

**MINUTES**

**Troup County Board of Commissioners**

**July 07, 2009**

**Troup County Government Center**

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  
Morris Jones, Commissioner  
Ken Smith, Commissioner  
Buck Davis, Commissioner

**News Media Present:**

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

**Staff Present:**

Mike Dobbs, County Manager  
Stewart Mills, Finance Officer / County Clerk  
Mark DeGennaro, County Attorney  
Tod Tentler, Parks & Rec Director, Assistant County Manager  
Cheryl May, Accounting Clerk  
James Emery, County Engineer  
Nancy Seegar, County Planner  
Andy Harper, Building & Zoning Technician  
Scott Turk, Impact Fees Administrator  
Lonza Edmondson, Chief Marshal  
Dana Eaton, Chief Appraiser

**Others Present:**

Gloria Livingston, Concerned Citizen  
Wayne Bartley, Member, Board of Assessors  
Hope Macaluso, Executive Director, Troup County Airport Authority  
Randy West, Animal Control Board Member  
Betty Bruce, Animal Control Board Member  
Alfred Elder, Concerned Citizen  
Mel Jastram, Concerned Citizen  
Bill & Ellen Gilmore, Concerned Citizens  
Nancy Green, Concerned Citizen

**OPENING:**

All in attendance were welcomed by Chairman Richard Wolfe.

**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:**

Commissioner Davis led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA / MINUTES:**

**Approval of Agenda:**

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

Commissioner English seconded. Unanimous.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Commissioner English made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2009 regular meeting. Commissioner Smith seconded. Unanimous.

**PEOPLE TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:**

- None.

**SPECIAL BUSINESS:**

**Recognition of Drew Ferguson, III:**

Chairman Wolfe presented a proclamation to Drew Ferguson, III for his outstanding contributions and service to the citizens of West Point and Troup County. Mr. Ferguson played an integral role in locating KIA Motors in West Point through his negotiations with 30 property owners, procuring 36 properties totaling 2,200 acres of land. This will lead to the employment of over 2,500 workers at the plant and 2,650 jobs with KIA suppliers. The Troup County Board of Commissioners proclaimed July 7, 2009 as Drew Ferguson, III Day in Troup County in recognition of his outstanding contributions and service.

**Recognition of Animal Control Board Members:**

Chairman Wolfe recognized Ms. Betty Bruce and Mr. Randy West for their many years of outstanding service as members of the Animal Control Board.

**Troup County Airport Aerial Obstruction Survey:**

Ms. Hope Macaluso, Executive Director of the Troup County Airport Authority, announced that over 200 trees will have to be cut because they're infringing on the airport airspace. These trees violate height restrictions and create a hazard to aircraft. Most of the trees are on commercial and industrial properties, but some are in residential area surrounding the airport. Ms. Macaluso stated a \$3 million federal grant is being sought to pay for navigation easements from 24 property

owners, along with surveys, appraisals, and legal fees. The actual removal of the trees will be included in another federal grant of more than \$3 million for the 900-foot extension of the main runway to 6,500 feet in length. This funding is expected to be part of FAA's fiscal year 2010 budget. Chairman Wolfe inquired whether the federal government would plant trees in another area to make up for the ones that have to be removed. Ms. Macaluso responded she wasn't aware of such a program but would look into it.

**Citizen Appointment to Pension Study Committee:**

County Manager Mike Dobbs announced that a pension study committee is being formed to review the employee pension program. Members include Mr. Dobbs, Assistant County Manager Tod Tentler, Finance Officer Stewart Mills, the County Attorney's Office and Commissioner Richard English. Mr. Dobbs requested a citizen be appointed to the committee and recommended Mr. Kyle Crawford who works for Smith-Barney.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to appoint Mr. Crawford to the pension study committee. Commissioner Smith seconded. Unanimous.

**Lifting Hiring Freeze for Two Positions at the Road Department:**

County Manager Mike Dobbs requested the hiring freeze be lifted to fill two recently-vacated positions at the Road Department: assistant civil engineer position and truck driver position. Mr. Dobbs stated the vacancies resulted when one employee was terminated and another employee resigned. Mr. Dobbs indicated that these positions were important to fill to support SPLOST-funded infrastructure programs. He commented that he and County Engineer James Emery would work closely to screen the applicants and select the most qualified individuals to fill the open positions. Commissioner Smith made a motion to lift the hiring freeze so the two positions in the Road Department can be filled. Commissioner English seconded. Unanimous.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

Commissioner Jones 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.

(Board of Commissioners Vote Necessary)

**Consideration of Adoption of Millage Rate for FY 2009/2010 Budget Year:**

County Manager Mike Dobbs announced there is no change in the millage rate for the FY 2009/2010 county budget and recommended the commissioners adopt to continue the current millage rate of 10.56 mills. Chairman Wolfe asked if anyone that would like to speak for or against the adoption of millage rate. No one responded. Chairman Wolfe stated he would like a stuffer be mailed to property owners explaining the increase in tax bills due to the state not continuing to fund the homeowners' tax relief grant. Commissioner English made a motion to adopt the millage rate of 10.56 mills for the FY 2009/2010 budget year. Commissioner Jones seconded. Unanimous.

**Troup County Comprehensive Plan Update:**

County Manager Mike Dobbs announced the county is required to adopt a full update to its comprehensive plan by October 31, 2010. This requirement is to comply with the Georgia Planning Act of 1989 that requires all political jurisdictions in the State of Georgia to have an approved and adopted comprehensive plan. County Planner Nancy Seegar handed out a time line of events and indicated this meeting was a public hearing to kick off the planning process. Chairman Wolfe opened the floor to anyone who would like to comment on the comprehensive plan update. No one responded.

**Animal Control Ordinance Amendments:**

County Manager Mike Dobbs announced the Animal Control Board has recommended various text amendments to the Animal Control Ordinance. The board recommended increasing the cost for redeeming an animal for the first time to \$75; \$150 for the second time; and \$225 for the third. Chairman Wolfe asked if anyone would like to speak for or against the animal control amendments. Mr. Mel Jastram commented that the city needs more effective data tracking of the animals for repeat

violations of the ordinance. He felt the ordinance was ineffective if repeat violators were not being effectively tracked. Mr. Bill Gilmore, Animal Control Board member, stated the board needs to address its lines of communication with the city animal shelter. Mr. Dobbs responded that he would contact the city on this issue and recommended the text amendments be adopted including the redemption fee increases. Commissioner Jones made a motion to adopt the text amendments but to exclude the redemption fee increases. Commissioner Smith seconded.

Unanimous.

**Rezoning:**

- None.

**Subdivisions:**

- None.

**Other:**

- None.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- None.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:**

- None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

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Richard Wolfe, Chairman

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