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## DESOTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

### BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TOMMY LEWIS, PRESIDENT, PRESIDING

August 26, 1998

#### A. CALL TO ORDER

The August 26, 1998, meeting of the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors was called to order by Tommy Lewis, Board President.

W. E. "Sluggo" Davis, the DeSoto County Chancery Clerk 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  
John Caldwell-----District 4, Absent  
Tommy Lewis-----District 5  
W. E. "Sluggo" Davis-----Chancery Clerk  
James Albert Riley-----Sheriff, Absent  
Clovis Reed-----County Administrator, Absent  
William H. Austin, Jr.-----Board Attorney. Absent

#### B. INVOCATION

The invocation was presented by W. E. "Sluggo" Davis.

#### C. OLD BUSINESS

##### 1. Data Systems Management, Inc.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis notified the Board of Supervisors that he has received a letter from Data Systems Management after their initial visit with Marsha Baughn to assess the computer system. The letter states that the system is so complex that, in order to make a proper recommendation for what is best for the county, a more detailed analysis is necessary. The letter estimates the assessment to take 3 to 5 days and offers to do so for \$85 per hour plus out of pocket expenses and travel time at \$45 per hour. The Board of Supervisors agreed that this service is necessary for the 2000 conversion of the computer. If it is determined to be legal the Board of Supervisors agreed that their prior action to approve this contract stands and this is the first step toward determining the charges to do so.

#### D. BUDGET

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Supervisor Tommy Lewis asked the Comptroller if the budget is balanced. Dale Thompson said that it is balanced. Supervisor Tommy Lewis asked how much the budget is into contingency. Dale Thompson said \$691,582.00.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis asked the Comptroller if it is possible not to have to dip into the contingency fund with this budget. Dale Thompson said yes, that some money will go back into the general fund from different departments. Supervisor Lewis clarified that the Comptroller said the Board may be able to adopt the budget without going into the existing contingency. Dale Thompson said she thinks we could, but it depends on how much you add.

The Board of Supervisors discussed trying to come out with seven million dollars in contingency.

### **EMS DEPARTMENT**

Bobby Storey, Director of Fire/EMS came before the Board of Supervisors to update them on the Fire and EMS departments for budget planning. Mr. Storey said he has met with Chief White and Chief Hartsfield and they say they are planning to stay with the County EMS service, but they need an ambulance to do so. Mr. Storey said if the cities stay with the EMS department, he will need to all \$44,800.00 to his budget to cover ambulances for the municipal agencies.

Mr. Storey said if the cities do decide to get out, the money could be returned to the general fund.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis said no new agreement has been signed so the county probably should budget for the terms of the old agreement.

Supervisor Eugene Thach asked if the cities pay part of the ambulance cost. Bobby Storey said that the County only buys a standard ambulance, and the cities have to add any options to the ambulance that they need.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis said he feels the county has no choice but to include the cities as the interlocal agreement has not changed. Bobby Storey said the cities want a new interlocal agreement.

Bobby Storey said the additional \$44,800 would cover three more ambulances in the cities and said the county already has three. Mr. Storey gave an update on the condition of the county ambulances. Mr. Storey said the ambulances would be lease purchased for five years under these budget numbers.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin clarified if everything stays the way it is now, we will need six ambulances. Bobby Storey said yes.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis asked if any of the ambulances that are in service have any value. Bobby Storey said yes and he plans to use those for trade-in or the county may keep some of the best to use for back up and/or parts.

Dale Thompson asked about the uncollectibles. Bobby Storey said it is his understanding that Franklin is doing a good job in Justice Court.

### **Item D., Continued,**

Supervisor Tommy Lewis asked why there is not activity in account 240. Dale

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Thompson said that has to do with the transfer of the mill.

The Board instructed the Comptroller to add \$44,800 to the EMS budget.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Bobby Storey spoke to the Board of Supervisors about daytime hours for firefighters. Mr. Storey said the Fire Department is able to use volunteers at night, but they do not have volunteers during the daytime hours. Mr. Storey said he does not know how long they can keep going with volunteers.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis asked if Mr. Storey thinks there is a risk of losing our classification. Mr. Storey said speaking for Eudora, yes. Supervisor Lewis asked what that will mean to homeowners. Bobby Storey said it may increase homeowners rates 15 to 20%. Mr. Storey said the volunteers are putting themselves at risk also. Supervisor Tommy Lewis said we have to take some measure to keep premiums from going up 15 to 20%.

Supervisor Eugene Thach said the County may have to put a tax to pay for this on the counties, and said the cities are paying for the fire protection now.

Chancery Clerk Sluggo Davis said if you start hiring daytime people, it won't be long before you start hiring nighttime as well.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis asked if there is any way to encourage volunteers.

Bobby Storey said Horn Lake has been using contract fire fighters who volunteer on their days off. Mr. Storey said you would still be talking some pretty sufficient money. Mr. Storey said that for three people at each station, you would still be looking at \$500,000.00 per year. That would pay \$65.00 per shift. He said there is a lot of interest in doing this.

Supervisor Eugene Thach said this situation is a result of growth in the County.

Supervisor Lewis asked if three per station would provide enough coverage. Bobby Storey said yes.

W. E. "Sluggo" Davis asked if this would fix the rating. Bobby Storey said yes.

Comptroller Dale Thompson said that concerning the addition of \$44,800.00, she can move the state money already in the budget from the state which totals \$23,000.00. Therefore, she would only need to budget \$21,800 for the additional ambulances for the cities.

**PARKS**

The Board of Supervisors discussed funding for parks and the need to fund Church Road. The Board discussed ways to fund the needs of DeSoto County Parks. After discussion of providing help through park funds, and the possibility of carrying this over, Supervisor Eugene Thach verified the amounts left in each park budget. The Comptroller read the balances as follows:

**Item D., Continued,**

District 1-----	\$ 16,420.00
District 2-----	23,842.00

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District 3-----	20,830.00
District 4-----	17,627.00
District 5-----	3,400.00

The Board instructed the Comptroller to remove \$80,000.00 from 520-913 and to add \$15,000.00 to 520-594 to pay Fisher and Arnold for the balance of their work.

**MUSEUM**

The Board instructed the Comptroller to leave \$100,000.00 in the museum budget.

**LIBRARY**

The Board instructed the Comptroller to add \$40,000 to 530-703 for the library budget.

**DESOTO COUNCIL**

Supervisor Tommy Lewis said he would like to support the DeSoto Council as much as possible. Supervisor Jessie Medlin said he worked closely with them on the Williams Sonoma project and commended them for their work. The Board instructed the Comptroller to budget \$225,000.00 for DeSoto Council.

**CIVIC CENTER**

Supervisor Eugene Thach said he understands from a meeting with Martha Gatlin and Stuart Taylor that the Civic Center can live with \$150,000 in their budget.

**CVB**

This item was held over to find out if the CVB can repay this money from the 2%.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

The Board instructed the Comptroller to add \$3,056.00 to this budget.

**LITERACY COUNCIL**

The Board instructed the Comptroller to make this budget \$5,000.00 by adding \$1,000.00 to their budget.

**DESOTO SUNRISE**

The Board of Supervisors held this item over to find out if it is legal to extend the DeSoto Sunrise contract and if they will agree to extend the contract.

**E. OTHER ISSUES**

**1. Board of Education Deed**

Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion to accept the deed for the Board of Education building and to authorize the Clerk to with the check in the amount of

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\$400,000.00 as earlier negotiated and to accept same into the Board of Supervisors for this date. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

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

## 2. Right of Way - Brights Road

Supervisor Tommy Lewis said he has been working with NCRS to speed up obtaining the right of ways on Brights Road. Supervisor Lewis said they are requiring a temporary fence approximately 300' long, and another permanent fence approximately 200' long. Supervisor Lewis said he is also working on obtaining the easement on College Road.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis made the motion to accept the two easements on Brights Road with the County building the temporary fence and the permanent fence. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

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

## 3. Data Processing

Marsha Baughn, Director of Data Processing returned before the Board of Supervisors to update the Board of the cost for Data Systems Management to replace the current software purchased from Data Systems Management and update the in house programs in connection with the 2000 Conversion. Ms. Baughn had earlier presented a letter to Supervisor Lewis from Data Systems Management saying it would take 3 to 5 days to adequately assess the DeSoto County computers to determine the cost to upgrade the software.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis asked Ms. Baughn if she will be able to come up with a price for the upgrade. Ms. Baughn said Data Systems Management has said it will take 3 to 5 days for this assessment.

Due to Ms. Baughn's pending resignation, Supervisor Eugene Thach asked Ms. Baughn if she would consider contracting to help DeSoto County as she does with other counties. Ms. Baughn said she did not know if she could or not.

W. E. "Sluggo" Davis asked if she would be willing to consult with some specific offices. Ms. Baughn said she would if she had time. However, she would have to assess the duties of her new position to know if she would be able to do so.

### Item E.3., Continued,

Supervisor Eugene Thach asked what the deadline will be to have the software in place. Marsha Baughn said December 30, 1999. She said it would depend on the application.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis asked if Marsha Baughn would consider staying on in DeSoto County. Marsha Baughn said not without change.

Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to recess until Monday, August 31, 1998 at 9:00 a.m. The **motion passed** by vote as follows:

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

THIS the 25th day of August, 1998, these minutes have been read and approved by the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors.

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TOMMY LEWIS, President  
DeSoto County Board of Supervisors