

The DeKalb County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, January 25, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. in the DeKalb County Activities Building (Courthouse Annex). Those present were Ricky Harcrow, President, Ed Nix, Chris Kuykendall and Dewitt Jackson. Those absent were none.

The meeting was called to order by President Harcrow, with Charles Bass delivering the invocation and Commissioner Nix leading the Pledge.

It was moved by Mr. Nix, seconded by Mr. Jackson, all members voting affirmatively, motion carrying to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to accept them as presented in written format.

Road Superintendent Tom Broyles addressed the Commission as follows:

- a) Patching: Most employees in the Road Department are patching potholes right now. It's an overwhelming job. Some roads are in terrible shape. Most of the dirt roads are muddy because the snow has saturated them. Crews are limited in what they can actually do. Right now a lot of work on those roads could make them even worse than they are. The only way to help those dirt roads is to hopefully get a surface on them in the coming years.

- b) Roads: The last two years, pavement on new roads has been lost because of road base freezing. It's a problem that has to be addressed. Mr. Broyles is meeting with a vendor tomorrow who says he might have a solution to the problem. It will cause the County to have to purchase a Reclaimer which is a very expensive piece of equipment. In the past years, we've had warm dry winters; however, the last two winters have really hurt the base of the County's newly paved roads.

Mr. Kuykendall said he appreciated Mr. Broyles and the Road Department for what they've done to keep roads opened. Mr. Broyles said he receives some criticism for working on State Highways first; however, that has always been the policy and it makes no sense opening up secondary roads if the main highways are impassable. The State does reimburse the County for these expenses.

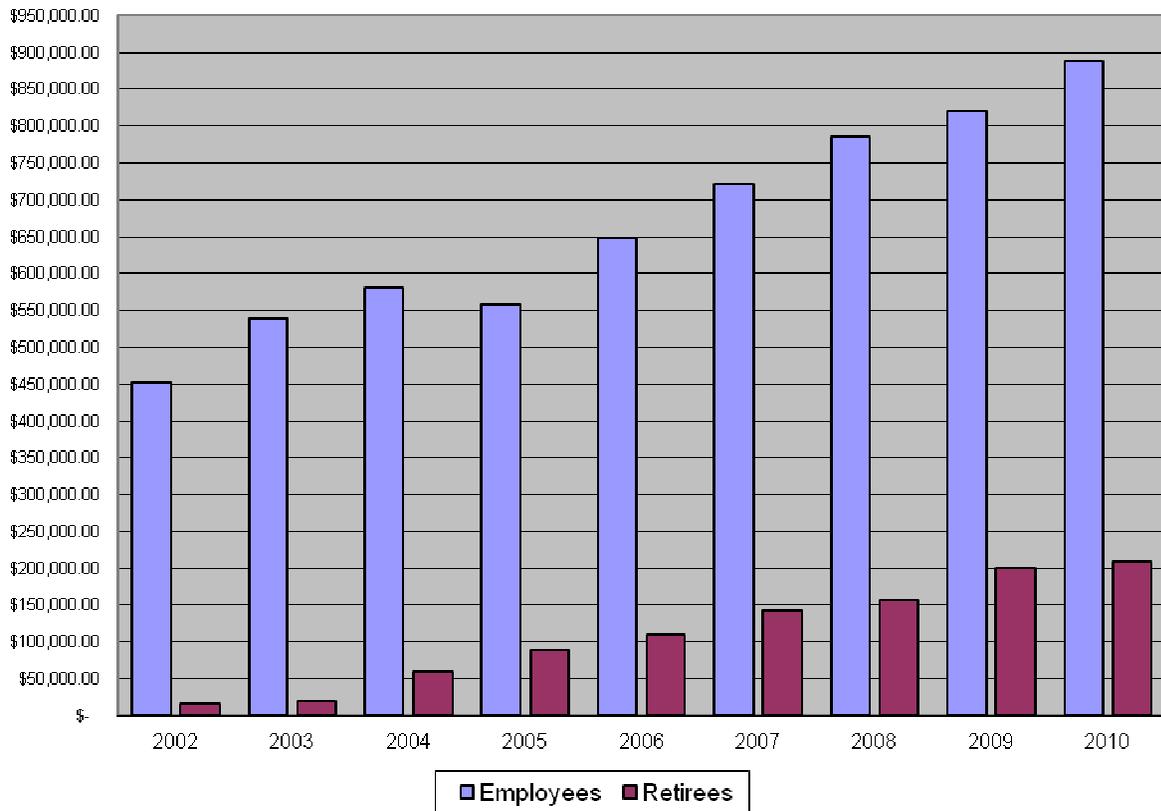
Wade Hill addressed the Commission regarding the Jail Administrator position. Tony Durham has been the Jail Administrator for the past 3 years and has worked for the Sheriff's Office his whole adult life. He will be retiring under worker's comp disability as of February 1, 2011. His back surgery has caused him considerable problems and he is not physically able to continue working at this time. Mitchell Dendy was the Jail Administrator prior to Tony and is back doing this job over the past few months in Tony's absence and he is being recommended to be placed back in that position effective February 1 at the same pay grade and step as Tony Durham (G9/12).

It was moved by Mr. Nix, seconded by Mr. Kuykendall, all members voting affirmatively, motion carrying to authorize Mitchell Dendy as the Jail Administrator effective February 1, 2011.

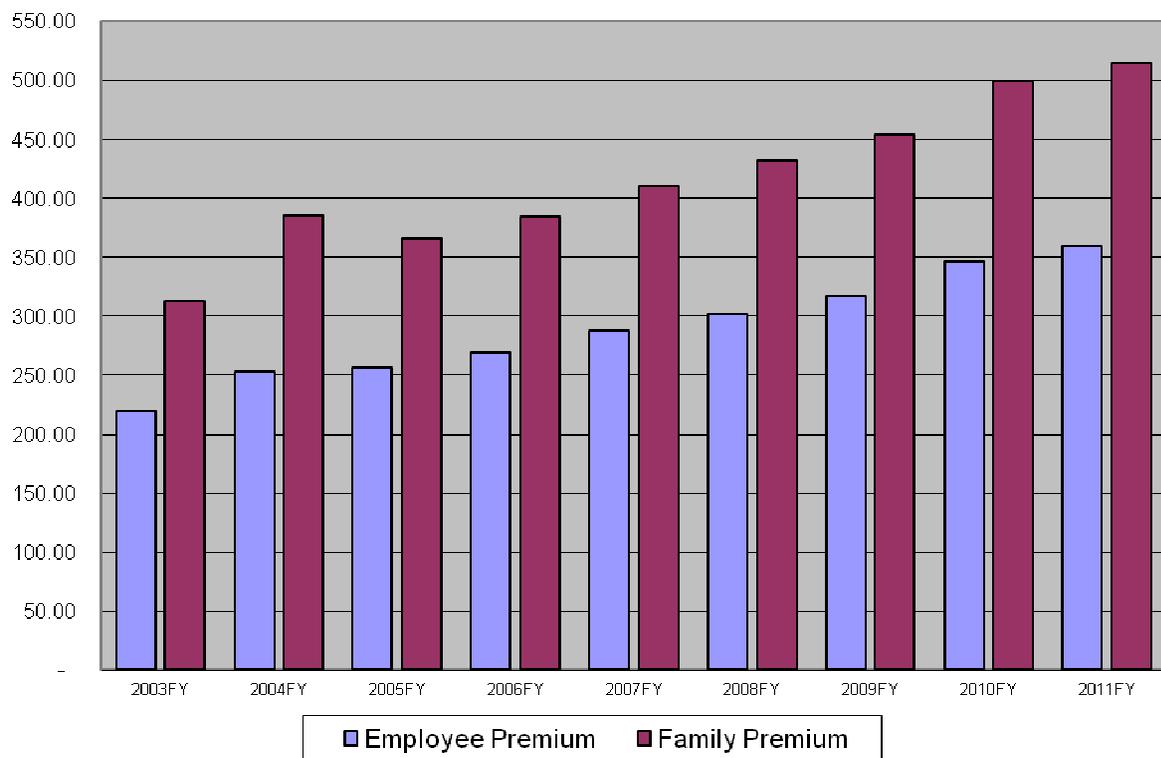
Mr. Sharp addressed the Commission regarding the LGHIP Health Insurance Wellness Program. He stated that health costs are very high everywhere and that has caused health insurance to become very expensive. Currently the County pays \$360/month for employees' health insurance under the **preferred status**. Employee's pay \$515/month for dependent (family) coverage under the **preferred status**. The **standard rates** are \$394/month for employees and \$601 for dependent coverage.

Mr. Sharp presented the following charts outlying the increases in the total costs the County pays for health insurance for employees and retirees along with premium rate increases.

Health/Dental Insurance

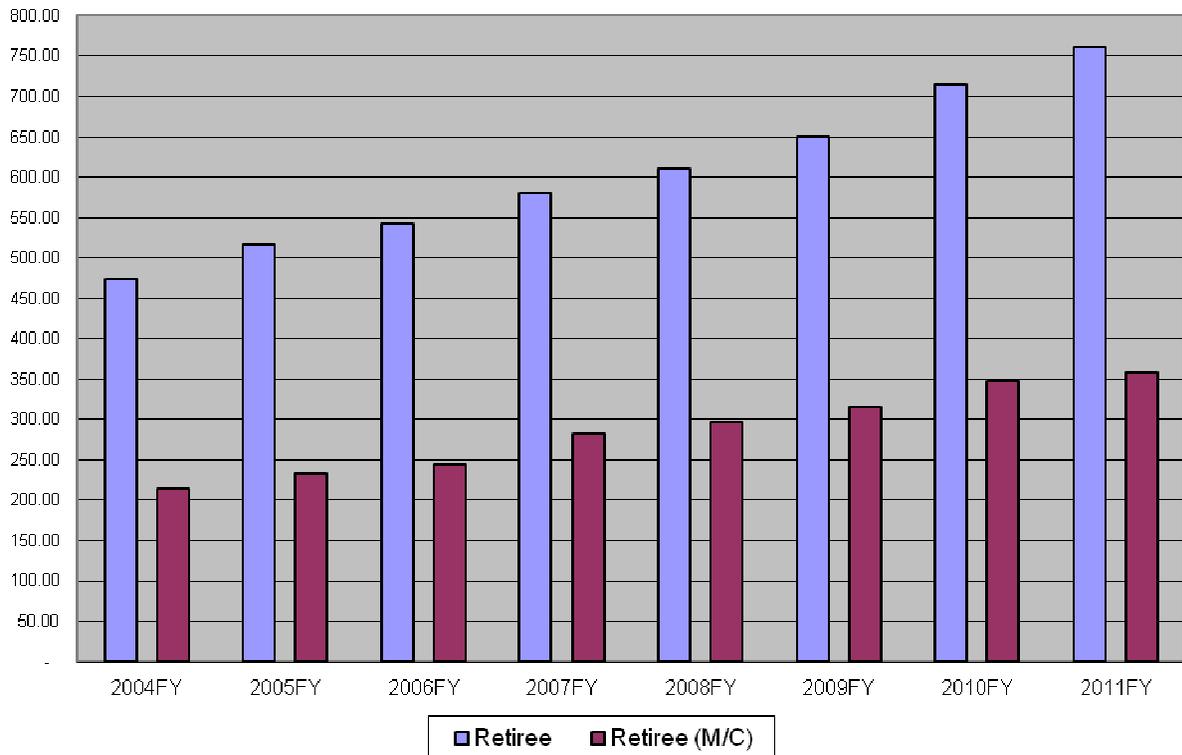


Monthly Health Insurance Premiums



Mr. Sharp also notified the Commission that the County also pays for retiree health insurance premiums up to age 65. That rate is \$750/month and costs about \$209,000 this year (see chart below). This cost along with the cost of employee premiums brings the total health insurance costs to over \$1 million. For this reason, the State has developed a Wellness Screening and is requiring a minimum 30% participation to maintain preferred status. If 30% or more of the County's employees do not participate, then the costs could increase for the County by at least \$84,000. Mr. Sharp strongly encouraged each department to participate in this wellness program March 10th.

Retiree Health Insurance Premium



Building Maintenance Supervisor Craig Shelton addressed the Commission regarding a HVAC Maintenance Agreement for the boiler/chiller at the Courthouse. The annual rate would be \$14,500/year with Southeast Temperature Controls.

It was moved by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Kuykendall, all members voting affirmatively, motion carrying to authorize a contract with Southeast Temperature Controls for maintenance of the boiler/chiller system at the Courthouse.

Mr. Kuykendall announced that back in November he said he would give an advance notice to the public if he attended a meeting. He said he did attend a meeting without notice due to the requirements set out by the new State Legislature for Commissioners to attend an Ethics course within 120 days of their election. The only course was this past Thursday and Friday in Prattville. It was a good course and he said he learned a lot. The Commission paid the tuition and he bore the other lodging/food costs. He notified the public that he would also be attending a meeting March 23-24 and another in April to obtain his required 50 hours of training set out by State law for new Commissioners.

Mr. Nix stated that he noticed the bills and expenses and suggested it might be cheaper to for the Commission to furnish Judge Osborn with a car rather than pay mileage. Mr. Harcrow said Judge Osborn wanted to amend the agenda, but not for a vehicle. He wants to discuss another problem we have with hospital bills.

It was moved by Mr. Nix, seconded by Mr. Kuykendall, all members voting affirmatively, motion carrying to amend the agenda for Judge Osborn.

Judge Osborn first notified the Commission that the costs to hold the February 8th Special Primary Election for District 1 would cost approximately \$40,000. And with this most likely resulting in three (3) elections, the costs could be as much as \$120,000.

Judge Osborn stated that about six (6) months ago, he met with County Attorney Charles Mauney concerning problems he has had with hospitals. He does 6-10 mental commitments each week and about 90% of those do not have any insurance. The other 10% are probably Medicaid and getting a hospital bed is difficult without insurance. We have to send them Decatur General Hospital and they only have 90 beds and keep 120 most of the time. In emergency situations, they can be sent to the Decatur General Hospital. To get them the best care, Judge Osborn likes to send them to a private hospital. Mountain View is one of those and the Commission appropriates \$10,000/year to help out, but that only pays for about four (4) patients per year. Mountain View is \$360/day and most people stay 10 days (or about \$3,600/year). Sometimes when a Hold Order is given, our hospital finds a bed in another hospital and many of these have been transferred to the Decatur General Hospital and they have sent bills totaling as much as \$60,000 that they say the County owes.

Judge Osborn asked if the County Attorney (who was not present for the meeting today) could give an opinion. These are not actual commitments, but hold orders. If the County is going to be responsible it will change the way he treats people drastically. Judge Osborn said he has never transferred anyone to this hospital, but the local hospital transfers and the County may be responsible for the bill.

It was moved by Mr. Jackson, without objection, so ordered to Adjourn.

Ricky Harcrow, President

Ed Nix, Commissioner District II

Chris Kuykendall, Commissioner District III

Dewitt Jackson, Commissioner District IV