

DESOTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JESSIE L. MEDLIN, PRESIDENT, PRESIDING

August 25, 1999

A. CALL TO ORDER

The August 25, 1999, meeting of the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors was called to order by Supervisor Jessie L. Medlin of DeSoto County.

DeSoto County Sheriff James A. Riley 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:

- Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----District 1
- Supervisor Eugene C. Thach-----District 2
- Supervisor Jimmy James-----District 3
- Supervisor John Caldwell-----District 4
- Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----District 5
- W. E. "Sluggo" Davis-----Chancery Clerk
- David Armstrong-----County Administrator
- James Albert Riley-----Sheriff of DeSoto County
- William Austin-----Board Attorney

B. INVOCATION

The invocation was presented by Supervisor Eugene Thach.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Furniture Bids - Administration Building

Courtney Fussell and Rick Bovine of Allen and Hoshall presented the Board of Supervisors with the furniture and equipment bids for the DeSoto County Administration Building. Supervisor John Caldwell asked if the bids were joint recommendations. Vanessa Lynchard said that they discussed the bids and that they were joint recommendations.

Vanessa Lynchard told the Board of Supervisors that the bids were lower than expected. She said that the bids were 72% less than list in comparison to the state contract price which is 50% less than list. She said that a decision needed to be made today, if possible, to allow the necessary time to get the furniture ordered and delivered.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis asked how the furniture would be funded. Vanessa Lynchard said that bond proceeds will cover the furniture expenses. Vanessa Lynchard reminded the Board of Supervisors that in December they instructed Allen and Hoshall to cut back the Courthouse Renovation project to assure the bond proceeds would pay for the project. By doing so, the furniture is covered, although the budget will be very tight.

ITEM C.1., CONTINUED,

Supervisor John Caldwell asked what the alternate bids were. Courtney Fussell explained that the alternate bids would cover items that were not essential in the base bids such as the chairs for the Tax Collector's office and the Accounting office.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis made the motion and Supervisor John Caldwell seconded the motion to accept the base bids and alternate bids with the possible exception of chairs in the Tax Collector's office and the Accounting office. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote. ****See Exhibit C.1.****

2. Appointment - Receiving Clerks

Vanessa Lynchard asked the Board of Supervisors to appoint Julie McMath and Brigette Herring as additional receiving clerks so that a receiving clerk would always be available in the event that one or more is absent. She also requested that Brenda Powell be removed from the list of receiving clerks.

The Board of Supervisors discussed appointing Mitzi Fuller as the assistant inventory clerk, as recommended by County Administrator David Armstrong.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis made a motion and Supervisor Jimmy James seconded the motion to appoint Julie McMath and Brigette Herring as receiving clerks, to remove Brenda Powell from the list of receiving clerks, and to appoint Mitzi Fuller as the assistant inventory clerk. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote.

3. Authorization to Sign Purchase Requisitions - Metro Narcotics

Vanessa Lynchard informed the Board of Supervisors that the Sheriff requested that Commander Randy Doss be authorized to sign purchase requisitions for Metro Narcotics. Supervisor Jimmy James made a motion and Supervisor Tommy Lewis seconded the motion to authorize Commander Randy Doss to sign purchase requisitions. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote.

D. BUDGET FY 2000

County Administrator David Armstrong presented a revised preliminary budget with the changes discussed in the meeting on August 19, 1999. Mr. Armstrong said that the budget is now \$1,076,708.00 over in expenses and short in revenue.

1. Proposed Expenditures from the State Development Bank

County Administrator said that DeSoto County had a \$9 million credit line with the State Development Bank. He said that the proposed expenditures from the State Development Bank totaled \$1,635,000.00. He said the projected debt retirement at an interest rate of 4.2% on \$1,700,000.00 for ten years is \$211,748.00 and for twenty years is \$127, 210.00. Supervisor Tommy Lewis asked if the debt retirement is included in the budget and David Armstrong said that it was.

David Armstrong said the county has committed to \$1,175,000.00 for matching funds for the wastewater program. Supervisor Tommy Lewis asked if payment of the matching funds for the wastewater system would be due during the 2000 budget year. He suggested taking the matching funds for the wastewater system out of the budget and later borrowing it if it is needed during FY 2000. Supervisor Lewis speculated it is doubtful that a payment will come due in FY 2000. David Armstrong said he could not find out what portion of the money would have to be paid this year.

ITEM D.1., CONTINUED,

Comptroller Dale Thompson and Chancery Clerk Sluggo Davis suggested addressing what is needed during the budget year and address the other projects as needed.

Supervisor Jimmy James made a motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to accept the proposed expenditures from the State Development Bank for Tax Assessor digitized mapping and GIS, the new fire stations, and the Center Hill Community Center. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin	YES
Supervisor Eugene Thach	NO
Supervisor Jimmy James	YES
Supervisor John Caldwell	ABSENT
Supervisor Tommy Lewis	YES

Supervisor Eugene Thach said he does not agree with taxing the city residents for a county fire station. Supervisor Thach said 70% of that comes from the city and people who live in the city don't get county money for their fire stations.

2. **Civic Center**

The Board of Supervisors discussed the requested budget of the Civic Center. Comptroller Dale Thompson said the 2% tax can be used toward operating expenses of the Civic Center. County Attorney Bill Austin agreed and said the legislation was amended for that purpose.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin suggested that Comptroller Dale Thompson and County Administrator David Armstrong work on the budget before Friday so that the Board of Supervisors could go into Executive Session to work on the personnel portion of the budget. Supervisor Tommy Lewis made a motion and Supervisor Jimmy James seconded the motion to allow Comptroller Dale Thompson, County Administrator David Armstrong, and Board Attorney Bill Austin to get the budget balanced before Friday, August 27, 1999 and present it to the Board of Supervisors at that time. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin	YES
Supervisor Eugene Thach	YES
Supervisor Jimmy James	YES
Supervisor John Caldwell	ABSENT
Supervisor Tommy Lewis	YES

3. **Parks**

Supervisor Eugene Thach verified with the Board Attorney that the Board of Supervisors can allocate park money to the cities for use in their parks. Bill Austin said he will verify whether the county must do the work or if the Interlocal needs to be amended to allow the county to allocate money. Mr. Austin asked if the Board of Supervisors wants a ceiling on it. Supervisor Eugene Thach said to leave it at \$25,000.00.

Bill Bayne, reporter for the Commercial Appeal, asked if reporters can have a copy of the budget report on Friday. The Board of Supervisors said yes.

4. **Sheriff's Department - Dispatchers**

Sheriff James A. Riley addressed the Board of Supervisors and requested to increase the salaries of five dispatchers to \$2,000.00 a month. He said that dispatchers have the most difficult job. Sheriff Riley said that the Sheriff's Department needs more qualified and educated dispatchers

ITEM D.4., CONTINUED,

and the only way to get them is to raise the pay. Sheriff Riley said that he has lost good dispatchers to the cities and the casinos because they pay better. Supervisor Eugene Thach said that Southaven pays the dispatchers more because it has a central dispatch with fewer

workers.

Supervisor John Caldwell asked why the Board of Supervisors should raise the salaries if they are not as good as the Southaven dispatchers. Sheriff Riley said he has just gotten some back from Southaven.

Supervisor Eugene Thach suggested that EMS and the Sheriff's Department should go to a central dispatch. Sheriff Riley said there is no comparison between the number of calls received a day by the Sheriff's Department and by EMS. Sheriff Riley said that if the Board of Supervisors had not given money to EMS they would not have this problem and that he could change to one dispatch office today if the Board of Supervisors wanted him to do so.

Sheriff Riley asked who initiated the two dispatch system. Supervisor Jimmy James said that Fire and EMS did.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin said that the Board of Supervisors will look at the dispatcher's salaries when the budget is reviewed.

E. OTHER ISSUES

1. Elections

Supervisor Eugene Thach suggested that parking spaces be reserved at the courthouse for election workers when they bring polling boxes from the precincts on election days.

Sheriff James A. Riley told the Board of Supervisors that several deputies went to the polls to vote and were not allowed to vote because they were wearing their Sheriff's Department uniforms. Sheriff Riley said that the election workers need to be trained so that this would not be an issue again in future elections.

2. Approval to Pay Election Workers

At the request of Comptroller Dale Thompson, Supervisor John Caldwell made a motion and Supervisor Eugene Thach seconded the motion to authorize the clerk to write checks to pay the election workers for work on August 24, 1999. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote.

****See Exhibit E.2.****

3. Approval of Contract - Ikon - EMS

Vanessa Lynchard presented a contract for a copy machine from Ikon for EMS. Vanessa said that EMS has the money in the budget for the copy machine. Supervisor Jimmy James made a motion and Supervisor Tommy Lewis seconded the motion to approve the contract between Ikon and DeSoto County for a copy machine for EMS at \$208.00 per month plus one cent for each additional copy in excess of 2500 a month. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin	YES
Supervisor Eugene Thach	YES
Supervisor Jimmy James	YES
Supervisor John Caldwell	ABSENT
Supervisor Tommy Lewis	YES

****See Exhibit E.3.****

ITEM F, CONTINUED,

F. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Supervisor Tommy Lewis made the motion and Supervisor Jimmy James seconded the motion to recess until August 27, 1999 at 9:00 a.m. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----Yes
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Absent
Supervisor Jimmy James-----Yes
Supervisor John Caldwell-----Absent

Supervisor
Tommy
Lewis-----
-----Yes

THIS the 25th day of August, 1999, these minutes have been read and approved by the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors.

Jessie L. Medlin, President
DeSoto County Board of Supervisors