions taken with respect to applying for this opportunity and to approve moving forward in the process. Discussion followed.

The Board concurred to the actions as requested and directed that members from the Fayette County Development Authority be included in the project team.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

There was no Attorney's Report.

STAFF REPORTS

There were no Staff Reports.

BOARD REPORTS

Permit Fee Reimbursement: Commissioner Horgan informed the Board of a citizen who paid approximately $5,600 for commercial greenhouse permit fees just prior to the Board's action last week that reduced the amount of similar permit fees. He requested that the Board authorize a reimbursement for the difference. It was noted that currently no work has commenced on the greenhouses; thus the County has not incurred any expenses related to the construction of the greenhouses. County Attorney Scott Bennett counseled that, at a minimum, the applicant could withdraw his existing permit with the fee refunded and the permit could be reissued under the new fee structure. Discussion followed.

The Board concurred that since no expenses had been incurred by the County, the applicant would be allowed to withdraw his existing permit, have his money returned to him in total, and then he could reapply for a permit with the new fee structure.

House Bill 1218: Chairman Smith informed the Board that he went to Atlanta yesterday and spoke to the House's Transportation Subcommittee of the Georgia General Assembly regarding the Governor's House Bill 1218. He explained that he has some issues with the bill, most notably that it removes local governments' controls of the section of transportation projects. He wanted the Board to know that he objected that part of the bill as well as several other parts.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

When no further business came before the Board, Chairman Smith adjourned the March 3, 2010 Workshop Meeting at 5: 40 p.m.

Floyd L. Jones, Deputy Clerk

Jack R. Smith, Chairman

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia, held on the 25th day of March, 2010.

Floyd L. Jones, Deputy Clerk