

**DESOTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**TOMMY LEWIS, PRESIDENT, PRESIDING**

**August 30, 2001**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The August 30, 2001, meeting of the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors was called to order by Supervisor Jessie Medlin 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**

Supervisor John Caldwell presented the invocation.

**C. OLD BUSINESS**

**D. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Waste Water Meeting – Jackson, MS**

County Administrator David Armstrong said he wanted to give the Board of Supervisors an update regarding the meeting that was held in Jackson, MS on August 29, 2001. The Corp of Engineers, the EPA, the DEQ, and Waggoner Engineering were some of the participants at this meeting. David Armstrong said the over all cost of the Waste Water Project will be \$95 million and the County share is 45% and we have spent \$1.1 million on the Waste Water Project so far this year.

David Armstrong said he and Board Attorney Tony Nowak, met with Jim Harris and Mark Smith, who were with DEQ.

David Armstrong said the main topic of discussion was the State Revolving Fund (SRF) and the possibility of using these funds for the County’s match of 45% for the Waste Water Project. David Armstrong said in the past these funds could not be used due to a lot of red tape requirements, but they have changed the rules and regulations and opened these funds. David Armstrong said they have \$40 million dollars to be used with an interest rate of 1.75% and an administration fee of 5%. The County is eligible to use these

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## **ITEM D.1, CONTINUED,**

funds for the Waste Water Project as our matching funds with the EPA. David Armstrong said that Congress has authorized \$11.6 million and the Corp of Engineers has increased their authorized amount from \$10 million to \$20 million for the Waste Water Project.

David Armstrong said the \$1.1 million the County has spent could be reimbursed, but it would have to be paid back on the loan. David Armstrong said the County has to apply for the SRF funds prior to October 1, 2001 and it would be December before we would know if the County would receive the funds.

### **2. Waterline at Tulane Road – Days Water Association**

Supervisor John Caldwell said the cost for the County to do the work on Tulane Road to move the water line belonging to Days Water Association for the purpose of correcting the road for safety would be \$4,392.50. Supervisor Eugene Thach said in other cases the water associations and the County has halved the cost of the relocation. Supervisor Caldwell explained in this case the water line is not on County right of way but the County is changing the hill on the road for safety, causing the necessity of the lowering of the water line.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin said the County may need more easement for this work. Board Attorney Bill Austin said an additional easement would be required for the work. A temporary construction easement should be acquired before the bank is cut. Bill Austin said the same thing happened on Church Road regarding moving waterlines because of the expansion of the road.

Bill Austin said according to the Mississippi Code Section 19-5-30, the Board of Supervisors of any County in this state is hereby authorized and empowered, in its discretion, to render any assistance deemed necessary in order to defray the cost of the relocation of a water line operated within the County by a local water association when such relocation is required for the development of a public road or other County improvement. Such assistance may be rendered by the Board upon a finding that such would be in the best interest of the County.

Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Tommy Lewis seconded the motion to pay all expenses for the movement of the waterline and for the County to get a signed work easement from the affected property owners. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

### **3. Equestrian Arena**

Supervisor Tommy Lewis said he would like for the public to know the Board is not here today to take a vote on the Equestrian Arena, because they have to work on the County budget before any decisions can be made. Supervisor Eugene Thach said the Board was still discussing what can be done in regards to the Equestrian Arena and that the Board has made no decisions.

Loraine Cady, representing the Equestrian Committee, said a group of people was present today in support of the arena and they have new data from the County's 4-H Group, about the need for the arena for the youth of the County. Ms. Cady said they want to make sure the door is still open for this project and for the Board to give more time for the group to work on the project. Ms. Cady said she is very familiar with a tight budget for all concerned.

Supervisor Eugene Thach said the group should discuss the possibility of raising funds to build the project outside of the County funding. Supervisor Thach said the Board has talked about this project being built in phases and this may be the way to look at it.

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**ITEM D.3, CONTINUED,**

Ms. Cady asked the Board of Supervisors if they had designated this property for the Equestrian Arena. Supervisor Thach said the Board has turned down other spots in preference to this property as the accepted spot. Supervisor Tommy Lewis asked the Board Attorney Bill Austin if he had received information regarding how far along this project was. Bill Austin said he had spoken with Doug Thornton, the architect, and he stated they were 65 to 85% finished on the site plans and improvement requirements.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis asked Ms. Cady if they feel like the group can secure funds for this project. Ms. Cady said they feel like they can work on funds and the project being done in phases. Supervisor Thach said the land is designated, the site work is ready to start and the architect has to be paid. Supervisor Tommy Lewis said there is nothing in the budget until it is adopted. All that is there now is a preliminary project.

Supervisor Gerald Clifton made the motion to hold this project until further study can be done regarding funding. Supervisor Thach said Supervisor Lewis and Supervisor Medlin are on the Equestrian Committee and for Ms. Cady to work with them regarding the project to be brought back to the Board. Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

**4. Appointment to the CVB Board**

In accordance with Section 19-5-307 of the Mississippi Code Annotated, Supervisor Tommy Lewis made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to appoint Chuck Roberts, to replace Martha Gatlin, to the Civic Center Board to represent District 5 for a term of one year. The motion passed by a unanimous vote,

**E. BUDGET FY02**

The Board of Supervisors began reviewing the preliminary budget with the General County Mandatory Fund as follows:

**002-(General County Mandatory Fund)**

County Administrator David Armstrong said this fund is made up on one mill and does not have any exemptions. David Armstrong said \$7 thousand was transferred into the County General fund at the beginning of this year. This balance will be transferred out to the General fund at the beginning of the new budget year.

CDBG Hacks Cross Road

County Administrator David Armstrong said this would be finished out during the next year.

CDBG New DHS Building

County Administrator David Armstrong said the expense for the new DHS building includes consultant fees, architect fees and the building.

Volunteer Fire Department

County Administrator David Armstrong said two mills for the unincorporated areas of the County for the fire departments was put into the revenue side of the budget, which is equal to \$359,653. The proposed budget includes the State reimbursement for the Volunteer Fire Department and the fire truck grants.

Supervisor John Caldwell said that there are ten Volunteer Fire Departments in the County and the average amount received is based on population. Supervisor Tommy Lewis said the rating of each district will save homeowner money on their homeowners insurance. Chancery Clerk Sluggo Davis said the home ratings by Farm Bureau Insurance premiums are:

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<u>Rating</u>	<u>Insurance Amount</u>
10	\$883.00
9	\$774.00
8	\$564.00
6	\$518.00

David Armstrong said they are still looking into the Rapid Intervention Fire Teams.

Volunteer Fire Department – Fire Inspector

David Armstrong said this budget is down due to the Fire Inspector Jack Edwards being a part time employee.

Circuit Court Administrator

County Administrator David Armstrong said this revenue is up.

County Law Library

County Administrator David Armstrong said the budget was increased due to the computer expense and supplies. Director of Administrative Services, Vanessa Lynchard, said to save space and for management reasons, the Law Library recommends the West Law codes and other publications on CD ROM rather than the books. Supervisor John Caldwell said this should be broken down as hardware and software for the Law Library. Vanessa Lynchard said Data Processing has submitted recommendations for the computer requirements.

Metro Narcotics - Forfeitures

County Administrator David Armstrong this account is a revenue and expense account with any carryover going into next year's budget.

Chancery Court Administrator

County Administrator David Armstrong said this account is based on court fees and the balance is transferred out to the County. Chancery Clerk Sluggo Davis said there were less filed court cases this year.

County Court Administrator

County Administrator David Armstrong said this account is based on court fees and the balance is transferred out to the County.

State Emergency Management

County Administrator David Armstrong said this account receives State funds. Supervisor Jessie Medlin asked how the State determines how to distribute the money. Comptroller Joyce Riales said the State sets the amount based on traffic fines.

DeSoto Solid Waste

County Administrator David Armstrong said a levy was set for revenue for the solid waste. David Armstrong said there is no charge to the Cities or to the public for the rubbish pit. David Armstrong said he had discussed the BFI account and felt like it would be down next year and will be up on the rubbish pit.

Supervisor Eugene Thach asked why the tire recycle account was so high. David Armstrong said this is grant money that is allotted for the County to handle old tires. The County will only receive funds for actual amounts submitted to the grant office, but we put the full amount to capture the total opportunity for savings from the County budget. Only the funds used will be reimbursed.

Supervisor Thach asked what the soil erosion was used for. Jim Bearden, Director of Operations and Maintenance said he has dumped dirt at the old landfill due to the soil washing in areas and this done for EPA requirement. Supervisor Jessie Medlin asked if

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**ITEM E, CONTINUED,**

collection tickets were turned in by BFI. Jim Bearden said he has records for everything the Cities and County dumps plus what the homeowners dump. Supervisor Tommy Lewis asked if the County took over the rubbish pit would we save money. Jim Bearden said it would cost the County money, because we would have to purchase equipment and hire additional personnel to run the operation.

Supervisor Thach asked why the equipment purchase was up. Jim Bearden said he purchased the trailers for the recycle program. Jim said the money came from the grant and we may need to purchase some more trailers next year for additional locations.

Metro Narcotics Grant

County Administrator David Armstrong said the grant was cut last year and the agents did not get a raise. David Armstrong said they are requesting 7% raise for the agents and to hire an additional agent at a salary of \$24,685. David Armstrong said if the grant is not approved, then the budget will have to be changed.

Tobacco Enforcement

County Administrator David Armstrong said this account would go away this next year.

Motor Vehicle Registration

County Administrator David Armstrong said the increase in the budget was due to new phone lines and computer equipment requirements for the Internet purchase of tags that were previously budgeted through another Tax Collector budget.

E-911 Emergency Communications

County Administrator David Armstrong said the State Audit Department states this department falls under the County. Effective October 1, 2001 all surcharge funds will go to the County.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis said maybe this account could help with the Civil Defense requirements.

David Armstrong said the existing Board that runs E-911 has requested a 3.5% salary increase for the Director and a 16% salary increase for the Assistant Director. Supervisor Jessie Medlin asked who has the authority to say how much salary increase they will receive. David Armstrong said he would check with the Board Attorney, since he sits on the Board for E-911.

Narcotics – Seized Spec. Revenue

County Administrator said this account will carryover any funds left at the end of the year.

County Wide Road Maintenance / Construction and Bridge & Culvert

County Administrator David Armstrong said he had cut the requested machinery purchase budget for fund 156 and 160 by \$200,000 and by doing this it reduced the millage required for the new year.

Supervisor John Caldwell and Supervisor Tommy Lewis stated they did not want the millage cut to the Road and Bridge Funds. Supervisor Lewis said the County has several roads that this money could be spent on. Supervisor Caldwell said there is bridge and culvert work needed on roads where this money could be spent. Kenny Gunn, County Road Manager, said some of the money has been earmarked for projects in this next year. Chancery Clerk W. E. Davis asked if the money had been encumbered. Comptroller Joyce Riales said unless there is a purchase order issued for the project, there is no way to encumber the funds, and much of this is contract work.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin said the Hacks Cross Road project was done this year and would be

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complete. Joyce Riales said this is a CDBG project and the funds have to be accounted for, so she sets up an account for the project to be able to track expenses. Supervisor Medlin asked about the State Aid Funds that come from the State. Joyce Riales said the State only sends funds to the County to cover the engineering expense and they disperse the balance of funds for project.

Supervisor John Caldwell said the Board should look at Road and Bridge Funds by millage like we do the Schools and College, and not as funds. It should stay the same millage or increase. All excess money should stay in the account. David Armstrong said to do so without an overall millage increase, the General Fund would not be balanced. Supervisor Caldwell said these accounts have to have funds when revenue is not coming in, which happens in October, November and December.

Supervisor Eugene Thach asked Kenny Gunn how he appropriates funds for both accounts. Kenny Gunn said he breaks it out by personnel and equipment to distribute into the funds.

Supervisor John Caldwell said the Road Budget and the Sheriff’s Budget are the only two accounts that can be cut. Supervisor Tommy Lewis said the carryover from the road budget would keep from increasing taxes, but he is not in favor of cutting the road budget. Supervisor Jessie Medlin said the expansion of the jail was mandated and other areas that are required. If we cut the road budget this year then there will be a short fall next year.

Kenny Gunn said the only way to look at what is committed to be spent would be to designate accounts for the projects. A purchase order would show the encumbrance on the account. Supervisor Tommy Lewis asked if there was an accountant in the Road Department that could keep records and track of the funds. Kenny Gunn said he has asked for an assistant, but that was to assist him in the field. He could hire additional office personnel to help in the office so someone could handle this information. Supervisor Lewis said someone needs to keep track of the two funds and what is planned for the account spending. Supervisor Eugene Thach said he thought the County Comptroller was keeping up these funds on a monthly basis.

Kenny Gunn said the only major capitol expense for next year would be the overlay contract for the balance of 2001 and the new overlay contract for 2002.

State Aid Road Funds

County Administrator David Armstrong said he had spoken with County Engineer Daniel Murphy and this budget is ok.

**BOND INDEBTNESS**

County Administrator David Armstrong said the follow is a list of bond indebtedness that the County would carryover into next year.

<b>Bond No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Expiration Date</b>	<b>Mill</b>
92B	G/O Bond	\$1.525 M	October 2004	.33
99B	Courthouse Renovation	\$3.5M	October 2009	.46
			lower mill to	.45
	Adm. Bldg. Interest & Sink	\$7M	December 2017	.49
			Increase mill to	.75
	E-911 Bldg. Fund	\$2.775M	December 2008	NA
	This bond is based on surcharge funds			
98	G/O Bond	\$4.655M	April 2013	.36
			Increase mill to	.45

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\$18million Bond Issue	\$18M	October 2020	1.42
		decrease to	.96
County Rd. & Bridge Interest & Sink			1.5
This bond has been combined & refinanced		Increase mill	2.0
Original 1992, chg. 94, chg. 96			

DeSoto County School Interest & Sink – This bond has been paid out and has a balance of \$105,000 left, which will be transferred into the appropriate fund.

Walls Sewer District Debt Service- This is set up as an actual dollar amount with no millage. The Bond issued was assessed only to the homeowners that received the service. Joyce Riales said the Walls Water Association sends in the money to retire the debt.

Administration Building Construction Account      No funds required

Construction Courthouse Renovation      No millage

E-911 System Upgrade Construction      No millage

**\$18 million G/O Bond Construction**

FUND #	PROJECT	AMOUNT
184	Church Road W.	\$1,924,250
185	Church Road E.	\$5,436,237
186	DHS Building	\$1,200,000
187	Jail Renovation	\$4,052,175
188	Brentwood Originals	\$635,000
189	Equestrian Arena	\$1,350,000
190	Horn Lake – Nail Road	\$750,000
191	Starlanding Overpass	\$700,000

**\$10 million State Development Bank**

County Administrator David Armstrong said the County has already spent \$5 million from this bond.

PROJECT	AMOUNT SPENT	BUDGET FY02
Waster Water Project	\$1,166,773	\$1,350,000
Civic Center Const.	3,841,094	
Airways Road South		\$235,000
Library-Olive Branch Hernando		\$3,000,000
Airways Road North		\$750,000

Supervisor Tommy Lewis said the road to the Civic Center has to be constructed soon. Supervisor John Caldwell said during the apartment construction that is going on at this time, they cut the designated road off as if it is a private drive. Supervisor Eugene Thach said the utilities would have to be moved before the road could be expanded to four lanes. Supervisor Caldwell said Daniel Murphy has said he thinks it will be ok on the utilities. Supervisor Caldwell said he would like for Daniel Murphy to give a status report on all projects the County has assigned to him. Supervisor Thach said the County needs a County Engineer on staff, due to all the projects that need to be done.

**Self-Funded Health Insurance**

County Administrator David Armstrong said that Vickie Richmann, Personnel Director, has

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been keeping track of this fund to maintain a balance of \$1 million in the account. David Armstrong said he has instructed her to bring any outstanding occurrences to his attention so that the Board could address it.

David Armstrong said the bottom line today the budget for FY01 was \$82 million and the budget for FY02 would be \$81 million.

**F. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Tommy Lewis seconded the motion to adjourn until Tuesday, September 4, 2001 at 9:00 a.m. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

THIS the 30<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

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