

DESOTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JESSIE L. MEDLIN, PRESIDENT, PRESIDING

March 3, 1999

A. CALL TO ORDER

The March 3, 1999, meeting of the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors was called to order by Supervisor Jessie Medlin, Board President.

Chief Deputy Phil Cottam of the DeSoto County Sheriff 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
- John Caldwell-----District 4
- Tommy Lewis-----District 5
- W. E. "Sluggo" Davis-----Chancery Clerk/County Administrator
- Phil Cottam-----Chief Deputy Sheriff
- William H. Austin, Jr.-----Board Attorney

B. INVOCATION

The invocation was presented by Supervisor Eugene Thach.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR - INTRODUCTION

Board President, Jessie Medlin said he would like to take this opportunity to introduce David Armstrong as the new County Administrator for DeSoto County. Supervisor Medlin said Mr. Armstrong is from Natchez, Mississippi, and will join the DeSoto County staff March 15th, 1999.

Mr. Armstrong said he would like to address the staff, public, and the press stating he is grateful for the opportunity to serve as County Administrator of DeSoto County. Mr. Armstrong said he could not think of a more exciting place to be than DeSoto County as this county is a success to the state. Mr. Armstrong said he is looking forward to working with the staff, public, and the press professionally and personally.

Supervisor Eugene Thach said in jest the Board of Supervisors could not reach a 5/0 vote for a pay raise for the Supervisors, however the Board did vote 5/0 to accept David Armstrong as County Administrator. Supervisor John Caldwell said he hopes no one expects miracles from Mr. Armstrong as he is human, but Mr. Armstrong will need the support from the staff and the Board of Supervisors, and he wishes him well.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, CONTINUED,

Supervisor Jake Pearson stated it was a miracle he received a 5/0 vote. Supervisor Tommy Lewis said he would like to welcome Mr. Armstrong to DeSoto County and looks forward to working with Mr. Armstrong over the next few months. County Administrator - Chancery Clerk, W. E. "Sluggo" Davis said Mr. Armstrong has all of his support.

Mark Brannon of Brannon Professionals said he would like to "Thank" the Board of Supervisors for allowing Brannon Professionals to play such a major role in DeSoto County. Mr. Brannon said they had received several good applicants and was pleased Brannon Professionals could help in the placement of a County Administrator for DeSoto County.

Board President, Jessie Medlin said he would like to "Thank" Brannon Professionals for the extensive work they have done in acquiring a replacement for the position of County Administrator for DeSoto County.

C. PLANNING COMMISSION

The Planning Commission brought several items before the Board of Supervisors as evidenced by the portion of the minutes submitted by the Planning Commission. **SEE EXHIBIT C.**

D. OLD BUSINESS

1. Prisoner Medical - City Participation

County Administrator, W. E. "Sluggo" Davis notified the Board of Supervisors he has spoken with Mayor Greg Davis in connection with the city participation of prisoner medical invoices. Mr. Davis said Mayor Davis is under the impression prisoner medical invoices have been paid.

Mr. Davis said he has requested an update from Ginger Allison in the accounting department as to payments received from the City of Southaven. No motions were made nor votes taken on this issue.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Health Department - Diane Hargrove

Dr. Lovetta A. Brown, District Health Officer, and Diane W. Hargrove, District Administrator of the Health Department appeared before the Board of Supervisors requesting additional funding in the amount of \$ 46,463.89.

Ms. Hargrove stated the Health Department incurred additional expenses with establishing a clinic in Walls; and a Environmental Health Office in Hernando. Ms. Hargrove said the additional funding will enable the Health Department to off set some of the additional expenses incurred with establishing two (2) new offices and fill critical positions needed for the Health Department.

Supervisor Eugene Thach asked why the state is not funding some of the cost. Ms. Hargrove replied, funding has not increased even though the agency has requested \$ 3.8 million in additional funding. Supervisor Eugene Thach stated the county provides \$ 250,000.00 to the health department over and above state funding.

ITEM E.1, CONTINUED,

Supervisor Jessie Medlin asked Ms. Hargrove out of the request from the Health Department, what are they in need of most.

Supervisor John Caldwell said as of today, the County has hired a new County Administrator who will be on board March 15th, 1999. Supervisor Caldwell also suggested to Dr. Brown and Ms. Hargrove schedule a meeting with Mr. Armstrong on the afternoon of March 15th, 1999 discuss the additional funding requested.

Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion, and Supervisor Eugene Thach seconded the motion for the County Administrator, David Armstrong to review additional funding requested and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors by the first meeting of April.

The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Jessie Medlin-----	Yes
Eugene C. Thach-----	Yes
James D. Pearson-----	Absent
John Caldwell-----	Yes
Tommy Lewis-----	Yes

****See Exhibit E.1****

2. Telephone Easement - Jane Casey

Jane Casey of Parsons Telephone, representing Bell South, appeared before the Board of Supervisors requesting a telephone easement. Ms. Casey stated Bell South has a need to install an additional telephone box, due to the growth of DeSoto County.

Ms. Casey asked the Board of Supervisors if a particular location would be more suitable to them. Ms. Casey said the additional box could be placed either to the west behind the existing box or to the north. Supervisor Jake Pearson suggested placing the additional telephone box to the west behind the existing box and increasing the easement area to a 30 x 30 away from the existing drive way.

Ms. Casey said Bell South would like to make an offer in the amount of \$ 4,000.00 for this additional telephone easement, and she would order the survey at no cost to the county. Ms. Casey also requested authorization to place equipment at the easement site as soon as possible due to the growth of the area. The Board of Supervisors agreed to allow equipment to be placed at the easement site as soon as possible to enhance the telephone system with Bell South.

Supervisor Jake Pearson made the motion, and Supervisor Eugene Thach seconded the motion, to approve a 30 x 30 telephone easement on the west side of the existing pad at the entrance of the park ball at the south side of the driveway, with \$ 4,000.00 being deposited in the general fund for DeSoto County. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote. ****See Exhibit E.2****

Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion, and Supervisor John Caldwell seconded the motion to recess until 1:15 p.m. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

ITEM E.3, CONTINUED,

3. Tourism Day

Vanessa Lynchard explained that Chief Deputy Phil Cottam received a request from Dr. Ed Franklin to proclaim Monday, March 15th, 1999 as Tourism Day in DeSoto County.

At the recommendation of Dr. Franklin, Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion, and Supervisor John Caldwell seconded the motion to proclaim Monday, March 15th, 1999 as Tourism Day in DeSoto County. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Jessie Medlin-----Yes
Eugene C. Thach-----Yes
James D. Pearson-----Absent
John Caldwell-----Yes
Tommy Lewis----- Yes

**4. Making compliance with US Code Section 504 - Regarding Disabilities -
Part of the Minutes**

Vanessa Lynchard notified the Board of Supervisors park grants require compliance with the Disabilities US Code Section 504.

Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion, and Supervisor Eugene Thach seconded the motion authorizing the Board President to sign the application for compliance and making the Disabilities US Code Section 504 for park grants as part of the minutes. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Jessie Medlin-----Yes
Eugene C. Thach-----Yes
James D. Pearson-----Absent
John Caldwell-----Yes
Tommy Lewis----- Yes

****See Exhibit E.4****

5. Approval of Park Grants

Vanessa Lynchard notified the Board of Supervisors, DeSoto County's preliminary application for park grants have been approved. Vanessa said DeSoto County is now ready to file for final approval of park grants which includes an Outdoor Recreational Grant through the State and a Federal Grant for Veterans Park and Summerwood Park..

Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion, and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to approve the filing of park grants which include an Outdoor Recreational Grant through the State and Federal Government and to authorize the Board President to sign the approval of Park Grants. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Jessie Medlin-----Yes
Eugene C. Thach-----Yes
James D. Pearson-----Absent
John Caldwell-----Yes
Tommy Lewis----- Yes

****See Exhibit E.5****

ITEM E.6, CONTINUED,

**6. Making final acceptance by the State Tax Commission - Ad Valorem -
Exemption Part of the Minutes**

a. AFCO

Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion, and Supervisor Eugene Thach seconded the motion in making final acceptance by the State Tax Commission of the Ad Valorem Exemption for AFCO into the minutes and approve a resolution for same. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Jessie Medlin-----Yes
Eugene C. Thach-----Yes
James D. Pearson-----Absent
John Caldwell-----Yes
Tommy Lewis----- Yes

****See Exhibit E.6.a****

b. Ashland

Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion, and Supervisor Eugene Thach seconded the motion in making final acceptance by the State Tax Commission of the Ad Valorem Exemption for Ashland into the minutes and approve a resolution for same. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Jessie Medlin-----Yes
Eugene C. Thach-----Yes
James D. Pearson-----Absent
John Caldwell-----Yes
Tommy Lewis----- Yes

****See Exhibit E.6.b****

c. Metal BuildingComponents

Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion, and Supervisor Eugene Thach seconded the motion in making final acceptance by the State Tax Commission of the Ad Valorem Exemption for Metal Building Components into the minutes and approve a resolution for same. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Jessie Medlin-----Yes
Eugene C. Thach-----Yes
James D. Pearson-----Absent
John Caldwell-----Yes
Tommy Lewis----- Yes

****See Exhibit E.6.c****

7. DeSoto County Convention and Visitors Bureau - Approval of Budget Allocation

The Comptroller, Dale Thompson requested authorization for approval of the allocation for the Convention and Visitors Bureau as requested by the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

ITEM E.7, CONTINUED,

Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion and Supervisor John Caldwell seconded the motion to approve the above mentioned budget allocation. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Jessie Medlin-----Yes
 Eugene C. Thach-----Yes
 James D. Pearson-----Absent
 John Caldwell-----Yes
 Tommy Lewis----- Yes

****See Exhibit E.7****

8. EMS - Approval of Advanced Travel

Bobby Storey presented a request for advanced travel to Fort Walton, Florida for three (3) days on Emergency Management Services. Mr. Storey said he will need two (2) separate checks issued, one to Travel and Tours in the amount of \$ 252.00 for airfare, and a check in the amount of \$ 141.70 for lodging at the Best Western Inn.

At the recommendation of Bobby Storey, Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion, and Supervisor Tommy Lewis seconded the motion to approve advanced travel for Bobby Storey to Fort Walton, Florida; and to authorize the clerk to issue a check to Travel and Tours in the amount of \$ 252.00 for airfare; a check in the amount of \$ 141.70 for lodging at the Best Western Inn. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Jessie Medlin-----Yes
 Eugene C. Thach-----Yes
 James D. Pearson-----Absent
 John Caldwell-----Yes
 Tommy Lewis----- Yes

****See Exhibit E.8****

9. Approval for County Wide Contract - Cellular Service

- a. EMS**
- b. Jim Bearden**
- c. Kenny Evans**

Vanessa Lynchard presented cellular pricing to the Board of Supervisors. Vanessa said after extensive research, Bell South Mobility is offering a two (2) year agreement, programming fees and activation fees waived, cigarette adapters supplied at no additional charge, and three (3) different types of digital cellular phones at a cost of \$ 9.95, \$ 19.95, and \$ 29.95. Vanessa said she would recommend Bell South Mobility.

ITEM E.9, CONTINUED,

At the recommendation of Vanessa Lynchard, Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion, and Supervisor Eugene Thach seconded the motion to approve a new county wide contract with Bell South Mobility for cellular service and to approve new contracts for EMS, Jim Bearden, and Kenny Evans. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Jessie Medlin-----No
 Eugene C. Thach-----Yes
 James D. Pearson-----Absent
 John Caldwell-----Yes
 Tommy Lewis----- Yes

****See Exhibit E.9.a.b.c****

10. Inventory Disposal

At the recommendation of the Board Secretary, Bonnie Gatlin, Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion, and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion, to accept the Inventory Disposition Report. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Jessie Medlin-----Yes
 Eugene C. Thach-----Yes
 James D. Pearson-----Absent
 John Caldwell-----Yes
 Tommy Lewis----- Yes

****See Exhibit E.10****

F. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The “Executive Session” portion of this meeting is presented under the portion of the minutes called “Executive Session.”

A. OTHER ISSUES

1. Brannon Professionals - Approval of Contract

Vanessa Lynchard presented a contract in the amount of \$ 15,000.00 from Brannon Professionals to the Board of Supervisors for approval in connection with the position of County Administrator. Supervisor Tommy Lewis made the motion, and Supervisor John Caldwell seconded the motion to approve the contract from Brannon Professionals in the amount of \$ 15,000.00 and to authorize the clerk to write the check. The **motion passed** by a vote a follows:

Jessie Medlin-----Yes
 Eugene C. Thach-----Yes
 James D. Pearson-----Absent
 John Caldwell-----Yes
 Tommy Lewis----- Yes

****See Exhibit G.1****

ITEM G.2, CONTINUED,

2. Sewer Study

Board Attorney, William Austin notified the Board of Supervisors he is in receipt of a petition of twenty-five (25) or more signatures to forward to the Sewer District. Mr. Austin said the Board of Supervisors can place the wheels in motion on this issue, however, the public may elect to turn this issue down.

Mr. Austin said after formation, the commissioners terms are staggered at first, then terms are set for four (4) years. Mr. Austin said each municipality will have one (1) appointee with the county maintaining two (2) appointees.

Supervisor John Caldwell asked Mr. Austin what were the boundaries of the districts.
Mr.

Austin replied, everything except the Horn Lake interceptor. Supervisor Tommy Lewis said DEQ has suggested planning for the entire county except for the Horn Lake Creek. Supervisor John Caldwell asked if this is a priority set up. Supervisor Tommy Lewis said in Atlanta, DEQ has suggested setting the entire county up in phases.

Supervisor Eugene Thach asked if the resident is not tied into the sewer system, would the resident have to pay for start up expenses. Mr. Austin replied all residents of the county would be effected for the start up expenses.

Supervisor John Caldwell questioned any responsibility of the city concerning the sewer system. Mr. Austin said if a city ties on to the trunk line of the system, then the lagoon becomes the property of the authority.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin said DEQ and Jimmy Palmer have recommended the project county wide.

Supervisor John Caldwell requested that all cities be copied on the legislation.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis said he agreed with Supervisor Eugene Thach but is not opposed to furnishing county start up money for the sewer study project. Supervisor Eugene Thach said Demery Grubbs recommended the sewer system borrow the start up funds from the state instead of paying for bonds.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin said Joe Waggoner, and Jimmy Palmer suggested DeSoto County deciding whether or not a county wide sewer system is needed. Supervisor Tommy Lewis asked Mr. Austin if a user fee could be inserted into the legislation. Mr. Austin said this would be no problem.

Supervisor Eugene Thach stated he would oppose the county sewer systems unless it was clear the system would be user funded.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis made the motion, and Supervisor John Caldwell seconded the motion, to forward legislation to Jackson with a change in verbiage, stating a “user funded system”; submit to Representative Pat Miller for local and private legislation; to submit copies of legislation to all municipalities for their review, and to include a resolution to support same.

Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion and Supervisor John Caldwell seconded the motion to recess until Monday, March 15,1999 at 9:00 a.m. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Jessie Medlin-----Yes

Eugene C. Thach-----Yes
James D. Pearson-----Absent
John Caldwell-----Yes
Tommy Lewis----- Yes

This the 3rd of March, 1999, these minutes have been read and approved by the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors.

JESSIE L. MEDLIN, President
DeSoto County Board of Supervisors