

The Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia met in Official Session on Thursday, June 14, 2001, at 7:00 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  
                                      A.G. VanLandingham

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

- - - - -

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

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF HAROLD BOST, FORMER COUNTY COMMISSIONER:**

Chairman Greg Dunn remarked that this symbolized that Harold was no longer on the Board and for him that also symbolized a personal loss of not having his wisdom and guidance and also not being able to commiserate with him as often as he did while he was a Board member. He said that he had been friends with Harold for several years and he had known Harold and his wife Evelyn for several years. He said the one thing that he did know about Harold was that throughout their relationship they had been 100% honest with one another whether they agreed or disagreed. He said there had been times behind closed doors when they disagreed. He said this never interfered with their friendship or their respect for each other. He said he loved dealing with people who were going to be honest and do what was best in their own mind whether or not anyone agreed with them or not. He said most times he and Harold found agreement. He said he believed that Harold came along in the history of Fayette County when changes needed to be made. He said Harold was there and took quite a bit upon his shoulders. He said Harold had done those things that were tough and not always popular. He felt that was what Americans say that they want their elected officials to be and that was honest, open, make the tough decisions and don't take a poll to decide where your values are on any particular day. He said he knew Harold to be an honest man who he had 100% respect for. He said when he was in uniform the highest complement that he could give to another man was that he would willingly go to war with this man and be in a fox hole with him. He said there were very few people on this globe that he would want in the foxhole with him more than Harold. He said he knew his back would be covered and he knew that Harold would do the right thing each and every time. He said he was going to miss Harold Bost not as a friend, because they would remain friends and in contact with each other, but in his contributions to this Board and to this community. He said he thanked God that Harold was around when he was. He said the actions that Harold took and Commissioner Frady, who was on the Board at that time, and the actions that the two of them took during that time

**June 14, 2001**

**Page 2**

period were what encouraged him to get into this business. He said in a lot of ways Harold helped him to get in here. He said the bottom line was that there were a couple of commissioners who stood up for what they had to at the right time. He said since that time members of the Board have been added that emulate their behavior. He felt whether or not people agree with this Board or not he did not feel that they could ever question Harold's or the Board's motivations for what is done. He said this Board does what is for the good of this community as they know it to be in their own minds and with the information and research that the Board has.

Chairman Dunn expressed his personal thanks for friendship and for the things that Harold had done for him personally and also for the leadership that Harold had provided to this community. He said Harold had served as Chairman of the Commission for two years. He said he certainly wished he had not made this decision. He said Harold would certainly be missed.

Commissioner Wells said that it was an honor and a privilege to work with Harold in setting the future for Fayette County. She said Harold was greatly missed. She thanked Harold for the job that he had done and the service that he had given each and every person. She said it was greatly appreciated.

Commissioner Frady said he had not always agreed with Harold on different issues but they had kept their feelings professional in the issues that they had. He said the issues they won were felt to be for the good of Fayette County. He said he enjoyed working with Harold and he hoped that he was enjoying Florida. He said he hoped Harold had a nice retirement and wished him well.

Commissioner VanLandingham said he has heard the remark that "I want to leave the world a little better place than I found it". He felt Harold had truly tried to do that. He said he believed Harold was honest and sincere. He said the efforts that Harold put forth was evident today and he thanked him for that. He said he had discussed many items with Harold and sometimes they agreed and sometimes they didn't. He said he had maintained a friendship for several years and he thanked Harold for his friendship.

The Board presented a rocking chair to Harold for his years of service.

Harold thanked everyone for their kind remarks. He said the things that he was most proud of accomplishing with the Board was slowing down the growth of unincorporated Fayette County. He said in 1999, which was the first year that Greg and Linda had come on the Board, there was an 11% decrease in building permits in the unincorporated area. He said in 2000 there was a 23% decrease. He said through March the county was down better than 39% under the first three months of last year. He said this was the reason that he had run for

**June 14, 2001**

**Page 3**

office five years ago. He said rezonings were running rampant in the county. He said he felt good that the Board was able to stem the growth and slow it down somewhat.

Harold said the next thing that he was extremely proud of that the Board accomplished was the enactment of the most meaningful ethics ordinance that there was in this State. He said this was something that got started in a small way before Greg and Linda came on the Board and then after they came on there were enough votes to put it through.

Harold further remarked that then came the jail and the new courthouse underway. He said this was something that was way overdue and now it was finally started. He said something that was a special effort for him and that was working on the impact fees. He said the Board had now finished the impact fees for fire. He said he felt badly that this had not gone completely through before he went off the Board but he was happy that it was put through shortly thereafter. He said his major disappointment has been the fact that there was still no jail impact fee. He said he hoped so strongly that this will still come to fruition in the near future. He said if the jail impact fees were put in place, it would reduce approximately \$1 million on what would be collected each year in taxes.

Harold said he was happy that he was able to contribute to the county in a small way. He said Fayette County was very special to him. He said he had lived and worked all over the Country and had been in a lot of different places. He said there was no place like Fayette County and he loved it. He said he appreciated the voters' confidence in him to have elected him to this office. He said he was enjoying his flexibility to be able to travel without having to worry about scheduling conflicts. He said he felt sure the citizens would choose a good replacement next Tuesday for his replacement. He thanked everyone again for the opportunity to serve Fayette County.

#### **RECOGNITION OF THE WINNERS OF THE KEEP FAYETTE BEAUTIFUL LITERARY ESSAY CONTEST:**

Chairman Dunn introduced the Director of Keep Fayette Beautiful Marie Short. He said there were awards that she would be presenting to some of the young people in the county.

Marie Short representing the Keep Fayette Beautiful stated that she wanted to recognize some students and some teachers. She said each year in celebration of "Earth Day" there was a literary contest throughout the school system in Fayette County. She said the contest was also open to home schooling and private schools as well. She said from that group three winners were selected who come up with some of the most unique ideas of how we can protect, preserve or beautify Fayette County. She introduced their teacher Mrs. Smithson and presented her with a special award of excellence. She presented Breanna Bedgood who was a fourth grader at Oak Grove Elementary School on the great job she had done.

**June 14, 2001**

**Page 4**

Ms. Short then presented Leah Powell, a fifth grader at North Fayette Elementary School a \$500 savings bond for the outstanding performance award, sponsored by the Yamaha Motor Manufacturing Corporation for her winning essay.

**CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED FY2002 BUDGET:**

Director of Finance Mark Pullium remarked there were a couple of housekeeping items before the Board first of which was a consideration of supplemental pay for the County Board of Health. He said this was specifically relating to the Environmental Health employees included in the County Board of Health. He said there were three alternatives. He stated that alternative one was to fund a supplement in the amount of 4% for the Environmental Health staff effective October 1, 2001 at a total cost of \$9,086 for this fiscal year. He said this would reduce the request from the County Board of Health by \$6,114. He said alternative two was to fund a supplement in the amount of 7.5% effective October 1, 2001 for a total cost of \$17,036. He said this would increase the request from the County Board of Health by \$1,836. He said the final and third alternative was to provide no funding to the County Board of Health for the supplemental pay for Environmental Health positions. He said this would reduce the request from the County Board of Health by \$15,200. He remarked that the second page of the summary of alternatives included the total annual cost of the alternatives one and two. He said the third page included information on the 3.5% increase enacted by the State Legislature. He said additional information was attached regarding the State Personnel Board policies for pay in the fiscal year 2002.

Chairman Dunn remarked that Mr. Pullium had used the term housekeeping and pointed out that there were two issues left over from the voting that the Board had done at yesterday's budget meeting. He said this issue involved the pay for just the Environmental Health personnel in the Department of Health. He said the Governor had given all of those people a 3.5% raise and the local Board of Health had made a recommendation to give them a supplement. He said from reading the minutes of the Board of Health meeting it was to help them recruit personnel because it was very difficult to get environmental specialists and inspectors in this area. He said the Board needed to decide tonight whether or not the county wanted to give a supplement of any kind to the Board of Health. He said if the Commission decided to give a supplement, what percentage it would be. He said when he reviewed the minutes for the Board of Health meeting he was somewhat confused as to the intent of the Board of Health was in this regard. He said he would like to turn discussion over to Commissioner VanLandingham who was the Commission's representative on the Board of Health. He asked Commissioner VanLandingham to clarify the intent of the recommendations that the Board of Health made in reference to this supplement.

Commissioner VanLandingham said the Commission had reviewed the minutes from the Board of Health to make sure that the Commission was still within the scope of understanding of the Board of Health's recommendation. He said the minutes were not as clear as they should be. He said a question had been raised at one point after the recommendation that

**June 14, 2001**

**Page 5**

he had made that a 7.5% raise be given. He said the question was asked if this was inclusive of the 3.5% from the State of Georgia. He stated the answer was no that it did not include that. He said that would have raised it up and subsequent to that he had withdrawn that motion and made another motion that the total raise be 7.5%. He said this was indicated in the minutes and that would be his recommendation that the local contribution be 4% and to match the State's 3.5% to give a total increase of 7.5%. He said this would bring the Environmental Health employees more in line with Fayette's neighboring counties. He said this would be his recommendation and he would like to make that in the form of a motion.

On motion made by Commissioner VanLandingham, seconded by Commissioner Frady to approve 4% as a salary supplement for the six and one half environmental technician positions in the Health Department, discussion followed.

Commissioner Wells remarked that this discussion had started when she was a member of the Board of Health. She said at that point in time she was opposed to this because it had happened right after the Commission's budgetary hearings last year. She said she had a great deal of concern about this and not because she doubted the individuals were worthy of the pay for the job done. She said she just had a real concern with taking six individuals out of any group and saying if they were given more money they would be kept happier for a longer period of time and more qualified people might be enticed. She felt this could easily be applied to public safety, public works and roads and just about every department across the board. She said she did have a problem with pulling six individuals out. She said she was aware that part of the situation was further complicated by the fact that whenever employee evaluations were done to determine who was being paid what and what jobs were being performed, these employees fall between the cracks and were not included in that. She said there was no good way in assessing the value of their performance and the job that they do.

Commissioner Wells said she would feel much more comfortable if this was something that was applicable across the board to all of the public health department instead of pulling out six individuals. She said this was not a personal issue but she felt this was an inappropriate way to handle this situation. She said the comparable figures that the Board has for surrounding counties indicate that on two of the four categories were neck to neck. She said one was higher and one was lower. She said she had averaged this out and it looked like Fayette County was within \$1,000 of the average. She said if the 7.5% increase was added, she felt it would skew the entire situation. She said she could not support this and not because she did not support the individuals but because she felt taking six individuals and giving them a 7.5% increase would set a bad precedent for the other county employees where there was trouble in soliciting qualified people and keeping them happy.

Chairman Dunn said the budget request that the Commission had received from the Board of Health was for a 7.5% supplement from the county. He said this would be on top of the

**June 14, 2001**

**Page 6**

Governor's raise of 3.5% which would total 11% raise this year. He said comparatively with the county employees they will receive a 3.4% cost of living raise and the best employee in Fayette County would qualify for a 5% merit pay raise. He remarked that the very best employee would only qualify for an 8.4% raise. He said the Environmental Health request was for an 11% raise and had nothing to do with merit. He stated that this was only a bump up from the Governor and then a requested bump up of 7.5% from the county. He said he had found out today when he had read through the Legislation from the Governor that the Governor's intent clearly was to give the Environmental Health employees a 3.5% raise across the board. He stated he was trying to determine what the Governor's intent was and what the local Board of Health's intent was. He said the second thing that he had found in the Legislation today was that any Environmental Health employees who received a good evaluation would be getting a 2% bonus in addition to the 3.5% pay raise. He said it was his assumption that all of the Environmental Health employees would probably qualify for the 2% bonus. He asked Rick Fehr if that would be an accurate statement.

Mr. Fehr replied no sir.

Chairman Dunn asked if they not good enough employees.

Mr. Fehr replied said it was not a question of being good enough. He said in the conditions that were stipulated under the current department policy the employee would have to do a very good job in order to get the special 2% bonus. He said there would have to be documented performance that was well beyond what would be expected. He said the department had never ever given all of the staff members a 2% bonus.

Chairman Dunn asked if anyone would be getting the 2% bonus.

Mr. Fehr replied that decision would be made in September.

Chairman Dunn said the law stated that this would apply to anyone who was a little bit better than average would get the bonus.

Mr. Fehr said he would be glad to show the Board the huge manual of standards that indicated what criteria had to be met.

Chairman Dunn asked if someone met expectations they would not get the raise but if they were anything above that they would get the 2% bonus.

Mr. Fehr responded the employee would have to show substantial performance.

Chairman Dunn said he was certainly not going to debate the State's standard but it stated in the law that anyone who exceeds the title of meets expectations would get the 2% bonus.

**June 14, 2001**

**Page 7**

He clarified that Mr. Fehr did not anticipate too many of the employees getting the 2% bonus and Mr. Fehr agreed.

Chairman Dunn said he could not support a 7.5% local supplement. He said one of the things that people needed to understand about this was that once a supplement was given to the Environmental Health staff, the county could never take it away. He said if the county gave this supplement it would not just be for this year but would continue in their pay from this point forward. He said this was not a bonus but a supplement. He said this was a very serious consideration for this Board to make because it would cost the county several thousand dollars more each year from now on and it would be a percentage of whatever raise the employees might get from the State of Georgia. He said the Commission would not even know in the out years what this kind of a thing would cost. He said this was not unique and pointed out there were some people in the county who did have local supplements. He said some of the constitutional officers, judges, and the courts have some for different reasons. He said it was understood that when a supplement is put into effect it was a long term financial commitment that the county was making to the employees and not something that would be taken back. He said there was no way he could support a 7.5% increase. He said he was still having trouble making a decision on this. He said he wanted to hear again why the Board should approve a 4% increase.

Commissioner VanLandingham remarked that the presentation that was made at the Board of Health drew parallels of surrounding environmentalists. He said it was evident from that presentation that Fayette County was below. He said they were not looking at DeKalb County but was neighboring counties. He stated to have the enticement to attract and retain employees, the Board of Health felt it would be necessary to do this. He said the presentation was indicative of this and this was the reason the Board of Health recommended that this happen.

Commissioner Wells asked how many counties were included in the District.

Merle Crowe of the Health Department responded there were twelve counties.

Commissioner Wells said she found it interesting in the comparison of comparable counties was that there were only four put forth as a comparison. She said if there were twelve counties in the District then the question begged to be asked how Fayette County compared with all of them in the District. She said she had problems with taking six individuals out and giving them a raise and not addressing the entire public health arena.

Commissioner Frady asked Rick Fehr how many people he was short in his department.

Mr. Fehr replied that currently there was one single vacancy. He said one vacancy had just been filled on June 1<sup>st</sup> and three weeks prior to that another position was filled with a transfer of an employee from another department. He said at one point the department actually had

**June 14, 2001**

**Page 8**

three and one half vacant positions. He stated this equated to over 120 hours per week. He said this had been a tremendous challenge for the department given the demand of what was expected. He stated in addition one of the two people recently hired was basically an entry level position.

Commissioner Frady asked where the District was located.

Mr. Fehr replied that Fayette County was pretty much even with the northern part of the District. He remarked that some of the counties included in the District were rural counties. He said Fayette County was considered part of the metropolitan Atlanta area.

Commissioner Frady said he could support this request.

Chairman Dunn clarified that Mr. Fehr had just stated that he had hired an entry level person. He said it was his understanding that the person Mr. Fehr had hired was not entry level but hired at Level II.

Mr. Fehr replied that one employee was a higher level and one was an entry level.

Chairman Dunn asked if the person Mr. Fehr had hired into the Level II position was an experienced individual and Mr. Fehr replied yes.

Chairman Dunn said this was a touch issue. He said this was something that would go on for a long time. He said he would have to go in favor of the Commission's representative on the Board of Health. He said Commissioner VanLandingham stated the supplement would be 4% and not 7.5% and he would support this request at the 4% level.

The motion carried 3-1 with Commissioner Wells opposing the motion.

Chairman Dunn asked for the next issue to be discussed.

Finance Director Mark Pullium remarked that staff was making a request of the Board of Commissioners to clarify its intent regarding the provision of funds for food costs for the Meals on Wheels Program.

Chairman Dunn said he had asked that this issue be discussed. He remarked that yesterday in the budget meeting the Board had made a decision on Fayette Senior Service's request for an additional \$17,000 plus to supplement their Meals on Wheels Program. He said when the debate ensued there was some misinformation which made him cast his vote in a certain way. He said the misinformation was certainly not intentional but there was confusion even on the part of Fayette Senior Services and what the obligations were on their part and the county to share in certain of these costs. He said the county had made an agreement years



**June 14, 2001**

**Page 9**

ago to supplement their budget with some money for food cost only and not sharing in the cost of the infrastructure or the employees. He said the debate yesterday was whether it was just the Meals on Wheels Program or if it included congregate meals as well. He said at the facility they feed several meals per day. He said the Board had arrived at the understanding that it was simply for the Meals on Wheels Program. He said at it turned out, he had researched the contract from 1994 and it included both but only for the cost of food. He said the contract stated that congregate meals could also be included. He said if he had known that yesterday he would have voted in favor of the food supplement that had initially been requested instead of cutting it approximately in half. He said he wanted to bring this back to the Board and asked for input on whether or not an adjustment could be made and give them back the \$8,382. He said he would like to make a motion to that effect.

Commissioner Wells said she would like to have a correction made on the status sheet to reflect this more correctly. She said the request from the Senior Services expressly said that it was for their Meals on Wheels Program and that was what the Board voted to fund yesterday. She said a correction should be made so that the request reflected that it was for food for the Meals on Wheels Program and the congregate meals. She said she could support the request.

Mr. Pullium remarked that Commissioner Wells' request was duly noted and he would take care of that.

Chairman Dunn said there had been an interesting debate about this yesterday and he felt it might be time to redo the contract from 1994. He said there were a few other things in the contract that might not any longer be applicable.

On motion made by Chairman Dunn, seconded by Commissioner Frady to place \$8,382 back into the Fayette Senior Services budget for the cost of food for Meals on Wheels as well as the congregate program. The motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Dunn asked Mr. Pullium to give a synopsis of the budget for this year.

Finance Director Mark Pullium responded that the proposed budget for fiscal 2002 was one that contained several noteworthy initiatives that would have a positive impact on the citizens of Fayette County. He said first of all, upon approval of this budget, the Board of Commissioners authorized the payoff of the existing debt for the Stonewall Administrative Complex. He said the existing debt was \$4.4 million. He said the amount of interest that would be saved over the next six years was \$649,018. He said this would further reduce the debt service requirements an average of \$762,000 over the next six fiscal years. He said secondly, the Board of Commissioners had authorized a market study to compare existing compensation and classification system utilized by Fayette County to peer governments and appropriate private sector positions. He said funding was included in the contingency fund

**June 14, 2001**

**Page 10**

and sufficient amounts to implement a market study during the fiscal year. He said it was anticipated that the market study would be completed no later than 120 days from this date. He said accordingly, the Board of Commissioners could implement the market study as soon as mid October. He stated providing funds for the implementation of the market study will help Fayette County attract and retain the best and brightest employees as possible. He said by adopting this budget, the Board of Commissioners will enact the first year of an emerging five year capital improvement program. He said the Board of Commissioners had charged the staff with the responsibility of developing a five year capital improvement program which incorporated operational financial projections by the late Fall of this calendar year. He said in addition, upon approval of the Board of Commissioners, funding would be designated for catastrophic or unforeseen emergencies that might occur in Fayette County.

Mr. Pullium further remarked that it was important to note that this budget represented an action plan which specifically identified new initiatives and programs throughout the entire spectrum of Fayette County government while maintaining a superb level of basic services designed to provide top notch public safety, law enforcement, judicial, public works and recreational activities in keeping with the spirit of the Fayette County tradition.

Mr. Pullium stated at this time he wanted to present some of the highlights in the expenditures and revenues of the government. He said at this point in time after the adjustments just adopted the general fund budget stands today at \$43.1 million. He said the special revenue funds stand at \$9.3 million. He said the total for proposed governmental funds was \$52.6 million; solid waste \$800,000; water fund \$11.9 million and the total of all funds was \$65.3 million.

Chairman Dunn commented that in looking at the budget just on its face it looked like there was an increase budgetary requirement of approximately \$7 million from last year. He said the source for some of that revenue was money the county already had in funds and they were being moved from one fund to another and paying off a debt early. He said approximately \$7 million was not an additional tax burden on the citizens at this point. He said it was anticipated that the millage rate would not have to be raised at all in order to accomplish everything in this budget. He said the millage rate would not be set for another couple of months but it looked like it would not be raised at all.

Commissioner VanLandingham commented the Finance Department for their fine work on this budget as well as the staff who prepared their department budgets. He said this was the first time that he had attended a budget workshop and while it was not a lot of fun, it was not that hard. He said he appreciated all of the work including the constitutional officers who had done a great job.

Chairman Dunn asked if anyone in the audience would like to speak in regard to the proposed budget.

**June 14, 2001**

**Page 11**

Ginger Blackstone of Tyrone thanked the Board for allowing the Keep Fayette Beautiful organization to present the winners of the essay contest with their awards. She said she understood that the Board of Commissioners had completely cut the Keep Fayette Beautiful down to zero this year. She said they request was the same one that they have had in previous years and that was for \$25,000. She said she was coming before the Board tonight totally unarmed because she had just learned about this a couple of hours ago. She said she was stunned and she did not understand how the Board could be so concerned about Fayette County and suddenly not be interested in educating the children. She said Keep Fayette Beautiful's role had been to educate and support. She said this program was low maintenance and nothing but volunteers except for Marie Short who was a part time worker. She said Keep Fayette Beautiful was receiving \$25,000 from the county and \$52,000 or \$53,000 in kind services ending up with approximately \$83,000. She said they had established relationships with Yamaha for example. She said they do a lot of things around the county that the Board might not be aware of. She said they do not do much in the way of public relations. She said they hold the Christmas tree recycling event after Christmas and hand out pine tree seedlings and take the Christmas trees from citizens. She said she had done this for the last three years. She said she knew that there had been some difficulties in the past but pointed out that this organization had not been a certified Keep Fayette Beautiful organization except for it being four years this September. She said the program was now certified and adhered to the national standards. She said it just amazed her that of all the times to be presenting these young people with honors the Keep Fayette Beautiful was being shown the door. She said this program could not be done without some financial support.

Commissioner Frady asked when the Board had cut the funding for this program. He commented he was absent from the budget meeting in the afternoon.

Chairman Dunn remarked at the point in the budget meeting where this item was discussed, there were only three Commissioners present. He said there had been a very lengthy discussion with Marie Short about the program. He felt it was a very difficult decision that the Board had made. He said he was present a couple of years ago when Caroline Price had spoken at the Association of Fayette County Governments. He said at that time Ms. Blackstone had asked for money from Fayette County as well as all of the governments in the area. He said Fayette County was the only government that contributed any money to this program. He stated all of the cities turned down the request and had consistently turned Keep Fayette Beautiful down. He said this was not a criticism of the cities because they have their own budget constraints and so forth and they put a lot of money as well as the county into making this county more beautiful.

Chairman Dunn further remarked that the only concern the Board had yesterday was that the county had been paying \$25,000 a year since the late 1980's.

Commissioner Wells said she recalled the county had been paying this since 1984.

**June 14, 2001**

**Page 12**

Chairman Dunn remarked that this "seed money" was going to be used to set up a system where there would be monies raised for different programs around the counties. He said in the last couple of years at budget time the Board has had discussions with Caroline and then Marie Short that the Board wanted to see some progress on your fundraising capabilities and what was being done. He said this year Marie Short had said that prior to the Yamaha grant Keep Fayette Beautiful had raised \$300. He remarked that the Board felt like there were many things that the program could do such as educating children and having the essay contest that don't cost anybody anything. He said a volunteer can talk about the environment. He pointed out that the teachers were actually the ones who were getting the children involved in the essay contest. He said there was obviously somebody at the top who was making the program work. He said all the Board was concerned about was the bang for the buck. He said the Board had put \$25,000 in every year and Keep Fayette Beautiful was getting no assistance from any of the other governments. He said Coweta County had stopped doing this a couple of years ago as well because they did not see where they were getting enough out of it. He said the Board was concerned with the beauty of the county. He said there were a lot of things that the \$25,000 could do to beautify this county. He said more prisoners could be put on the roadways to pick up trash for one thing. He said this was not the issue. He pointed out that the issue was that the Board was not convinced that the county had gotten enough out of the program all of these years and putting \$25,000 in the program each year. He said in discussions with the director, most of the money was going toward her salary. He stated there was no other money being raised until Yamaha gave a grant this year. He said this was the only year that any major corporation had given Keep Fayette Beautiful any money. He said the Board had told Ms. Short that it would be willing to relook this request in the future, if she could somehow, get with the national association and come up with a viable organization and something that was tangible so that the Board could see where the money was going, how it would be used and how it would contribute to the beauty of the county. He said at this point the consensus of the Board yesterday was that the Board had not seen as much as it thought it should and also that the county was the only one putting money on the table for the program.

Ms. Blackstone remarked if Keep Fayette Beautiful had an executive director then it would have to be a paid executive. She said in the past the program was sharing and had not had an awful lot of support. She said it was her understanding that Keep Fayette Beautiful would have a program going and not to have a large fund but to get the community involved.

Chairman Dunn interjected that no one had asked Keep Fayette Beautiful to build up a large fund. He pointed out that there was no money coming in at all to do the programs.

Ms. Blackstone said the program had in-kind services which had more than doubled the cash amount. She felt she had not justified properly what the Board needed to know. She said she was not the person in charge of that but this was also late in the game for them especially with rent being due and now there won't be any money.

**June 14, 2001**

**Page 13**

Chairman Dunn remarked that Ms. Blackstone had not been in on these discussions but the Director of Keep Fayette Beautiful for the last two or three years had been told that if they did not increase the community support beyond this Board, then the county would back out. He said the Board had told them for three straight years.

Ms. Blackstone said what Keep Fayette Beautiful was doing was giving to the communities.

Commissioner Frady said he had supported this program for all of the years that it has been in existence. He said he had supported the Friday home, seniors, and also battered women. He said he did not understand how this program got taken out but he would support it and would have supported it if he had been at the meeting yesterday.

Ms. Blackstone remarked that she knew the Board's decision would not be made tonight and pointed out the budget was scheduled for adoption on June 28<sup>th</sup>. She recalled there needed to be two public hearings on the budget and this was the first one.

Chairman Dunn remarked that the Board was not approving the final budget tonight but there were portions of the budget that the Board had made a judgment on. He said if one of the Commissioners would like to try to bring a motion to change a decision that the Board had made in the last two days then that was acceptable.

Ms. Blackstone said she understood that Commissioner VanLandingham was speaking in support of the program too.

Chairman Dunn said all of the Commissioners were speaking in support of the program. He said the problem was that the Board did not feel like the program had matured after fifteen years and the county giving \$25,000 every year.

Ms. Blackstone said she understood without pointing fingers that there was a lapse of information. She said she would be more than happy to provide the Board with that information.

Chairman Dunn interjected that the Board had spent thirty to forty-five minutes with the director of Keep Fayette Beautiful yesterday.

Ms. Blackstone said she felt like she had been slapped in the face and she did not like it. Commissioner Frady asked if this money was in the budget.

Commissioner Wells replied yes and stated it had been for the last fifteen years.

Chairman Dunn asked if anyone else wished to speak on the budget.

**June 14, 2001**

**Page 14**

Emory McHugh, 205 Royal Ridge Way, Fayetteville said he had lived in Fayette County for approximately seven and a half years. He said he had worked as a Fayette County employee for approximately seven and a half years. He said he had a vested interest here and loved living here. He expressed concern with the proposed budget. He said it was interesting this time because he got to sit on the outside and look in. He said he had spent approximately two and a half hours at the library this afternoon reviewing the budget. He said he was very upset about some of the things that would be incurred in this budget. He said if he was a citizen out there he would be appalled. He said there was really nothing in the budget that said what this Board was trying to accomplish. He said there was nothing in there. He said there was a small transmittal letter in there that really did not tell anyone where the Board was going. He said there was no strategic plan or anything as to where Fayette County was going with this budget. He remarked that he did not feel this budget was fiscally responsible.

Mr. McHugh further remarked that \$6.5 million was what the Board was pulling out of the general fund balance. He said during the last ten years, one of the things that Billy Beckett the former County Administrator did was to build the fund balance up a point of where it went from an 8<sup>th</sup> rating to a AA2. He said by taking the fund balance down the Board would be compromising those type of things. He said one of the other things in there was \$900,000 of deferred maintenance that the Board was doing on vehicles. He said the Board was not funding the vehicle replacement program. He stated what the Board was doing there was funding it out of money that had accumulated in the past and paying for current operations. He said this was not fiscally responsible in his opinion. He referred to the repair and maintenance numbers. He said these were going down. He said there were no transfers to the post-employment benefits and no transfers to the workers compensation fund. He said expenditures were going to be happy and in the future the Board would not be funding.

Mr. McHugh said there had been discussion about the paying off of this building. He said one of the things that past Boards had tried to do was to match up taxes with services. He said in the future if this was taken over to the year 2008 the citizens who move here in those years would help pay for this complex. He said the Board was not really saving \$600,000. He said the Board was really pulling down the fund balance, losing that interest income and this was really an offset. He said what was being done now was using current interest rates which were at an all time low and saying the county was saving some money. He said next week these rates may go up and in that case the county would actually be earning more interest than what would be paid. He said nothing is really being done and this was not fiscally responsible.

Mr. McHugh remarked on one of the other areas that he was a little bit concerned about was the debt service on this building here. He said he had recently spoken with Dick Russell, who issued the revenue bonds at the same time that Fayette County had done. He said Mr. Russell had issued revenue bonds to help build a water and sewer treatment plant in Forsythe County at the same time this complex was built here. He said Mr. Russell just refunded his bonds at 5% net present value savings. He said this was a million something for them. He

**June 14, 2001**

**Page 15**

said this was just about the same issue that Fayette County had done. He expressed concern as to why Fayette County was not doing the same type of things and saving the taxpayers here some money.

Mr. McHugh said he was also a little irritated about some of the things he had read in the newspaper and that regarded the manpower squad. He said one of the things that had been done in the past in order to get public safety to where it should be was that Chief Krakeel had tried to ease things along throughout and actually he had gone to a full volunteer service to where there were actually two people on a pumper truck. He said this was a good thing and when a pumper truck pulled up to a burning house it could actually squirt water on it. He said if the Board would read Chief Krakeel's annual report it would see that the losses on property in this county had been increasing over the years. He gave a reason for that. He said if the response to a structural fire was late, the house would burn down. He said all they can do would be to squirt water on it and protect surroundings. He said they would not save anything. He said Chief Krakeel had asked for \$185,000 and this would equal to one property/house in the county. He said if this one house burns down the county's premiums go up and this was an offset. He said the Board should be realistic and remarked there were no free lunches. He said he did not understand exactly why this Board was telling Chief Krakeel as well as some of the others who were looking for service areas why they could not do those type things.

Mr. McHugh said he was also concerned about transportation. He said he lived approximately two miles from here and currently he could not even get out of his driveway. He said when he had worked at Fayette County and would leave home at 7:30 a.m. it would take him twenty to twenty-five minutes to go two miles. He said he was glad to hear that the Board was looking at a capital improvements program in order to start funding some of these things. He said this was a welcome relief and something that had been recommended for years and years. He remarked that the Board had done a study back in the late 1980's which was basically gathering dust back here because it never had been funded or implemented. He said none of the right-of-way had been purchased or anything else.

Mr. McHugh said one of the other things that he thought was interesting was the \$350,000 that was being spent on software. He said he had used the software package himself for approximately seven years and he did not understand now why the county had to spend \$350,000 for a new package when the current package works well.

Mr. McHugh remarked on the C.I.P. He said one of the other things that he had found interesting in this was the \$871,250 worth of boarding fees that the Sheriff's Office had to put in their expenditure plan now because the county had not planned for the court house on time. He said the only reason that he said that was because this just draws everything together as to why the county needs a C.I.P. and why the Board actually needs to go out and get involved with the public to see what the people want to do. He said last Thursday evening he was at

**June 14, 2001**

**Page 16**

the library listening to the candidates who were running for County Commissioner. He said two of the things that they talked about were recreation and transportation. He said those were some of the things that needed to be funded. He said these were his concern. He said this was great now because he was on the outside looking in and he had no stewardship in this or responsibility.

Mr. McHugh said the other thing he was glad to hear was the compensation study. He commended the Board for putting that in the budget. He was upset a lot last year and was one of the reasons that he was no longer here. He said there were three of the Board members who encouraged the turnover rate to go up and those members know who they were. He said he just did not think that was the way to run a county.

Chairman Dunn asked if anyone else in the audience wished to speak on the budget and there was no one else to speak. He said there was no way that he could address all of that. He said the Board had done the best that it could do. He said he felt there were some philosophical differences between the way Mr. McHugh used to do things and the way some others want to do things today. He said that did not make Mr. McHugh wrong and the Board right or vice versa and the Board would proceed.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** On motion made by Commissioner VanLandingham, seconded by Commissioner Wells to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion carried 4-0.

**HUMAN RESOURCES:** Approval of request from the Director of Human Resources Connie Boehnke to amend the Personnel Policy by deleting Section 9.9, Payment of Withheld Wages and to refund any wages withheld in accordance with this policy.

**FAYETTE YOUTH PROTECTION HOME:** Approval of request from the Fayette Youth Protection Home to place a sign on the courthouse lawn from April 8 - April 19, 2002 to announce the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Power parade to be held April 15 - April 19, 2002.

**FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES:** Approval of request from Chief Jack Krakeel of Fire and Emergency Services to purchase ASME Cylinders in the amount of \$13,300 per budget description. Funds are available in this category.

**FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES:** Approval of request from Chief Jack Krakeel of Fire and Emergency Services to award bid to low bidder Central States Fire Apparatus in the amount of \$403,464 for two fire trucks replacing existing units and identified in the vehicle replacement schedule. Funding has been appropriated for this transaction as part of the scheduled replacement program.

**HOME SCHOOLER'S CONSIGNMENT SALE - SIGN REQUEST:** Approval of request from the Michele Heard to place a sign on the old courthouse lawn from



September 5<sup>th</sup> through September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2001 announcing the Home Schooler's Consignment Sale.

**STREET LIGHT DISTRICT - THE CHIMNEYS SUBDIVISION:** Approval of request from the Director of Engineering Ron Salmons to approve The Chimneys Subdivision for acceptance as a street light district in Fayette County.

**BID AWARD TO HEATING AND COOLING, INC. - HVAC UNITS AT STONEWALL ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX:** Approval of recommendation by Director of Maintenance Jim George to award bid to Heating and Cooling, Inc. in the amount of \$8,559 to replace three of the old rooftop HVAC units at the Stonewall Administrative Complex.

**GEORGIA YOUTH BALLET - SIGN REQUEST:** Approval of request from the Georgia Youth Ballet to place a sign on the old courthouse lawn from November 23, 2001 through December 7, 2001 to advertise the 6<sup>th</sup> annual production of The Nutcracker to be held on December 7, 8 and 9, 2001.

**OFF SHOOT PRODUCTIONS - SIGN REQUEST:** Approval of request from Off Shoot Productions to place a sign on the old courthouse lawn from July 16, 2001 through July 29, 2001 to advertise the Tale of Sleeping Beauty to be held July 20 through July 29, 2001.

**MINUTES:** Approval of minutes for the Board of Commissioners' meeting held on May 24, 2001.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Members of the public are allowed up to three 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:** Attorney McNally requested an executive session to discuss three legal items and one real estate acquisition.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** On motion made by Commissioner VanLandingham, seconded by Commissioner Frady to adjourn to executive session to discuss three legal items and one real estate acquisition matter. The motion carried 4-0.

**June 14, 2001**

**Page 18**

**LEGAL:** Attorney McNally updated the Board on a legal matter.

On motion made by Commissioner VanLandingham, seconded by commissioner wells to authorize Attorney McNally to proceed in this matter. The motion carried 4-0.

**LEGAL:** Attorney McNally briefed the Board on a legal matter.

On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham to authorize Attorney McNally to proceed. The motion carried 4-0.

**LEGAL:** Attorney McNally reported to the Board on a legal matter.

The Board took no action on this matter.

**REAL ESTATE ACQUISITION:** Attorney McNally briefed the Board on a matter of real estate acquisition.

On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Chairman Dunn to authorize Attorney McNally to proceed in this matter. The motion carried 4-0.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION AFFIDAVIT:** On motion made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham to authorize the Chairman to execute the Executive Session Affidavit affirming that three legal items and one real estate acquisition matter were discussed in executive session. The motion carried 4-0. A copy of the Affidavit, identified as "Attachment No. 1", follow 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 9:00 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 28th day of June, 2001.

---

Karen Morley, Chief Deputy Clerk