

**DESOTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**EUGENE C. THACH, PRESIDENT, PRESIDING**

**August 24, 2000**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The August 24, 2000, meeting of the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors was called to order by Supervisor Eugene C. Thach of DeSoto County.

Sheriff James A. Riley, DeSoto County Sheriff, 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 Sluggo Davis.

**C. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Chancery Allowances**

Allowances for the Chancery Court Clerk were presented to the Board of Supervisors for the August term in the amount of \$1,856.66. Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to approve the Chancery Clerk Allowances pursuant to Section 25-7-9 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, subject to obtaining the Chancellor's signature. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote. **\*\*See Exhibit C.1\*\***

**D. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Approval of Contract - BellSouth Mobility**

Vanessa Lynchard informed the Board of Supervisors that Judge Mills Barbee requested that his cellular phone service be changed to add the promotional free long distance throughout Mississippi with no roaming charges at a cost of \$4.95 a month. Vanessa said the plan would also save money for the County Administrator's phone. Vanessa said their package minutes would also be increased from 200 to 250 minutes for a cost of \$35.00 and that the cost of the plan would increase their monthly service fees by \$7.95. Supervisor Eugene Thach requested

**ITEM D.1, CONTINUED,**

that Vanessa check to see if it would be feasible for other County employees to change to the

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same service.

Supervisor John Caldwell made a motion and Supervisor Gerald Clifton seconded the motion to approve a contract with BellSouth Mobility to increase the package minutes from 200 to 250 minutes for a cost of \$35.00 and to add free long distance throughout the State of Mississippi with no roaming charges at a cost of \$4.95 for Judge Mills Barbee and County Administrator David Armstrong. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote. **\*\*See Exhibit D.1\*\***

**A. BUDGET FY01**

**1. Sheriff James A. Riley**

County Administrator David Armstrong informed the Board of Supervisors that the Sheriff's salary is based on population and that up to 100,000 people, the salary is \$65,000.00 and for more than 100,000, the salary is \$70,000.00. Mr. Armstrong said that a 5% increase that was requested for the Sheriff would raise his salary to \$68,250. Sheriff James A. Riley said he did not request a 5% raise but will expect his salary to be raised to \$70,000.00 when the results of the 2000 Census are received if the population is over 100,000. Mr. Armstrong also reported that there is no longer a cap on the Chief Deputy's salary and that the 5% raise requested for him would raise his salary from \$52,920.00 to \$55,566.00.

Mr. Armstrong said that the Sheriff requested a 5% across the board raise for the Sheriff's Department employees. Mr. Armstrong said that the salaries of the three employees making \$6.00 an hour will be adjusted to \$7.00 unless there is a reason that any of the three employees cannot make more than \$6.00 an hour.

Sheriff Riley responded to Supervisor John Caldwell's request to give the patrolmen a \$1,000.00 raise in addition to a 5% raise. Sheriff Riley said his main concern is that the Cities pay their patrolmen more than the County pays. Sheriff Riley said it is hard to retain deputies when they can go to the Cities and make more money. Sheriff Riley said that in addition to the patrolmen, the salaries of the jailers also need to be considered because their pay is below average.

Supervisor John Caldwell said he proposed the additional \$1,000.00 as the first step to get the salaries up to the level they should be. Supervisor Caldwell said that he and Supervisor Jessie Medlin wanted to get extra pay for the patrolmen because they work in an uncontrolled environment. Supervisor Caldwell said that the jailers are in a hazardous working environment but that it is more controlled than work on the street. Sheriff Riley suggested that the 58 patrolmen be given the extra raise this year and the jailers be considered next year for an additional raise. Supervisor Jessie Medlin said he thinks only certified officers should receive the additional \$1,000.00 and that it can be used as an incentive for officers to get certified. Sheriff Riley said that over 90% of his officers are certified.

Supervisor Eugene Thach said his concern about giving the additional \$1,000.00, is that once the money is put in the Sheriff's budget, by State Law, he can use it for whatever he wants and not for the 58 patrolmen. Sheriff Riley said that if the Board wants the 58 patrolmen to receive the extra \$1,000.00, then he will give it to them.

Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Gerald Clifton seconded the motion to approve a \$1,000.00 raise in addition to the standard 5% raise for each of the 58 certified patrolmen at the Sheriff's Department. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

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

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Supervisor John Caldwell-----YES  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----NO

Supervisor Tommy Lewis said he is not opposed to giving raises but that he feels the raises should be given as merit raises throughout the department. Supervisor Eugene Thach said his opposition to the raise is that the money should not be delegated to one thing.

## 2. Annie Ruth Brown - DeSoto County Museum

Ms. Annie Ruth Brown came before the Board of Supervisors to request assistance for the DeSoto County Museum and thanked the Board for past support of the museum, both moral and financial. Ms. Brown said that they are still working towards paying off the debt from the purchase of the old church, which will be restored to commemorate the past and will be used for weddings, and other special meetings. Ms. Brown said the building beside the church that they purchased will actually house the museum exhibits. In the meantime, Ms. Brown said the church is being rented to a church for \$1,800.00 a month to help retire the debt.

County Administrator David Armstrong asked if Ms. Brown had approached the Cities for a contribution. Ms. Brown said the Cities have not committed but have shown encouragement about contributing to the museum. Ms. Brown said that the Cities will be asked to contribute 30 cents per capita based on the population of each of the Cities. Ms. Brown said they are asking the County to also commit to 30 cents per capita based on the County's population.

Supervisor John Caldwell said the County gave a significant contribution to the museum two years ago to help get the museum opened and asked if there is a tentative date that the museum will be opened. Ms. Brown said paying off the building debt has slowed the museum's progress but that there is going to be a fund raiser this fall that they hope will help pay off the debt so efforts can be made to open the museum. Ms. Brown said they currently have a part-time curator and will be looking to hire a full-time curator in the near future to said that acquiring the curator and opening the museum is their main goal this year.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion and Supervisor Gerald Clifton seconded the motion to approve a contribution in the amount \$13,000.00, which represents 30 cents per capita based on the County's population. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote.

## 3. Circuit Clerk Dale Thompson

Circuit Clerk Dale Thompson informed the Board of Supervisors that since four voting precincts have been relocated, there are 10,857 registered voters that will need to be notified of the changes. Ms. Thompson said that if the Board wants the voters notified, additional money will be needed in the Circuit Clerk's budget for postage. The Board of Supervisors agreed that the voters in those precincts should be notified. Mr. Armstrong said that there is currently \$13,000.00 budgeted for postage and that an additional \$3,583.00 will need to be added to notify the voters. Supervisor Gerald Clifton made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to add an additional \$3,583.00 to the Circuit Clerk's postage budget to notify voters of the change in their election precincts. 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

## ITEM E.3, CONTINUED,

Circuit Clerk Dale Thompson also advised the Board of Supervisors that there will not be enough funds to cover the Clerk's fees in the Youth Court. Ms. Thompson said that last year the Clerk's fees for Youth Court were \$22,500.00 and Mr. Armstrong has only budgeted \$18,500.00 for the coming year. Comptroller Joyce Riales said that to date \$18,301.00 has

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been spent with two more months to go. The Board instructed County Administrator David Armstrong to increase the amount for Clerk's fees in Youth Court to \$22,000.00.

#### **4. Jim Anderson - First Regional Library**

Jim Anderson, Director of the First Regional Library, came before the Board of Supervisors to request a budget of \$803,000.00 for 2001. County Administrator David Armstrong said that he put \$766,500.00 in the Library budget. Mr. Anderson said that his request is based on the growth in use of the libraries, changes in technology, and growth in population. Mr. Anderson supported his request by presenting statistics showing how the DeSoto County libraries rank in the State and in the Districts, as outlined in Exhibit E.4.

Supervisor John Caldwell said that he supports the libraries but concerned that the Horn Lake Library has not gotten the amount of circulation that other libraries throughout DeSoto County have. Supervisor Caldwell said he understands that circulation is based on use but the lack of usage of the Horn Lake Library will continue if the circulation is not expanded. Mr. Anderson said that part of the disparity is based on the contributions from the Cities and that the contributions from the Cities are usually spent on new books. Ann Ashford added that the computers in the Horn Lake Library are never vacant, therefore, constituents often have to go to the Walls Library or Southaven Library to use a computer. Annie Ruth Brown said that access to the Horn Lake Library used to be an obstacle until the Board added another access road to the library. Ms. Brown thanked the Board for adding the road but said that the road needed to be paved. Supervisor Caldwell said that certain projects took priority over the road but that the road will be paved soon.

Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to approve a \$803,000.00 budget for the DeSoto County Libraries. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote. **\*\*See Exhibit E.4\*\***

#### **5. Barbara Dorr - Keep Mississippi Beautiful**

Barbara Dorr of Keep Mississippi Beautiful addressed the Board of Supervisors about reestablishing DeSoto County Beautiful. Ms. Dorr said that Keep Mississippi Beautiful is an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful and that there are twenty county affiliates throughout the State. Ms. Dorr requested that DeSoto County appoint a coordinator, at least on a part-time basis, so that DeSoto County will have someone to promote DeSoto County Beautiful in the community.

Ms. Dorr said that the code enforcement officer provided in the DEQ Grant could be used as the coordinator for DeSoto County Beautiful. Ms. Dorr said the coordinator would be provided tools to conduct a litter index. County Administrator David Armstrong said that Carl Reich in the Planning Department was appointed as the code enforcement officer. Ms. Dorr said that she is not asking for a monetary contribution. Ms. Dorr said she will assist the code enforcement officer by showing him the duties of the coordinator for DeSoto County Beautiful and will also provide the necessary tools for the position. The Board of Supervisors told Mr. Armstrong to get with Ms. Dorr to coordinate DeSoto County Beautiful.

#### **6. Linda Aldridge - Justice Court**

Justice Court Clerk Linda Aldridge informed the Board of Supervisors that she wants to discuss

#### **ITEM E.6, CONTINUED,**

raises for Justice Court personnel. The Board said they will discuss her requests when they go into Executive Session.

County Administrator David Armstrong presented the list of requests from the Justice Court Judges. Mr. Armstrong asked that the requests be held until the Judges can come discuss the

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items with the Board. **\*\*See Exhibit E.6\*\***

**7. Mike Hancock - Volunteer Fire Departments**

Mike Hancock, representing the Fire Chiefs Association, informed the Board of Supervisors that the \$100,000.00 being given to the Volunteer Fire Departments will be divided equally among the ten volunteer fire departments. Mr. Hancock said that the Fire Chiefs Association unanimously voted to place countywide paid fire departments on a referendum for the November election.

Supervisor Eugene Thach said that two mills are being paid now for the fire departments. Supervisor Thach said he will vote against giving the fire departments \$100,000.00 because the fire departments should not be paid for out of the general fund. Supervisor Thach further stated that he will vote in favor of a referendum.

Mr. Hancock said that the Fire Chiefs Association considered what is best for DeSoto County and said that their request will not please all volunteers but will please the majority. Supervisor John Caldwell said that he supports a referendum and doesn't want to get into a habit of funding the fire departments from the general fund but will vote to give \$100,000.00 to them this year.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis asked what will be done with the \$100,000.00. Mr. Hancock said the departments will use it to upgrade the stations and equipment.

Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to approve \$100,000.00 for the Volunteer Fire Departments and to continue efforts towards a working referendum for countywide paid fire departments. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

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

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

The Board of Supervisors discussed building funds for the Love, Miller, and Eudora Volunteer Fire Departments. Mr. Armstrong said that \$175,000.00 is budgeted for Love, \$125,000.00 for Miller, and \$100,000.00 for Eudora. Supervisor Eugene Thach said that other departments have paid for their own buildings and the Board should consider that before budgeting for the buildings. Mike Hancock said the reason some departments are able to build their own stations is due to being in more prosperous areas that are active in collecting dues. Mr. Hancock said some of the volunteer fire departments do not have water systems.

Supervisor John Caldwell said that taxes should not be increased to fund the buildings and recommended that the requests be decreased. Supervisor Tommy Lewis said the request for Love Fire Department can be decreased some but that the Board needs to remember that people are not as willing to donate land for fire departments as they were ten years ago due to the increased property prices.

**ITEM E.7, CONTINUED,**

Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion and Supervisor Tommy Lewis seconded the motion to approve \$325,000.00 for the Love Volunteer Fire Department, Miller Volunteer Fire Department, and the Eudora Volunteer Fire Department, and to proceed with architectural services for the fire departments. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

- Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES

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Supervisor Eugene Thach-----NO  
Supervisor Gerald Clifton-----YES  
Supervisor John Caldwell-----YES  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----YES

**F. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**G. OTHER ISSUES**

**1. Mayor Greg Davis**

Airways Road

Mayor Greg Davis of the City of Southaven advised the Board of Supervisors that the County’s contribution to Airways Road South is \$230,000.00 or less. Mayor Davis said the cost was split two ways between the County and the State with the City of Southaven paying for sewer and water.

Supervisor Eugene Thach asked about the status of Airways North. Mayor Davis said that Airways North will be done in the next budget year and that they are in the process of acquiring right of ways. Mayor Davis said Airways North should be completed in a year and a half.

Civic Center Road

Mayor Davis said that the County’s portion of the Civic Center Road is approximately \$22,000.00. Mayor Davis said that the Civic Center Road is supposed to be a four lane road and he suggest waiting until the land is developed before adding the additional lanes to make the road a five lane road.

Rural Fire Departments

Mayor Davis reported that the Cities are concerned about the rural fire departments being funded by the general fund. Mayor Davis recognized the important role that fire districts play in fire protection. Mayor Davis asked the Board to take annexation of rural fire departments into consideration when funding the departments and work out a financial agreement with the Cities. Mayor Davis requested consideration of the Summershill area, where the City has already contributed to their funding.

Germantown Road Extended

Supervisor Jessie Medlin asked about Germantown Road Extended at Stateline Road. Mayor Davis said they are still waiting for a response from MDOT regarding those roads.

Mayor Davis thanked the Board of Supervisors for an amicable working relationship and support during his term of office and said he hoped the City of Southaven and the County continue to work together for the betterment of DeSoto County.

**ITEM G.2, CONTINUED,**

**2. Circuit Clerk Allowances**

The allowances for the Circuit Court Clerk for the July 2000 term in the amount of \$8,154.00 was presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval. Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion and Supervisor Gerald Clifton seconded the motion to approve the Circuit Court Clerk Allowances pursuant to Sections 43-21-205 and 25-7-13(M) of the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote. **\*\*See Exhibit G.2\*\***

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### 3. Codification Update

Supervisor John Caldwell asked the status of the codification. Vanessa Lynchard said that the codification information was sent late due to the amount of information that they wanted. Vanessa said she will let the Board know as soon as she receives the response.

Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Tommy Lewis seconded the motion to recess until August 28, 2000 at 9:00 a.m. The **motion passed** by a unanimous vote.

THIS the 24<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2000, these minutes have been read and approved by the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors.

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EUGENE C. THACH, President  
DeSoto County Board of Supervisors

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