

**MINUTES**

**Troup County Board of Commissioners**

**February 3, 2009**

**Troup County Government Center Building**

Troup County Board of Commissioners Chairman Richard Wolfe called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Board Members Present:**

Richard Wolfe, Chairman  
Richard English, Vice-Chairman  
Ken Smith, Commissioner  
Morris Jones, Commissioner

**News Media Present:**

Joel Martin, LaGrange Daily News  
Judy Murphy, Troup County News  
Trey Wood, Valley News  
David Woody, TV 33

**Staff Present:**

Mike Dobbs, County Manager  
Stewart Mills, Finance Officer / County Clerk  
Tod Tentler, Assistant County Manager/ Parks & Recreation Director  
Jerry Willis, County Attorney  
Andy Harper, Building & Zoning Technician  
James Emery, County Engineer  
Cheryl May, Accounting Clerk  
Scott Turk, Zoning Administrator  
Diana Evans, Purchasing Director  
Lavelle Barnes, Human Resources Director  
Dana Eaton, Chief Tax Assessor  
Nancy Seegar, County Planner  
Jackie Taylor, Clerk of Court  
Valerie West, Executive Assistant to Board of Commissioners  
James McLaughlin, Building & Inspection

**Others Present:**

Jerry Fulks, West Georgia Health System  
Paul Perrotti, West Georgia Health System  
Tommy Britt, West Georgia Health System  
Connie Stothard, Surveyor  
Bill & Ellen Gilmore, Concerned Citizens  
Gloria Livingston, Concerned Citizen  
Joan Benz, Concerned Citizen  
Wayne Bartley, Board of Assessors  
Tim Duffey, Concerned Citizen

**OPENING:**

Chairman Richard Wolfe welcomed all in attendance.

**Invocation - Reverend J.R. Ware - Welcome Baptist Church:**

Reverend J.R. Ware of Welcome Baptist Church was recognized by Chairman Wolfe and asked to pronounce the invocation.

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

Chairman Wolfe led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA / MINUTES:**

**Approval of Agenda:**

Commissioner English made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Jones seconded. Unanimous.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve minutes of the January 14, 2009 "called" meeting of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Smith seconded. Unanimous.

**PEOPLE TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:**

- None.

**SPECIAL BUSINESS:**

**West Georgia Health System Update:**

Mr. Jerry Fulks, President/CEO of the West Georgia Health System (WGHS), presented an overview of the hospital and its current expansion program. Mr. Paul Perrotti, Vice President/CFO, presented a financial analysis of the hospital expansion program. He indicated that \$16M of the \$46M bond issue, equivalent to 200 days of construction cash, remains. This money is invested in "laddered CD's" with various maturity dates based on cash requirements. In addition, WGHS has secured a \$20M line of credit through CB&T to finance the balance of funds needed to complete the expansion program. Mr. Tommy Britt, Director of Human Resources, discussed current employee activities. WGHS has 1,346 full time employees and 1,217 part time employees. Commissioner English questioned whether employees feel they are a part of West Georgia Health System. Mr. Britt responded "yes", all employees work on teams, which he feels has had a positive effect on morale. Commissioner Jones questioned concerns of the effects of the economy on WGHS. Mr. Fulks responded he has concerns with the economy, but stated WGHS is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and its mission to program medical programs to the surrounding area will continue. Mr.

Fulks stated every 90 days there is 2 days of employee meetings and trainings to ensure that quality of service and morale are maintained.

**Consideration of Aerial Photography / Topographic Survey Bid:**

County Manager Mike announced the low bid of \$226,000 for aerial photography / topographical survey was submitted by Pinnacle Mapping Technologies of Indianapolis, Indiana. The last time aerial photography was taken in Troup County was in 1992 and the need for this work is long overdue. The aerial photos / topographical survey will greatly assist the property appraisal work of the tax assessor's office as well as E-911's computer-aided dispatching. Mr. Dobbs commented only \$98,000 would be spent in this year's budget and the balance after July 1<sup>st</sup>. The cities of LaGrange, West Point, and Hogansville will be asked to contribute a portion of the cost. Commissioner Jones made a motion to award the contract to Pinnacle Mapping Technologies. Commissioner English seconded. Unanimous.

**Consideration of Employee Hiring Freeze:**

County Manager Mike Dobbs requested continuation of the employee hiring freeze on all departments except for the departments with high turnover rates such as Correctional Institute, Sheriff's Department, Jail & E-911. Mr. Dobbs indicated there are currently 25 full-time and 4 part-time positions available. Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the employee hiring freeze. Commissioner Smith seconded. Unanimous.

**Board Appointments:**

County Manager Mike Dobbs indicated this agenda item would be deferred until after Executive Session.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

Commissioner English made a motion to go into public hearings. Commissioner Smith seconded. Unanimous. Chairman Wolfe announced that during the public hearings, comments from those in attendance were welcomed.

**REZONING:**

- None.

**Subdivisions:**

- None.

**OTHER:**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading-No Vote Necessary

**Consideration of Text Amendments to Zoning Ordinance:**

County Manager Mike Dobbs discussed the Text Amendments to Zoning Ordinance. This will allow 12 billboards along at I-85 exit 6 near the Kia facility. Chairman Ricky Wolfe questioned the county attorney whether the commissioners could restrict these additional billboards along I-85. County Attorney Jerry Willis commented the county would have the opportunity to regulate size, the height and what is posted on the signage. Since this was information purposes only, no vote was required at this time.

Hasmikhbhai Patel Beer & Wine License  
1990 Lukken Industrial Drive #4  
LaGrange, GA 30240

County Manager Mike Dobbs presented the application of Mr. Hasmikhbhai Patel to sell beer & wine malt beverages at 1990 Lukken Industrial Dive #4, LaGrange. His application has been reviewed and signed by Sheriff Donny Turner certifying a GCIC background check has been completed and no criminal activity in the last five years has been found.

Commissioner English made a motion to approve Mr. Patel's application to sell beer & wine beverages. Commissioner Smith seconded. Unanimous.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- None.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:**

- None.

**EXIT PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

Commissioner Davis made a motion to exit public hearings and go back into regular meeting. Commissioner English seconded. Unanimous.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS A PERSONNEL ISSUE:**

Commissioner Jones made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue. Commissioner Smith seconded. Unanimous.

**MEETING REOPENED:**

Following the Executive Session, Commissioner Smith made a motion to reconvene in regular public meeting. Commissioner Jones seconded. Unanimous. County Attorney Jerry Willis announced that during Executive Session the commissioners discussed personnel matters, specifically appointments/reappointments to various boards and committees. Executive Assistant Valerie West read the proposed slate of candidates.

Appeals Board/ Subdivision & Road Specifications:

Incumbents Mr. Frank Rogers and Mr. Jesse Jones' current terms expire 12/31/08 and wish to be reappointed. The consensus of the commissioners was to reappoint Mr. Rogers and Mr. Jones to two-year terms expiring 12/31/2010.

Building Board of Adjustments & Appeals:

Incumbent Ms. Natalie Hales' two-year term expired 12/31/08. The consensus of the commissioners was to reappoint Ms. Hale to a two-year term expiring 12/31/2010. Incumbent Mark Whitley's term expired 12/31/08. The consensus of the commissioners was to appoint Mr. Fletcher Johnson to a two-year term expiring 12/31/2010.

Council of Aging:

Incumbent Ms. Pat Mayes term expired 12/31/08. The consensus of the commissioners was to reappoint Ms. Mayes to a three-year term expiring 12/31/2011.

Troup County Library Board:

Incumbent Ms. Ann Sabat's term expired 12/31/08. The consensus of the commissioners was to reappoint Ms. Sabat to a three-year term expiring 12/31/2011.

Troup County Development Authority:

Incumbent Mr. Charles Smith's term expired 12/31/08 and he wishes to be reappointed. The consensus of the commissioners was to reappoint Mr. Smith to a five-year term expiring 12/31/2013.

Troup County Parks & Recreation Commission:

Incumbent Mr. Frank McRae's term expired 12/31/08 and he wishes to be reappointed. The consensus of the commissioners was to reappoint Mr. McRae to a three-year term expiring 12/31/2011.

Troup County Water Review Board:

The terms of incumbents Mr. Charles Darda and Mr. J.C. Cameron expired 12/31/08. The consensus of the commissioners was to reappoint Mr. Darda and Mr. Cameron to two-year terms expiring 12/31/2010.

Mr. Keith Hester was nominated to fill the place of incumbent Mr. Mickey Grizzard, whose term expired 12/31/08. The consensus of the commissioners was to appoint Mr. Hester to a two-year term expiring 12/31/2010.

Troup County Board of Zoning Appeals & Planning Commission (BOZAPC):

The two-year appointments of Ms. Vanessa Griggs, Mr. Ellis Spence, Mr. Marion Carson and Mr. Steve Daniel expired 12/31/08. The consensus of the commissioners was to reappoint Ms. Griggs, Mr. Spence, Mr. Carson and Mr. Daniel to two-year terms expiring 12/31/2010.

Recreation Endowment Fund Board of Trustees:

Incumbent Ms. Susan Black's current term expired 12/31/08 and she wishes to be reappointed. The consensus of the commissioners was to reappoint Ms. Black to a three-year term expiring 12/31/2011.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve the entire slate of candidates outlined above. Commissioner Smith seconded. Unanimous.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner English made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Jones seconded. Unanimous.

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Richard Wolfe, Chairman

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Stewart P. Mills, Clerk