

DESOTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

EUGENE C. THACH, PRESIDENT, PRESIDING

April 5, 2000

A. CALL TO ORDER

The April 5, 2000, meeting of the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors was called to order by Supervisor Eugene C. Thach of DeSoto County.

Chief Deputy Charles Brown of the DeSoto County Sheriff's Department 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 Gerald Clifton-----District 3
Supervisor John Caldwell-----District 4
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----District 5
W. E. "Sluggo" Davis-----Chancery Clerk
David Armstrong-----County Administrator
William Austin-----Board Attorney

B. INVOCATION

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

C. PUBLIC HEARING - PROPOSED BOND ISSUE

Board Attorney Bill Austin opened the public hearing on the proposed bond issue. Mr. Austin informed the public that an intent resolution for a \$16 million bond issue was done with a return date of April 5, 2000 at 9:00 a.m. Board President Eugene Thach opened the floor for public comment.

Ms. Nell McCormack of 6333 Church Road, Walls, MS presented a petition with 2,040 signatures calling for a referendum on the proposed bond issue. Supervisor Tommy Lewis made a motion and Supervisor Gerald Clifton seconded the motion to forward the petition to the Circuit Clerk to be certified with a return date of April 17, 2000. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote.

Ms. Susan Whitten of 6400 Primrose Lane, Walls, MS addressed the Board of Supervisors with a list of questions regarding the effects of a bond issue. Ms. Whitten said that her main point was that borrowing is not always the best answer when considering ways to finance projects. County Administrator David Armstrong said that he would meet with Ms. Whitten at her convenience to answer the questions she proposed.

Demery Grubbs presented several options to the Board of Supervisors as to where the funds can be obtained for the road improvements; however, Mr. Grubbs said the final decision is a management decision to be made by the Board. Mr. Grubbs said the financial analysis he presented is based on the current year budget. Mr. Grubbs said a \$16 million issue on 15 years,

ITEM C, CONTINUED,

at the current millage rate would take 2.6 to 2.7 mills to repay the debt. However, at a

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historical growth rate of 9%, and assuming a conservative 6% growth factor, in five years the County would be looking at an increase of \$200,000.00 per mill. Considering money on hand in the road budget that is allocated to Church Road, you have \$1.5 to \$2 million to begin the debt. Mr. Grubbs said in both 2002 and 2003, there are bonds rolling off that will free up to \$200,000.00 to \$250,000.00. Mr. Grubbs commended the Board of Supervisors' effort not to levy a tax increase for a number of years.

Supervisor John Caldwell asked if pay increases are included in the projections. Mr. Grubbs said no.

Supervisor Eugene Thach asked Mr. Grubbs what he feels a comfortable contingency would be. Mr. Grubbs said \$7 million now, but as the assessed value increases, 5% needs to be kept in the budget.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis said the County has spent \$8 million in the last term to maintain roads. Now we are faced with continuing that work and improving Church Road.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis said that the road work is necessary for the safety of the citizens. Ms. Whitten asked why roads in subdivisions are being neglected if so much money is budgeted to maintain roads. Supervisor Lewis said that one of the main reasons the money is needed for the roads is because so many are neglected.

Supervisor John Caldwell said that the roads do need to be addressed but thought that the traffic counts were going to be used to prioritize which roads needed to be addressed.

Mr. Wade Stark, DeSoto County resident, asked why the Board is going to build new roads when the current roads are being neglected. Mr. Stark said that the County should only get what it can afford and not borrow funds at the tax payers expense for projects that the County wants to pursue.

Supervisor Eugene Thach made a motion to change the intent resolution for the \$16 million bond issue to \$5 million for the libraries and \$11 million for roads. Board Attorney Bill Austin said that the intent resolution cannot be changed. Supervisor Thach withdrew his motion.

The floor was closed for public comment with further discussion on this issue being held until April 17, 2000.

A. 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 D****

B. OLD BUSINESS

1. Building Permit Fees

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 E.1****

ITEM F, CONTINUED,

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. BellSouth Proposal on Service Area

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Jim Flanagan, David Kelly, Murray Scott, Jerry Hollingsworth, and Ben Smith addressed the Board of Supervisors with a request for a resolution in support of changing the local calling area for BellSouth customers. David Kelly informed the Board that they had met with the cities for support and that they now needed the County's support.

Supervisor John Caldwell asked how long the 4 cent/2 cent rate will be good. Jerry Hollingsworth assured the Board of Supervisors that BellSouth is not planning to change the rates, but it could happen with approval of the Public Service Commission.

Jerry Hollingsworth informed the Board that customers will be charged a flat rate and the plan will have a cap. Supervisor Eugene Thach asked if the same rate will apply at all times. Mr. Hollingsworth said the same rate applies 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Mr. Hollingsworth said the current rate will be increased \$1.00 for a total of \$13.15.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin asked if this plan is the best that is available because Cockrum is still not included. Mr. Hollingsworth said that the leadership of the DeSoto Council thinks this is the best plan available at this time. Supervisor Tommy Lewis asked when Cockrum will be included in the calling area. Mr. Hollingsworth said continued efforts will be made to address the Cockrum area. Supervisor Lewis asked if the 233 calling area will still be able to call the 429 area and vice versa under the new calling area. Mr. Hollingsworth said yes. Mr. Hollingsworth said that "latta boundaries" were established years ago and Cockrum chose to go with the 233 exchange. Mr. Hollingsworth said that BellSouth may migrate to where latta boundaries do not mean anything and that BellSouth will not let the issue die.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin asked if the plan is good, why doesn't the Public Service Commission approve it without support from the cities and the County. Mr. Hollingsworth that an agreement can be made but that the plan must go to the Public Service Commission for final approval.

Supervisor Gerald Clifton asked why approval from Memphis, MS is not necessary. Mr. Hollingsworth said that Memphis, MS was not excluded but that the Public Service Commission only requested resolutions from the major cities and the County.

Ben Smith said that a goal was to only have to dial seven digits instead of eleven. Mr. Smith said people are more inclined to dial seven instead of eleven digits, especially when calling businesses. Mr. Smith said he encourages the Board to proceed with the resolution.

Supervisor John Caldwell asked if the County signed the agreement and decided it is not good, can it be changed. Mr. Hollingsworth said yes, with the approval of the Public Service Commission.

Supervisor John Caldwell made a motion and Supervisor Eugene Thach seconded the motion to approve a resolution to be sent to the Mississippi Public Service Commission supporting a change in the local calling areas for all telephone customers of BellSouth. The **motion passed** by vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----NO
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----YES
Supervisor Gerald Clifton-----YES
Supervisor John Caldwell-----YES

ITEM F.1, CONTINUED,

Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----YES

****See Exhibit F.1****

2. Jail Inspection

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that In accordance with Section 19-5-1 of the Mississippi Code Annotated of 1972, which states

at least annually, and as often as it may think proper, the Board of Supervisors, or a competent person authorized by the Board of Supervisors, shall examine into the state and condition of the jail, in regard to its safety, sufficiency and accommodation of the prisoners, and from time to time take such legal measures as may best tend to secure the prisoners against escape, sickness and infection, and have the jail cleansed.

Having completed such inspection, Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion and Supervisor John Caldwell seconded the motion to acknowledge the inspection of the DeSoto County Jail by the Board of Supervisors as outlined in Section 19-5-1 of the Mississippi Code Annotated. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote.

3. Approval of Late Bill - Flu Shots

Supervisor Jessie Medlin made a motion and Supervisor John Caldwell seconded the motion to approve the late bill in the amount of \$96.00 to the DeSoto County Health Department for the flu shots for Central Maintenance employees and authorized the Clerk to write the check. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote. ****See Exhibit F.3****

4. EMS - Training\Quality Improvement Officer

County Administrator David Armstrong informed the Board of Supervisors that he met with EMS Director Bobby Storey regarding a request from Dr. Frank Adcock to add a Training\Quality Improvement Officer to the EMS staff. Mr. Armstrong said that the request is due to a 13% increase in the number of calls in 2000 as compared to the same time period in 1999.

Mr. Storey said that the Quality Improvement Officer would review the trip tickets to the hospital, check the expiration dates on medicines, and also work on the scenes to make sure personnel are following policy. Mr. Storey said that both he and Dr. Adcock recommend Paul Leblanc be transferred to the position of Quality Improvement Officer at his current salary and hire Michael Guy Smith as a paramedic to replace Paul Leblanc at the Lewisburg Ambulance Service at a salary of \$26,000.00.

Mr. Armstrong said that Mr. Storey does not have enough funds in his budget to cover the salary of the new position. Mr. Armstrong said that there is enough in the budget for the position for a few months but after that, a budget amendment will be necessary.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin asked if Dr. Adcock has been charging the County for his services. Mr. Storey said that he has been doing the service for free. Supervisor Eugene Thach asked if Dr. Adcock would continue the service until the new budget. Mr. Storey said that Dr. Adcock was adamant about getting help and that he forwarded the information to the Board as he was asked to. Mr. Storey said that in the long run, the Quality Improvement Officer will save the County money because training will be done in-house instead of sending personnel to Biloxi for training.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin made a motion and Supervisor Gerald Clifton seconded the motion to transfer Paul Leblanc to the new position of Training\Quality Improvement Officer at his current

ITEM F.4, CONTINUED,

salary of \$31,000.00 effective April 15, 2000 and to hire Michael Guy Smith as a paramedic to replace Paul Leblanc at Lewisburg Ambulance Service at a salary of \$26,000.00 effective April 15, 2000 and to approve a budget amendment for EMS from the General Fund under the provisions of Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, Section 19-11-19 as follows:

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Increase	001-240-434	Salary	\$11,917.00
Increase	001-240-466	Social Security Match	\$ 912.00
Increase	001-240-465	Retirement Match	\$ 1,162.00
Increase	001-240-468	Insurance	\$ 1,546.00
Decrease	001-901-999	General Fund	\$15,537.00

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

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES
 Supervisor Eugene Thach-----YES
 Supervisor Gerald Clifton-----YES
 Supervisor John Caldwell-----YES
 Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----ABSENT

****See Exhibit F.4****

5. Making Fully Executed Contract a Part of the Minutes

a. Stroupe Pest Control

Supervisor Jessie Medlin made a motion and Supervisor Gerald Clifton seconded the motion to make the fully executed contract with Stroupe Pest Control from April 1, 2000 through March 31, 2001 a part of the minutes. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES
 Supervisor Eugene Thach-----YES
 Supervisor Gerald Clifton-----YES
 Supervisor John Caldwell-----YES
 Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----ABSENT

****See Exhibit F.5.a****

b. Oxner’s Professional Landscaping

County Administrator David Armstrong informed the Board that the contract that was approved with Oxner’s Professional Landscaping did not include prices for the Administration Building. Mr. Armstrong recommended that the contract be amended to include the additional prices for the Administration Building. Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion and Supervisor Gerald Clifton seconded the motion to amend the contract with Oxner’s Professional Landscaping to include the Administration Building at \$175.00 per cutting as recommended by Building and Grounds and \$50.00 per vacuum in the parking lot and to make the fully executed contract with Oxner’s Professional Landscaping for the period of April 1, 2000 through March 31, 2001 a part of the minutes. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES
 Supervisor Eugene Thach-----YES
 Supervisor Gerald Clifton-----YES
 Supervisor John Caldwell-----YES
 Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----ABSENT

****See Exhibit F.5.b****

ITEM F.6, CONTINUED,

6. District 2 Park Fund

Supervisor Eugene Thach made a motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to donate \$10,000.00 from the District 2 Park Fund to the City of Olive Branch for park maintenance and authorized the Clerk to write the check. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

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Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES
 Supervisor Eugene Thach-----YES
 Supervisor Gerald Clifton-----YES
 Supervisor John Caldwell-----YES
 Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----ABSENT

7. Budget Amendment

a. Information Systems

In accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 19-11-11 of the Mississippi Code, the Board of Supervisors did discuss an amendment to the budget for the Fiscal year beginning October 1, 1999, and ending September 30, 2000. Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion and Supervisor Gerald Clifton seconded the motion to approve a budget amendment for Information Systems under the provisions of Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, Section 19-11-19 as follows:

Decrease	001-152-443	Asst. Programmer Salary	\$ 1,500.00
Increase	001-152-587	Training	\$ 1,500.00

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

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES
 Supervisor Eugene Thach-----YES
 Supervisor Gerald Clifton-----YES
 Supervisor John Caldwell-----YES
 Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----ABSENT

****See Exhibit F.7.a****

b. Fire/Rescue

In accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 19-11-11 of the Mississippi Code, the Board of Supervisors did discuss an amendment to the budget for the Fiscal year beginning October 1, 1999, and ending September 30, 2000. Supervisor Gerald Clifton made the motion and Supervisor John Caldwell seconded the motion to approve a budget amendment for Fire and Rescue under the provisions of Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, Section 19-11-19 as follows:

Increase	101-251-587	Training	\$ 200.00
Decrease	101-252-587	Training/Registration	\$ 200.00

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

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES
 Supervisor Eugene Thach-----YES
 Supervisor Gerald Clifton-----YES

ITEM F.7.b, CONTINUED,

Supervisor John Caldwell-----YES
 Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----ABSENT

****See Exhibit F.7.b****

8. Commissioning of Depositories

Supervisor Gerald Clifton made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to commission Peoples Bank & Trust Company as County Depository for a two (2) year period

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effective April 1, 2000 through March 31, 2002 and to authorize the Board President to sign the resolution. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----YES
Supervisor Gerald Clifton-----YES
Supervisor John Caldwell-----YES
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----ABSENT

****See Exhibit F.8****

9. Interfund Transfer

- a. Circuit Court Administrator**
- b. Metro Narcotics**

In accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 19-11-11 of the Mississippi Code, the Board of Supervisors did discuss an amendment to the budget for the Fiscal year beginning October 1, 1999, and ending September 30, 2000. At the recommendation of Comptroller Joyce Riales, Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Gerald Clifton seconded the motion to approve the budget amendment for the Circuit Court Administrator and Metro Narcotics under the provisions of Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, Section 19-11-19 as follows:

Transfer From	001-900-950	General County	\$21,675.00
Transfer To	102-000-384	Circuit Court Administrator	\$21,675.00
Transfer From	105-227-950	Forfeitures/Metro Narcotics	\$14,375.50
Transfer To	115-000-388	Metro Narcotics/Grant	\$14,375.50

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

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----YES
Supervisor Gerald Clifton-----YES
Supervisor John Caldwell-----YES
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----ABSENT

****See Exhibit F.9****

10. Juvenile Block Grant Program

County Administrator David Armstrong informed the Board of Supervisors that DeSoto County is eligible to receive an allocation of \$16,819.00 from the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Black Grant Program. Mr. Armstrong said that the County's match would be 10% for the

ITEM F.10, CONTINUED,

grant. Mr. Armstrong said he met with Youth Court Judge Mills Barbee and that Judge Barbee recommends that the County apply for the grant. Mr. Armstrong said that the application has to be submitted by April 28, 2000. Supervisor Jessie Medlin made a motion and Supervisor Gerald Clifton seconded the motion to apply for funds through the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Black Grant Program. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----YES
Supervisor Gerald Clifton-----YES
Supervisor John Caldwell-----YES

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Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----ABSENT

****See Exhibit F.10****

11. Grant of Transmission Line Easement - North Central EPA

Supervisor Jessie Medlin made a motion and Supervisor John Caldwell seconded the motion to approve the Grant of Transmission Line Easement to the North Central Electric Power Association for the relocation of utility poles at the DeSoto County Landfill and authorized the Clerk to write the check. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----YES
Supervisor Gerald Clifton-----YES
Supervisor John Caldwell-----YES
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----ABSENT

****See Exhibit F.11****

G. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

H. OTHER ISSUES

1. Resolution of Appreciation

County Administrator David Armstrong publicly acknowledged Jim Bearden, Kenny Evans, Vanessa Lynchard, and Larry Wood for their work during the construction of the Administration Building and during the move. Mr. Armstrong thanked each for their dedication and for making his job easier. The Board also commended each for their work. Supervisor Tommy Lewis made a motion and Supervisor Gerald Clifton seconded the motion to approve a resolution of appreciation to Jim Bearden, Kenny Evans, Vanessa Lynchard, and Larry Wood for their dedication and hard work during the construction of the Administration Building and the move to the Administration Building. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote. ****See Exhibit H.1****

2. District 3 Park Fund

Supervisor Gerald Clifton presented a bill to the Board of Supervisors from the 301 Sports Association for equipment and a fence for the Highway 301 park in District 3. Supervisor Clifton requested that the Board approve the bill to be paid with funds from the District 3 Park Fund.

ITEM H.2, CONTINUED,

In accordance with Section 17-3-1, of the Mississippi Code of 1972, which states the board of supervisors of any county in Mississippi may in their discretion, set aside, appropriate and expend moneys, not to exceed one mill of their respective valuation and assessment for the purpose of advertising and bringing into favorable notice the opportunities, possibilities and resources of such municipality or county, Supervisor Gerald Clifton made a motion and Supervisor John Caldwell seconded the motion to advertise DeSoto County Resources by contributing \$5,594.30 to the 301 Sports Association, and to authorize the Clerk to write the check, and to approve a budget amendment from the District 3 Park fund under the provisions of Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, Section 19-11-19 as follows:

Decrease 001-523-913 District 3 Park \$5,594.30

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Increase 001-675-522 Advertise County Resources \$5,594.30

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

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----YES
Supervisor Gerald Clifton-----YES
Supervisor John Caldwell-----YES
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----ABSENT

****See Exhibit H.2****

3. Abandoning Road at Poplar Corner

Supervisor Eugene Thach made a motion and Supervisor John Caldwell seconded the motion to appoint Supervisor Jessie Medlin and Supervisor Eugene Thach as the committee to inspect abandoning a road at Poplar Corner. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----YES
Supervisor Gerald Clifton-----YES
Supervisor John Caldwell-----YES
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----ABSENT

4. Surplus Acreage on Highway 304

Supervisor John Caldwell asked if the surplus land on Highway 304 had been advertised for bids. Vanessa Lynchard said that it had been advertised.

Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to recess until April 17, 2000 at 9:00 a.m. The **motion passed** by vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----YES
Supervisor Gerald Clifton-----YES
Supervisor John Caldwell-----YES
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----ABSENT

THIS the 5th day of April, 2000, these minutes have been read and approved by the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors.

EUGENE C. THACH, President
DeSoto County Board of Supervisors