

January 8, 2008

The Walton County Board of Commissioners held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 8, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Walton County Government Building, 303 South Hammond Drive, Suite 330, Monroe, Ga. Those present included Chairman Kevin Little, Commissioners Clinton Ayers, Michael Turner, Vickie Gasaway, Lamar Palmer, Gerald Atha and Kirklyn Dixon, County Clerk Leta Talbird, County Attorney Kirby Atkinson, Personnel Director Karen Fraser and Planning Director Mike Martin. A list of citizens and other employees in attendance at this meeting is on file in the auxiliary file under this meeting date.

Chairman Little called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Ayers opened the meeting in prayer.

Commissioner Turner made a motion to appoint Kirklyn Dixon as District 6 Commissioner to fill the un-expired term of John Robinson. Commissioner Ayers seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Probate Judge Greg Adams administered the oath of office Kirklyn Dixon. Commissioner Dixon then joined the meeting.

Commissioner Palmer made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Atha seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Turner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gasaway, to accept the minutes of the December 4, 2007 and December 28, 2007 meetings. All voted in favor.

Finance Director Linda Hanna presented contracts and budgeted purchases of \$2,500.00 or greater for the Board's consideration. Commissioner Gasaway made a motion to approve contracts and purchases as presented. Commissioner Turner seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Ms. Hanna presented an amendment to the FY 2008 budget in the amount of \$5,320,886.00 for prior and current year allocations for the 2001 Special Local Option Sales Tax. Commissioner Gasaway made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ayers, to approve the budget amendment as presented. All voted in favor.

Ms. Hanna presented an amendment to the FY 2008 budget in the amount of \$17,045.00 for the Walton County Jail for a property room expander and packaging equipment for inmate clothes and shoes, with the equipment to be

paid from inmate phone account funds and supplies to be paid from fund balance. Commissioner Ayers made a motion to approve the budget amendment as presented. Commissioner Turner seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Assistant EMS Director Ronnie Almand presented a request to amend the FY 2008 budget in the amount of \$70,000.00 for Walton County EMS for the purchases of a replacement ambulance, with the expense being paid from fund balance. Commissioner Ayers made a motion to defer a decision on the matter until the FY 2009 budget process. Commissioner Turner seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Keep Walton Beautiful Executive Director Elaine Oakes requested an FY 2008 budget amendment in the amount of \$2,000.00 to cover expenses for temporary employees. Commissioner Ayers made a motion to approve the amendment contingent upon the Department's FY 2008 budget being reviewed to determine if money is available to be transferred from full-time to temporary employment and if so, to use it. Commissioner Dixon seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

The Board considered bids received for the Bold Springs Road and Carl Davis Road intersection improvement project. Jimmy Parker presented a Precision Planning, Inc. recommendation to accept the low bid from Gary's Grading & Pipeline Company, Inc. in the amount of \$288,423.30. Commissioner Atha made a motion to accept the low bid from Gary's Grading & Pipeline Company, Inc. Commissioner Gasaway seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Personnel Director Karen Fraser presented employee new hires, transfers and promotions for the Board's consideration. Commissioner Gasaway made a motion to approve new hires, promotions and transfers as presented, for the record. Commissioner Turner seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Walton County Water & Sewerage Authority General Manager presented actions taken by the Authority at a called meeting held on January 3, 2008. Mr. Geiger and Jimmy Parker of Precision Planning reviewed bids received for water main extensions at Pointer Road and Claude Brewer Road. Commissioner Turner made a motion to ratify actions taken by the Authority at its January 3, 2008 meeting. Commissioner Atha seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Palmer made a motion to adopt a resolution setting the date, time and place of monthly commission meetings for 2008 on the first Tuesday each month at 6:00 p.m., with the exception of July 2008, which

will be held on July 8, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Atha seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Ayers made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to adopt a resolution reaffirming the \$1.50 “911” charge on telephone subscribers. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Turner made a motion to adopt a resolution giving the Chairman the authority to amend the fiscal year 2007 budgets as part of the fiscal year closing process. Commissioner Dixon seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Gasaway made a motion to appoint Leta Talbird as County Clerk for 2008. Commissioner Ayers seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Atha made a motion to appoint Rhonda Hawk as Assistant County Clerk for 2008. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Atha made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gasaway, to appoint Kirby Atkinson as County Attorney for 2008. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Atha made a motion to appoint William R. (Bill) Childers as Associate County Attorney for 2008. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Ayers made a motion to appoint Commissioner Gerald Atha as Vice Chairman for 2008. Commissioner Gasaway seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Gasaway made a motion to approve 2008 Election Qualifying Fees as presented by the Board of Elections. Commissioner Ayers seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

The Board considered an application for an Alcoholic Beverage License for Rahim Rafiq – RNB Enterprise, Inc. – B.P. Food Mart – 5000 Ozora Church Road. Commissioner Turner made a motion to approve the license. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion. Commissioners Ayers, Turner, Palmer, Atha and Dixon voted in favor of the motion with Commissioner Gasaway abstaining. The motion carried.

The Board considered an application for an Alcoholic Beverage License for James Lee Argo – The Clubhouse at Providence – 656 Providence Club Drive. Commissioner Atha made a motion, seconded by Commissioner

Turner, to approve the license. Commissioners Ayers, Turner, Palmer, Atha and Dixon voted in favor of the motion with Commissioner Gasaway abstaining. The motion carried.

EMA Director Donnie McCullough presented a Memorandum of Agreement with Clarke County Health Department – Emergency Preparedness Program for personal protective equipment. Commissioner Turner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Atha, to approve the agreement. All voted in favor.

The Board considered Software Support Agreements with Governmental Systems, Inc. the County's Tax Appraisal/Tax Accounting System and for web support. Commissioner Palmer made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Atha, to approve both agreements. All voted in favor.

Finance Director Linda Hanna presented an Automated Clearing House (ACH) Agreement with Athens First Bank and Trust. County Attorney Kirby Atkinson stated that certain changes would need to be made to contract language prior to execution by the County. Commissioner Gasaway made a motion to approve the agreement with the changes noted by the County Attorney. Commissioner Dixon seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The Board considered a Service Delivery Strategy Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Good Hope for paving of Old Ash Street and Malcom Street. Commissioner Palmer made a motion to approve the agreement. Commissioner Atha seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

The Board considered a Tax Commissioner's Office recommendation to approve a refund in the amount of \$32.37 for Moon's Tree Farm for 2007 Ad Valorem taxes paid in error. Commissioner Palmer made a motion to approve the refund as recommended. Commissioner Turner seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Ayers made a motion to table an announcement regarding Morgan Wheeler being appointed as Vice Chairman of the State Codes Advisory Committee until the February meeting in order for Mr. Wheeler to be present at the meeting. Commissioner Gasaway seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Palmer spoke during the public comment segment of the meeting, thanking everyone who assisted in getting Willie Watkins Road opened.

At 7:01 p.m. Commissioner Turner made a motion, seconded by

Commissioner Ayers, to enter into executive session to discuss personnel issues. Commissioners Ayers, Turner, Gasaway, Palmer, Atha and Dixon voted in favor.

At 7:55 p.m. Commissioner Gasaway made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to return to regular session. Commissioners Ayers, Turner, Gasaway, Palmer, Atha and Dixon voted in favor. Chairman Little stated that no decisions were made and no votes were taken while in executive session.

Commissioner Atha made a motion to abolish the Executive Assistant/Secretary position in the Commissioners Office. Commissioner Ayers seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Ayers made a motion to implement a hiring freeze for the remainder of this budget year with the exception of public safety, which will be the Sheriff's Department, Animal Control, Fire Department and EMS and with the exception of positions already approved whose applicants have interviewed and who have been told they would be hired. He further moved that until the Board can find out what next year's budget will be, that the County should work more efficiently to make the system work with the people we already have. Commissioner Gasaway seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Atha made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ayers, that the abolishment of the Executive Assistant/Secretary position is effective as of today's date, January 8, 2008. All voted in favor.

Financial Consultant Chris Edwards gave an update on the FY 2007 audit process.

At 8:08 p.m., Commissioner Ayers made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Atha, to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor.

All documents of record are on file in either the addendum book or auxiliary file under this meeting date.

KEVIN W. LITTLE, CHAIRMAN

LETA P. TALBIRD, CLERK

CLINTON AYERS, DISTRICT 1

MICHAEL TURNER, DISTRICT 2

VICKIE M. GASAWAY, DIST. 3

LAMAR PALMER, DISTRICT 4

GERALD ATHA, DISTRICT 5

KIRKLYN DIXON, DISTRICT 6