

The DeKalb County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in the DeKalb County Activities Building (Courthouse Annex). Those present were Ricky Harcrow, President, Jerome Tinker, Ed Nix, Chris Kuykendall and Dewitt Jackson. Those absent were none.

The meeting was called to order by President Harcrow with Tom Broyles delivering the invocation and Jimmy Wright leading the Pledge.

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

Mr. Harcrow addressed the Commission concerning the People Against a Littered State (PALS) Program. Their new program is called "Don't Drop it on Alabama". They are designating April 21-27 as week to clean up Alabama. DeKalb County will use the whole month of April. The County's garbage contractor will be putting dumpsters throughout the County during this time.

Revenue Commissioner Martha Ogle addressed the Commission and requested that Virginia Brendle be moved to the open position as a Real Property Appraiser (no change in paygrade) and that her position (as Title Supervisor) be posted to be filled from within.

It was moved by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Tinker, all members voting affirmatively, motion carrying to authorize the transfer of Virginia Brendle to Real Property Appraiser and to post the position of Title Supervisor.

Ms. Ogle also requested permission to attend the Tax Administrator's Mid-Winter Conference in February in Montgomery and the AAAO Mid-Winter Conference in March in Birmingham.

It was moved by Mr. Kuykendall, seconded by Mr. Jackson, all members voting affirmatively, motion carrying to authorize Martha Ogle, Revenue Commissioner to attend the above conferences.

Tom Broyles addressed the Commission concerning maintenance of County roads as follows:

- a) Patching: Crews have been limited in what they can do due to the rainy weather; however, crews are patching potholes, cutting bushes and other general maintenance.
- b) Pipe Projects: One road SW of Fyffe had to be closed due to flash floods yesterday cutting the road in-half. The road had to be barricaded. The pipe will be replaced as soon as possible.
- c) Mack Trucks: A crew is working on the Mack Trucks, getting them read for the auction. Woods Auction is in mid-March. Nexttran is behind on delivering the new Mack Trucks. 3 or 4 should be delivered today and most of the others by the end of the week, with the road tractors being delivered by the middle of next week.
- d) Personnel: Toby Brothers in the District II Crew is resigning effective February 2 and his position needs to be posted.

It was moved by Mr. Nix, seconded by Mr. Tinker, all members voting affirmatively, motion carrying to accept the resignation of Toby Brothers and post the vacant position (G5/3).

Mr. Kuykendall asked Mr. Broyles how the roads holding up and will the mild winter help. Mr. Broyles said roads are holding up better than he expected. The patching is helping a lot as well as the mild winter; however, one good freeze could hurt the progress that has been made on roads this year. Also, he said last summer most of the County's paving money went toward resurfacing and that should help existing roads.

Mr. Kuykendall also asked Mr. Broyles about how the two test areas that were done last year with dense grade and calcium chloride were doing. Mr. Broyles said they looked good so far. He also mentioned he would like to see how they hold up after a hard freeze. This could be a good alternative to paving roads. The dense grade and calcium chloride stabilizes the roads and is cheaper than paving them. Mr. Nix asked about the difference in costs. Mr. Broyles said double-surface treatment paving costs about \$30,000/mile and the dense grade treatment was about \$23,000/mile. He said if the County could buy a railroad tanker load at a time of the calcium chloride it would save about 40% of the costs.

County Engineer Ben Luther notified the Commission concerning the receipt of a petition from landowners to accept two roads (Road 9089 and Road 9090) into the County's maintenance system. The roads have been paved by the property owners and right of way for the roads through these areas has been received. The roads are located on Lookout Mountain – off CR 130.

It was moved by Mr. Kuykendall, seconded by Mr. Tinker, all members voting affirmatively, motion carrying to accept Road 9089 and Road 9090 into the county road system.

Wade Hill with the Sheriff's Office addressed the Commission and requested that a vehicle be purchased from the existing SUV Bid that was awarded earlier in the fiscal year. This vehicle would be purchased using funds from the Special Jail Fund – financed over a 24 month period.

It was moved by Mr. Kuykendall, seconded by Mr. Nix, all members voting affirmatively, motion carrying to authorize the recommendation to purchase a vehicle for use at the jail from Special Jail proceeds and to further authorize a financing agreement over a 24 month period.

Mr. Sharp notified the Commission that a lawsuit had been filed against the Sheriff's Office by an inmate, John William Gilam. The lawsuit was handwritten by the inmate.

It was moved by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Nix, all members voting affirmatively, motion carrying to forward the above lawsuit to Meadowbrook/ASI for final disposition.

Mr. Sharp asked on behalf of COA Director June Brewer that Carolyn Hemphill be placed on the County's payroll as the Geraldine Nutrition Center Manager (G3/1) and Ms. Jill Lackey be placed on the County's payroll as Activities Director (G4/1). Both have been working through the temporary agency and will be part-time employees with the County, beginning February 6. Ms. Lackey replaces Marie Corsentino who recently retired.

It was moved by Mr. Nix, seconded by Mr. Tinker, all members voting affirmatively, motion carrying to authorize the placement of Carolyn Hemphill (G3/1) and Jill Lackey (G4/1) as part-time employees on the County payroll in their respective positions.

Mr. Sharp notified the Commission that a 2004 Act of the Legislature authorized the reimbursement of the costs of purchasing Tobacco Stamps for distribution to wholesalers. The County has sought and has been reimbursed for the cost of tobacco stamps since the inception of this law. The law also provides for the reimbursement of a discount given to wholesalers for taking such discount. The laws does not provide for a discount rate. The State of Alabama gives a 7.5% rate and Counties' discounts range from 2% to 10%. The law does provide that a maximum of \$2 million is placed in a fund to provide for these reimbursements. According to the State Department of Finance, the \$2 million threshold has never been met. Some wholesalers have asked DeKalb County to begin providing a discount.

Mr. Sharp recommended a rate of no more than 5%. State Revenue Officer Royce Lader addressed the Commission and stated that 2-3% would be a good amount since that is what their current loss is. Mr. Harcrow recommended a 5% discount with the provision that the discount would cease if the State could no longer reimburse for the costs of the discount.

It was moved by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Tinker, all members voting affirmatively, motion carrying to authorize a 5% discount on tobacco stamps to the wholesalers with the expectation of reimbursement by the State and that the discount would end at any time the State could not reimburse for the costs of said discount.

Mr. Harcrow reminded the public that the County Commission's next scheduled meeting was February 14, 2012.

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

Ricky Harcrow, President

Jerome Tinker, Commissioner District I

Ed Nix, Commissioner District II

Chris Kuykendall, Commissioner District III

Dewitt Jackson, Commissioner District IV