

**DESOTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**TOMMY LEWIS, PRESIDENT, PRESIDING**

**August 28, 2001**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The August 28, 2001, meeting of the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors was called to order by Supervisor Tommy Lewis of DeSoto County.

Chancery Clerk, W. E. “Sluggo” Davis 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
- Sheriff James Albert Riley-----DeSoto County

**B. INVOCATION**

Chancery Clerk W. E. “Sluggo” Davis presented the invocation.

**C. OLD BUSINESS**

**D. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Waterline at Tulane Road – Days Water Association**

Supervisor John Caldwell explained the work on Tulane Road necessitates the lowering of a water line belonging to Days Water Association. Supervisor Eugene Thach said in other cases the water associations and the county have halved the cost of the relocation. Supervisor Caldwell explained in this case the water line is not on county right of way. The County is asking the water association to move their line on their on easement.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis asked what the estimate for the project is. Supervisor John Caldwell said he is unsure of the exact estimate, but they are just lowering the line. Supervisor Jessie Medlin said he does not mind helping them, but said we need some kind of estimate. Supervisor Eugene Thach said since it is off the right of way he questions the County’s participation. The Board Attorney said he needs to look at the statute.

**2. Approval of Professional Service Agreement – Waggoner Engineering**

County Administrator David Armstrong said there are some substantial changes that have been recommended by Tony Nowak. Mr. Armstrong said he will get with Waggoner Engineering to discuss the changes and does not foresee any major problems.

**ITEM D.2, CONTINUED,**

Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to approve the contract with Waggoner Engineering with changes as recommended by the Austin Law Firm. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.  
**\*\*See Exhibit D.2\*\***

**3. Budget Concerns – Bennie Watson**

Mr. Bennie Watson, a citizen of DeSoto County, addressed the Board of Supervisors on their consideration of funding an equestrian arena in DeSoto County at over \$1,000,000. Mr. Watson said people in his part of the country all own a little land and want to know why we need a horse arena. Why do we need to spend that much money to serve 10% of DeSoto County and to help a lot of out of state people. Mr. Watson said we have roads that need attention. The arena will not make the county any money. Mr. Watson requested the supervisors talk with the people before deciding the issue. Mr. Watson said loads of people are starting to go back to Memphis because we are starting to spend money they can't afford. He requested on behalf of his area that the Board stop and think before spending their money.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis said the Supervisors are trying to get the word out to the people through the newspaper.

**4. Hernando Civic Center – Request for Assistance**

Supervisor Tommy Lewis said the Hernando Civic Center has requested the County to supply 10 to 15 loads of sand from the Green T Road sand pit. Supervisor Tommy Lewis made the motion and Supervisor Gerald Clifton seconded the motion to approve the County to supply sand for the Hernando Civic Center and for the expense of the sand to come from District 5 Park Funds. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

**5. Approval of Interlocal Agreement – Storm Water Drainage**

At the recommendation of the Board Attorney, Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to approve and authorize the Board President to sign an interlocal agreement between DeSoto County, the City of Hernando, the City of Horn Lake, the City of Olive Branch, and the City of Southaven which was designed to combine the resources of all entities in order to comply with the EPA's Phase II Storm Water Regulations. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

**E. BUDGET FY02**

**1. Search and Rescue**

T. H. Walker, Director of Civil Defense and several representatives of the volunteer Search and Rescue Department appeared before the Board of Supervisors to make a formal request for a building from which to operate. Mr. Walker said they are here to ask for an adequate facility. Many of the people present were taking off work from their regular jobs to show their dedication to DeSoto County's Search and Rescue Team. Mr. Walker said they need a place to store and secure their equipment.

Supervisor John Caldwell assured those present that T. H. Walker has represented their interests well in the past by making their plea for a facility known to the Board. The Board has worked on finding a facility, but none has come available.

Supervisor Eugene Thach asked if a pole barn will work. Mr. Walker said some things would be fine in a pole barn. Some equipment must be environmentally controlled.

Sheriff James Albert Riley said these volunteers work more than just lakes, they also help with murder investigations looking for clues.

**ITEM E.1, CONTINUED,**

Supervisor Gerald Clifton said he fully supports this group and making those request a priority. County Administrator David Armstrong said there is nothing in the budget for a building for Search & Rescue.

Mr. Walker said one of the most expensive things a county can do is to put under trained people into a situation where they can incur liability for the county. Therefore, Search & Rescue must be able to perform training classes and must have a facility adequate for such training.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis assured the group the Board is looking for a place.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin asked what size building the group needs. T. H. Walker said a building approximately 70' x 40' would be adequate. They need the building to have room for storage and at least part of the building air conditioned to hold training. They prefer to have all the equipment in one location.

Mr. Armstrong asked if the current meeting room is adequate for training. Mr. Walker said it is not.

Supervisor Eugene Thach asked how much the cities give to Search and Rescue. Mr. Walker said the cities do not give money to the Search and Rescue.

Supervisor Medlin said in the near future the Fairhaven Fire Department building may be available. Mr. Walker said they appreciate the offer, but, if possible, they need their facility to be in a central county location for a quicker response.

Later in the meeting, Supervisor Gerald Clifton made the motion and Supervisor Tommy Lewis seconded the motion for David Armstrong and Bill Austin to look into E911 doing a site plan for a facility that would include Search & Rescue. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

**BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS 2002**

County Administrator David Armstrong said the proposed millage for General County for FY02 is 23.82 mills. In FY01 General County millage was 21.24 mills.

In FY01 a County mill brought in \$649,028, a Road mill brought in \$681,596, a school mill brought in \$699,852, and an unincorporated mill brought in \$179,818.

The total millage for FY01 was 85.78 and the proposed millage for FY02 is 86.18 mills, with the extra .4 mills going to Northwest MS Community College--DeSoto Center. Supervisor Thach said he did not remember Northwest asking for more millage. Construction would be accomplished with the existing school millage. Supervisor Thach verified that he voted for the Northwest expansion based on the fact that there would not be a tax increase. Supervisor Jessie Medlin said DeSoto County is fortunate to have the college in our county and said the college saves DeSoto County taxpayers money. Supervisor Thach said the current millage should be enough to support the request. Supervisor Caldwell suggested allocating money instead of millage to the request.

Mr. Armstrong explained the loss if revenue due to the cities not paying for prisoner medical and feeding.

Mr. Armstrong said that travel has been combined for all departments.

A special project coordinator has been added to assist the Board of Supervisors with projects.

CONTINUED,

**Budget highlights:**

P 15 The Regional Utility Authority asked to add a person to come on board to handle their work at \$40,000 per year. Supervisor Caldwell asked if the County can legally pay an employee of the Regional Utility Authority. Mr. Armstrong said he will check. Mr. Armstrong said the attorney line item includes fees for Butler Snow.

Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion and Supervisors Eugene Thach seconded the motion to recess until 1:30. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

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

**ACTION ITEMS**

FUND #	ITEM #	PROPOSED BUDGET	CHANGE BY BOS	REVISED BUDGET	NOTES
103	475	\$42,800.00	\$(17,800.00)	\$25,000.00	Tax Assessor travel
110	550	\$17,000.00	\$(7,000.00)	\$10,000.00	Reg. Utility Auth. Legal fees
180	805	\$2,500.00	\$10,000.00	\$12,500.00	Interest for voting equipment
220	579	\$576,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$676,000.00	Feeding and housing prisoners
220	432	\$962,136.00	\$(187,500.00)	\$774,636.00	Jailers and guards
220	465	\$115,226.00	\$(18,281.00)	\$96,945.00	Retirement Match
220	466	\$90,408.00	\$(14,343.00)	\$76,065.00	Social Security
220	467	\$33,918.00	\$(5,381.00)	\$28,537.00	Workers Comp
240		\$-	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00	Add for Med Tech License
520	913	\$125,000.00	\$(125,000.00)	\$-	Remove Equestrian Center from Park Bdgt. You will also need to remove the bond/state dev. Payment. I did not include this here, because this is only General Fund.
652	760	\$266,000.00	\$(10,000.00)	\$256,000.00	Decrease Arts Council budget to \$15,000
		\$2,230,988.00	\$(200,305.00)	\$2,030,683.00	

**QUESTIONS**

Sluggo Davis asked if the new Over 65 exemption had been considered. Bill Bryant says the new exemption does not take effect until the update is finished.

Can the County legally pay an employee of the Reg. Utility Authority? Bobby Chamberlin will check.

Supervisor Caldwell asked for a list from Daniel showing the projects he is working on.

Does the County Court Judge have the authority to set the salary of his court administrator and court reporter?

**CONTINUED,**

David Armstrong and Bill Austin were asked to look into doing a site plan for E911 to include Search & Rescue.

Supervisor Medlin asked if the Health Department is open on Olive Branch every day.

Supervisor Lewis wants to know what TANF does.

Supervisor Caldwell asked why furniture is budgeted for Family & Children

Supervisor Lewis asked for the County Administrator to sit down with the Sunrise Home people and discuss their allocation

How will the House of Grace use our money?

Will we owe JBHM any more money for the equestrian center?

Can we exceed our limit in Advertising County Resources by moving money from other funds to pay for the expenses.

No

**F. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

**G. OTHER ISSUES**

**1. Church & Elmore Road,, Church & Getwell Road**

Supervisor Eugene Thach said he talked with Mayor Davis about the County's participation to improve drainage at Church and Elmore Roads. Mayor Davis understood the County's reluctance to help due to a lack of information before the project began. Also Supervisor Thach said he told Mayor Davis that we could not work on private property.

Mayor Davis asked if the County could pay ½ the cost in improvements to Church and Getwell. Southaven is widening the road and adding a turn lane. The estimated cost is \$60,000. Supervisor Thach said Mayor Davis said the money could come out of the County's commitment to Airways South.

Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion and Supervisor Gerald Clifton seconded the motion to approve a letter of commitment for the County to participate in improvements to the intersection of Church and Getwell Roads up to \$30,000 with money coming from the Airways South commitment. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Supervisor Thach asked the County Administrator David Armstrong to send a letter to the City of Southaven conveying the Board's commitment to participate in improvements to the intersection of Church and Getwell Roads.

**2. I-69**

Supervisor Eugene Thach informed the Board of Supervisors of a meeting on September 19<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup> in Washington, D.C. on I-69. Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Tommy Lewis seconded the motion to approve Supervisor Thach to travel to Washington D.C. to sustain the County's commitment to I-69. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

**ITEM G, CONTINUED,**

**3. Chancery Clerk Allowances**

On this date, the Chancery Court Clerk, W. E. Davis presented an order of Allowances to the Board of Supervisors for the August, 2001, term in the amount of \$930.00. Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion and Supervisor Gerald Clifton seconded the motion to approve these payments, pursuant to Section 25-7-9 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated. The motion passed by a unanimous vote. **\*\*See Exhibit G.3\*\***

**4. Interlocal Agreement**

Board Attorney Bill Austin said the Yazoo Mississippi Delta Levy Board is proposing an Interlocal Agreement. They are willing to pay for extra patrol in the area. The Attorney General says you can accomplish the extra patrols by deputizing representatives from the Levy Board. They will patrol the levy for unlawful activities and have arrest authority. The Sheriff's Department will handle any arrests that occur.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis said the general public needs to know what is unlawful activity on the levy.

Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion to approve the Board president to sign the Interlocal Agreement between the sheriff and the Board of Supervisors and the Yazoo MS Delta Levy District. The motion died for lack of a second.

The Board of Supervisors discussed the liability involved in the process. No votes were taken on this issue. **\*\*See Exhibit G.4\*\***

Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion and Supervisor Gerald Clifton seconded the motion to recess until Thursday, August 30, 2000 at 9:00 a.m. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

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

THIS the 28<sup>TH</sup>. day of August, 2001, 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