



**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING**

MAY 24, 2011

8:30 A.M.

**STEPHENS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HISTORICAL COURTHOUSE**

PRESENT FOR MEETING: Chairman J B Hudgins, Jr., Commissioners Harold Andrews, Jonesy Haygood, Dean Scarborough and Stanley London; County Administrator John Rutan; County Clerk Beth Rider; Finance Director Phyllis Ayers; and County Attorney Brian Ranck

Chairman JB Hudgins, Jr. called the regular meeting to order at approximately 8:53 a.m. and welcomed those present. Richard Adams gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Scarborough, seconded by Commissioner London to approve the agenda with one addition to add Item #6 to read as follows:

BOARD TO CONSIDER MOTION TO AWARD STEPHENS COUNTY RECREATION DEPARTMENT WALKING TRAIL PAVING CONTRACT TO REEVES CONSTRUCTION COMPANY AND AUTHORIZE ADMINISTRATOR TO SIGN CONTRACT AND TO ADOPT RESOLUTION AWARDING CONTRACT AND AUTHORIZE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE RESOLUTION. **Motion carried unanimously.**

II. APPROVE MINUTES

1. MAY 10, 2011– REGULAR MEETING

A motion was made by Commissioner London, seconded by Commissioner Scarborough to approve minutes as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

III. OLD BUSINESS

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. PRESENTATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2012 BUDGET

Finance Director Phyllis Ayers stated she would summarize where we are for the public and Commissioners and presented a draft copy of the budget we worked with offsite for two days at our budget meeting. Phyllis presented the budget with changes made from the offsite meeting, stating the government fund has a budget of \$19,897,589 that is all of the government funds; the general fund which is the most important has a budget of \$13,987,030. Phyllis stated the things to highlight the most are the proposed millage rate will remain the same; operating revenue is down to six percent. This is a hopeful budget for next year, there are no new positions, no salary increases, and the employees are having to make a change in their Health Insurance and depending on what plan an employee picks they will have an overall decrease in their pay in a year. We are using fund balance at a \$1,000,007 to do three items and there are no new revenue sources. We are looking at the years ahead that will be tough. Phyllis stated she was calling this the "hopeful" budget, hoping it comes in like it is. Phyllis stated she had also suggested the Commissioners would come back together in January to see if the digest comes in at a ten percent decrease and see how the collection rate is going and what we may need to do on the back end. Ten percent is our projection of digest decrease which will turn into an eleven percent decrease in property tax revenue because we have to apply a collection rate to that. John Rutan stated the final number for the digest will not be until all appeals are completed in November. There is a new appeal process in the state of Georgia; even though we can project the budget value of county, until all appeals are heard the final projection is not carved in stone. Sue Anderson stated they could present the digest to the Department of Revenue before the appeals are heard. Dene Hicks stated that could be a dangerous situation when you appeal a value that is not set in stone. You have a real chance that we will have to back off those values and we will collect less and on top of that we have interest to those individuals who were billed incorrectly. Dene stated she would not suggest until the majority of appeals are settled that we would even discuss sending out tax bills. John stated this is actually the intent of the State Legislators to confuse this process; we actually have a quote by one of our State Legislators indicating this. Phyllis stated from here, where we go, there is a hard copy available in the Clerk's office for public view; it is placed on the County website and with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government. Our first public hearing will be June 14th and the second hearing will be our second meeting in June and that will be for adoption and you can make any changes from now until the day of adoption.

2. BOARD TO CONSIDER MOTION TO APPROVE FY 2011 BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR COMMUNICATIONS; SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT; CLERK OF COURT; REGISTRAR; AND AUTHORIZE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN BUDGET AMENDMENT RESOLUTION

A motion was made by Commissioner Scarborough, seconded by Commissioner London to approve amendments and authorize Chairman to sign resolution. **Motion carried unanimously.**

3. BOARD TO CONSIDER MOTION TO AUTHORIZE GEORGIA MOUNTAIN WOMEN'S CENTER/DBA/ CIRCLE OF HOPE TO SEEK GRANT FUNDING WITH THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS AND AUTHORIZE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN RESOLUTION

A motion was made by Commissioner London, seconded by Commissioner Scarborough to authorize Georgia Mountain Women's Center to seek funding through a grant from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and authorize Chairman to sign documents. Suzanne Dow represented the Center. **Motion carried unanimously.**

4. BOARD TO CONSIDER MOTION TO APPROVE ADJUSTMENT SHEETS AND AUTHORIZE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN

A motion was made by Commissioner Scarborough, seconded by Commissioner London to approve and authorize Chairman to sign adjustment sheets. **Motion carried unanimously.**

5. BOARD TO CONSIDER MOTION 'CURRENT AND FUTURE MINIMUM OPERATIONAL COSTS' TO BE PAID FROM CONTINGENCIES UNTIL END OF FISCAL YEAR FOR BIG SMITH FIRE DEPARTMENT WITH A MAXIMUM CAP OF \$725.00. IF CAP IS EXCEEDED, THE DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE TO MAKE ADDITIONAL REQUEST TO BOARD AT FUTURE MEETING

A motion was made by Commissioner London, seconded by Commissioner Andrews to approve cost for Big Smith to be paid from contingencies in the amount of \$725.00. as a maximum cap. **Motion carried unanimously.**

6. BOARD TO CONSIDER MOTION TO AWARD STEPHENS COUNTY RECREATION DEPARTMENT WALKING TRAIL PAVING CONTRACT TO REEVES CONSTRUCTION COMPANY AND AUTHORIZE ADMINISTRATOR TO SIGN CONTRACT AND TO ADOPT RESOLUTION AWARDING CONTRACT AND AUTHORIZE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE RESOLUTION

A motion was made by Commissioner London, seconded by Commissioner Scarborough to award contract to Reeves Construction Company and authorize administrator to sign contract and adopt resolution awarding contract and authorize Chairman to sign resolution. **Motion carried unanimously.**

V. INVOICES OVER \$5000

1. ACREE OIL - \$13,065.27
2. ACREE OIL - \$14,004.82

A motion was made by Commissioner London, seconded by Commissioner Andrews to approve and pay invoices contingent upon the SAVE and E-Verify Affidavits be supplied by C&A Service. **Motion carried unanimously.**

VI. MATTERS FROM DEPARTMENTS

1. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT –
2. FINANCE REPORT –
3. DEPARTMENT REPORT –

Tom Bennett – Marshal

Tom stated he had ten dispossessionary; four citations written from taxes; one for abandon housing on 17 at the county line, he charged him and put him back in court; one illegal burn and trash dumping at same location where a child had been previously burned, he charged

them and put them back in court. Tom stated he had given a 30 day notice for a building on Mize Road and Old Mize Road and June 15th is the deadline; four mobile home tax issues going to court.

Commissioner London reported for Citizens Advisory Panel their meeting had been postponed until June 30th, and there would be a gentleman there to speak about recyclables and how it is accomplished in Rabun County. The meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce Office.

VII. MATTERS FROM CITIZENS – TIME LIMIT OF THREE (3) MINUTE

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Commissioner Scarborough, seconded by Commissioner London to close the meeting 8:58 a.m. and enter into executive session for potential and threatened litigation.

A motion was made by Commissioner London, seconded by Commissioner Scarborough to adjourn the executive session meeting at 9:35 a.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner London, seconded by Commissioner Scarborough to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:35 a.m.

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2011

J.B. Hudgins, Chairman

Attest:

Beth Rider, County Clerk