

DRAFT

DESOTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TOMMY LEWIS, PRESIDENT, PRESIDING

February 12, 1998

A. CALL TO ORDER

The February 12, 1998, meeting of the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors was called to order by Tommy Lewis, Board President.

Charlie Brown, Deputy of the DeSoto County Sheriff's office was present and did open the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors meeting in a regular session to hear any and all business to come before the Board. The following were present:

Jessie Medlin-----District 1
Eugene C. Thach-----District 2
James D. Pearson-----District 3, Absent
John Caldwell-----District 4
Tommy Lewis-----District 5
W. E. ASluggo@ Davis-----Chancery Clerk
Charlie Brown-----Deputy
Clovis Reed-----County Administrator
William H. Austin, Jr.-----Board Attorney

B. INVOCATION

The invocation was presented by Supervisor John Caldwell.

C. OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Park Study Interviews**
 - a. Allen & Hoshall**
 - b. Fisher & Arnold**
 - c. Neel Schaffer**

Interviews for the Park Study proposals were held to allow the full DeSoto County Board of Supervisors the opportunity to study the issue and to select the best firm to handle this project, based on the qualifications and the plans of interviews to allow the Board of Supervisors to better score the interviews.

Comments were made about the interviews as follows:

Supervisor John Caldwell said he was impressed with Waggoner, and his only concern with Fisher & Arnold is that they were not concerned about the land fill.

Supervisor Eugene Thach said he liked Neal Schaffer because they were concerned about the draw backs and getting input of the needs of both the cities and the county.

Item C.1., Continued,

Supervisor Jessie Medlin said he felt good about Fisher & Arnold because the city of Olive Branch was happy with the park Fisher & Arnold did for them.

Supervisor John Caldwell suggested getting County Administrator Clovis Reed to negotiate with some firms. Mr. Reed said he would have to make sure that is not

Supervisor Tommy Lewis said he feels any of them should be able to do the job. Later in the meeting, these motions were made:

Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to authorize the County Administrator to negotiate with Fisher & Arnold on the Park Study. The motion did not pass by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----Yes
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Yes
Supervisor James Pearson-----Absent
Supervisor John Caldwell-----No
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----No

Supervisor Tommy Lewis said he felt Fisher & Arnold would be qualified for the job, but wanted both recommendations combined.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion and Supervisor Eugene Thach seconded the motion to authorize the County Administrator to negotiate with Fisher & Arnold for the Park Study. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----Yes
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Yes
Supervisor James Pearson-----Absent
Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes

See Exhibit C.1.

2. Sewer Study

- a. Fisher & Arnold**
- b. Waggoner Engineering**
- c. Neel Schaffer**
- d. Elliot & Garver**

Interviews for the Sewer Study proposals were held to allow the full DeSoto County Board of Supervisors the opportunity to study the issue and to select the best firm to handle this project, based on the qualifications and the plans of strategy presented. Exhibit C.2 are examples of critique sheets provided for the interviews to allow the Board of Supervisors to better score the interviews.

During discussion of the interviews:

Supervisor John Caldwell said the Waggoner Engineering would be a good choice as they put their best foot forward during the interview. They have dealt with the legislature on issues in the past, and that could be an advantage to gain funding for the project. Also, because they have an office base in the area, their connections in

Item C.2., Continued,

Jackson should be as good as anyone=s. Supervisor Caldwell said Waggoner
Supervisor John Caldwell said he could support Waggoner for the sewer study
and Allen & Hoshall for the park study.

Supervisor Caldwell said that Mr. Elliot and Mr. Britt, of Elliot & Garver

Supervisor Jessie Medlin commented that most of the estimated fees quoted
depended on the level/extent of work expected by the Board of Supervisors.

Supervisor Eugene Thach said that Elliot & Garver had done a lot of good work
in DeSoto County. Supervisor Thach suggested supporting a firm with contacts
in Jackson.

Later in the meeting, these motions were made:

Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Tommy Lewis
seconded the motion to authorize the County Administrator to negotiate with
these firms and come back with a recommendation. The motion did not pass by a
vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----No
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----No
Supervisor James Pearson-----Absent
Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes

Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion and Supervisor John Caldwell
seconded the motion to authorize the County Administrator to negotiate with
Waggoner Engineering on the sewer study. The **motion passed** by a vote as
follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----Yes
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----No
Supervisor James Pearson-----Absent
Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes

3. Bids Under Advisement - Depository

The Comptroller, Dale Thompson, said bids were received from all banks as
noted on the bid tabulation sheet. Ms. Thompson said that it is necessary for all
banks to respond to the bids in order to be considered for the investment of
surplus funds.

At the recommendation of the Comptroller, Dale Thompson, Supervisor John
Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Eugene Thach seconded the motion to
approve Peoples Bank & Trust Company as County Depository for the coming
year, effective April 1, 1998. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----Yes
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Yes
Supervisor James Pearson-----Absent
Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes

Item C.3., Continued,

Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to approve the bids of the six banks that responded to the bids that were not awarded the county depository business, so as to include them for bids for the investment of surplus funds. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----Yes
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Yes
Supervisor James Pearson-----Absent
Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Adopt Resolution Requesting Local & Private Legislation for Radar

This item was held over to allow the County Administrator to check into the matter further. Supervisor Eugene Thach said there is a problem with Collins & Malone Road with speeding. The two mayors of the cities bordering these roads said they will run radar if the Board of Supervisors adopts an interlocal agreement between the cities and the County. The Board of Supervisors asked the Board Attorney, William Austin to research this item to see if the cities can run radar on the road.

2. Request to Amend Order of 11-3-97 Regarding Mowing Equipment

After the County Administrator explained that the Board of Supervisors had previously authorized the Road Manager to go out for bids for a mower, but the Road Manager has determined that the type mower necessary to accomplish this work is not expensive enough to warrant bids, and that a tractor is needed to pull these mowers, Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion and Supervisor John Caldwell seconded the motion to authorize going out for bids for a tractor for use to mow county property. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----Yes
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Yes
Supervisor James Pearson-----Absent
Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes

3. Bobby Storey - Arson School

Bobby Storey, Director of Fire & EMS reported to the Board of Supervisors that Mississippi is 2nd in the nation in fire related deaths. Mr. Storey said that of the 43 DeSoto County house fires, 23 were arson. In an effort to replace Mississippi in those statistics, Bobby Storey asked the Board of Supervisors allow Mike Hancock to participate in an arson training in New York for eight weeks and then come back and begin a training program for DeSoto County residents. Mr. Storey said that the community is behind this effort and have donated enough money to finance the travel and course fees for this trip. Mr. Storey asked the Board of Supervisors to authorize the time off. Supervisor Eugene Thach asked how long the school lasts? Bobby Storey said the course lasts eight weeks. Supervisor Thach asked if the Sheriff's Department knew about this training. Bobby Storey said they did.

Item D.3 , Continued,

T.L.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin asked if Mr. Storey had a plan in place to cover the department during this period. Bobby Storey said the department would work to cover the work periods Mr. Hancock will miss, as they see enormous advantages to having this training. Supervisor Medlin asked the cost of the classes and travel. Bobby Storey responded \$3,300.00.

Supervisor John Caldwell asked when this training starts? Bobby Storey said March 16.

Mr. Storey said the County will get an arson dog out of this and explained what an honor this is. Supervisor Eugene Thach asked if Mr. Hancock will keep the dog at home. Mike Hancock said that when he returns, he will donate the dog to the Sheriff's Department and Mike Hancock will have custody of the dog.

Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Eugene Thach seconded the motion to approve Mike Hancock attending the arson training in New York for eight weeks under the terms and conditions aforementioned. The **motion passed** by a _____ vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----Yes
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Yes
Supervisor James Pearson-----Absent
Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes\

4. Roadway Survey and Analysis

The County Administrator, Clovis Reed, told the Board of Supervisors that he thinks it would help the Board from a planning standpoint and it would help Mr. Reed from a financial standpoint if the Road Manager would provide a map to go along with the four (4) year road plan showing work to be done, an objective to be met. Mr. Reed said that what he is suggesting is to have the Road Manager create a road map showing the counties design that will state the condition of each road in the county. Also, this map would include traffic count on each roadway.

Supervisor Eugene Thach said the Road Manager is working on improving gravel roads now and reminded those present that the Board of Supervisors ride the road yearly.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin asked how long the Road Manager, Kenny Gunn, has been here. The Board of Supervisors said three (3) years. Supervisor Medlin said he had asked the Road Manager for that information three years ago. Supervisor Tommy Lewis said he has been asking for this information since the Road Manager came to the county and has wanted this information to be reported for these same reasons. Supervisor Lewis said having such information could allow the Board of Supervisors to set some goals for county roadways.

Supervisor John Caldwell said that the Board of Supervisors said that the Board needs to authorize buying a counter to track county road usage. Supervisor Tommy Lewis said the county should buy the counter and use it. Supervisor Lewis said that the County Administrator can request something like that from the Road Manager.

Supervisor Eugene Thach said he thinks the Board should make that request from the Road Manger.

Item D.4., Continued,

and a center
Supervisor John Caldwell said that the request should include getting a counter request to start counting section line roads north to south, east to west from the of the county. Supervisor Jessie Medlin pointed out that the preliminary four year road plan, recently presented by the Road Manager, did not include the year 2000 roads.

seconded number of procedures major with the
Supervisor Tommy Lewis made the motion and Supervisor Eugene Thach the motion to have the Road Manger do a road survey and determine the miles of road that are DBST, dirt, gravel, etc., and go through the proper to buy a traffic counter to use to count traffic on section line roads and thorough fairs throughout DeSoto o County; and create a map to go along four year road plan. The **motion passed** with a vote as follows:

- Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----Yes
- Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Yes
- Supervisor James Pearson-----Absent
- Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes
- Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes

E. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Executive Session portion of these minutes are listed under separate title called "Executive Session."

F. OTHER ISSUES

1. Travel Reimbursement

seconded the and others by a vote as
Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin motion to approve the travel reimbursement requests for all Supervisors attending the recent legislative breakfast to Jackson. The **motion passed** follows:

- Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----Yes
- Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Yes
- Supervisor James Pearson-----Absent
- Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes
- Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes

2. Budget Amendment - Cleaning of Property/Ben Payne

the the Building. longer there.
The Comptroller, Dale Thompson, requested a budget amendment to allow paying towing bills in connection with the cleaning of Ben Payne's property. Supervisor Tommy Lewis notified the Board of Supervisors that to his understanding all of items removed from this property was put behind the Central Maintenance Building. Supervisor Lewis said that he has heard that some of the items are no longer there. Supervisor Lewis said that the Board of Supervisors said the Board needs

Item F.2., Continued,

The Comptroller, Dale Thompson, presented a recommendation for Board

Lower	General Fund	001-901-999	\$225.00
	Cash Balance		
Increase	Other Contract Service	001-107-581	\$225.00

In accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 19-11-11 of the Mississippi Code for the Board of Supervisors did discuss an amendment to the budget for the Fiscal year beginning October 1, 1997, and ending September 30, 1998. At the recommendation of the Comptroller, Dale Thompson, Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to approve the budget amendment as shown above. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----Yes
 Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Yes
 Supervisor James Pearson-----Absent
 Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes
 Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes

See Exhibit F.2..

3. Making Fully Executed Lease with First Continental Leasing for Backhoe a Part of the Minutes

Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to approve making the fully executed lease with First Continental Leasing for the lease purchase of a backhoe a part of the minutes. The **motion passed** with a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----Yes
 Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Yes
 Supervisor James Pearson-----Absent
 Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes
 Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes

4. Maintenance of Land Fill

The Board of Supervisors discussed the need to instruct Jim Bearden, the Director of Operations and Maintenance, to go to the land fill and determine any changes necessary to put the landfill in compliance.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis made the motion and Supervisor John Caldwell seconded the motion to make the necessary improvements to maintain the landfill and put it in compliance. The **motion passed** with a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----Yes
 Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Yes
 Supervisor James Pearson-----Absent
 Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes
 Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes

Item F., Continued,

5. Unclaimed Body

County Administrator, Clovis Reed, read a letter from Jeffrey Pounders, of the DeSoto County Coroner's Office to the Board of Supervisors saying he has contacted family members and no one is interested in burying the body of Pam Branham recently hit by a car in DeSoto County. Supervisor Eugene Thach said his problem is authorizing the county to pay \$750 rather than the usual and customary \$200 paid for pauper=s burials.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin said the \$200 is customary for paupers.

Chancery Clerk, W.E. "Sluggo" Davis, asked if cremation is cheaper than burial. Supervisor Tommy Lewis said he does not want the county to get to the point where the funeral homes will not pick up such bodies for fear they will not get paid for their services. County Administrator, Clovis Reed, verified with the funeral home that the cost of cremation is \$1100.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion and Supervisor John Caldwell seconded the motion to approve paying up to \$800 for the cost associated with burying Pam Branham in connection with Section 41-39-5 of the Mississippi Code. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----Yes
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Yes
Supervisor James Pearson-----Absent
Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes

6. Equipment Rental

At the recommendation of the Board Attorney, William Austin, and in accordance with Section 65-7-95 of the Mississippi Code, which outlines the conditions necessary for the Board of Supervisors to authorize the rental of equipment for the construction, re-construction or maintenance of county roads or bridges, it was determined that the recent bids accepted for equipment rental included in bid file #97-156-011 must be rejected and such rental must be handled on an as needed basis. The Board discussed that these bids were originally authorized due to the situation that occurred in the summer of 1997 whereby a roller broke down during the construction of a county road, thereby, creating the need for an emergency rental. Because of the lead time to bid and replace this roller, much of the counties road work went undone during the summer of 1997 allowing time to replace the roller in accordance with state law.

Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Eugene Thach seconded the motion to reject the bids in connection with bid file #97-156-001 and in accordance with the guidelines set forth in Section 65-7-95 of the Mississippi Code. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----Yes
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Yes
Supervisor James Pearson-----Absent
Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes

See Exhibit F.6.

Item F., Continued,

7. Schoolbus Turnarounds

The DeSoto County Board of Supervisors received letters dated February 5 and February 10, 1998, from the DeSoto County Superintendent of Education requesting the county to maintain the properties listed in his letter which are used as school bus turnarounds. A copy of this request is attached and made a part of these minutes by attachment of Exhibit F.7. SEE EXHIBIT F.7.

In accordance with Section 19-3-42, Mississippi Code of 1972 as amended, stating that the school bus turnarounds will be built, maintained and improved, Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion to build, maintain, and improve the properties listed in the Superintendent=s letters dated February 5 and February 10, 1998, to direct the County Road Manager to carry out this order of this Board forthwith with the Board of Education paying for the materials for the repair of asphalt. Supervisor John Caldwell seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

- Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----Yes
- Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Yes
- Supervisor James Pearson-----Absent
- Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes
- Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes

8.. Use of Inmate Labor

County Administrator, Clovis Reed, notified the Board of Supervisors that he has called the Department of Corrections about the use of Trustee labor, but before getting in touch with the other necessary individuals, to clarify the Board's request to determine ways to implement this labor usage. Mr. Reed said that he has been asked by the Sheriff to hold up on making that request to the state, as he is negotiating with them at this point.

9. Resolution of Anticipated Ad Valorem Tax Exemption for Dollar Tree

Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion and Supervisor Eugene Thach seconded the motion to approve the resolution in supporting anticipated Ad Valorem exemption for Dollar Tree. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

- Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----Yes
- Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Yes
- Supervisor James Pearson-----Absent
- Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes
- Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes

10. Civic Center

The Board Attorney, William Austin, recommended the Board ask the legislators to amend laws governing the usage of the Civic Center Tax to allow the use of funds that are necessary to retire the debt, to be used in start up and operation expenses for the building.

Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to approve sending the Resolution requesting legislative help

as indicated above to the legislators in Jackson. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Item C.10., Continued,

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----Yes
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Yes
Supervisor James Pearson-----Absent
Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes

11. Walls Satellite Building

- a. Appoint Superintendent**
- b. Appoint Two Supervisors as Committee to Inspect Project**
- c. Authorize Board President to Execute Contract with Hill Brothers**

In accordance with the guidelines set forth in Section 19-13-15 of the Mississippi Code, Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion and Supervisor John Caldwell seconded the motion to appoint Jim Bearden as Superintendent of the Walls Satellite Building; to appoint Supervisors Eugene Thach and John Caldwell as the committee to inspect the project and to authorized the Board President to execute the contract with Hill Brothers in connection with bid file #97-156-023. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----Yes
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Yes
Supervisor James Pearson-----Absent
Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes

12. EMS - Personell

At the recommendation of Bobby Storey, Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to approve raises for Paramedics as follows:

- 1. Michael Crawford \$26,000.00
- 2. Jerry Rowland \$24,000.00

Due to the fact they have gone to Para Level. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----Yes
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Yes
Supervisor James Pearson-----Absent
Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes

Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to recess until Monday, February 23, 1998, at 9:00. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----Yes
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Yes
Supervisor James Pearson-----Absent
Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes

THIS the 12th day of February, 1998, these minutes have been read and approved by the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors.

T.L.

TOMMY LEWIS, President
DeSoto County Board of Supervisors

T.L.

2/12/98