

# DESOTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

### MARK GARDNER, PRESIDENT PRESIDING

December 23, 2013

#### A. CALL TO ORDER

The December 23, 2013 meeting of the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors was called to order by Supervisor Mark Gardner, Board President.

Sheriff Bill Rasco of the DeSoto County Sheriff's Department was present and opened the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors meeting in a regular session to hear all business before the Board of Supervisors. The following officials were present:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin	District 1
Supervisor Mark Gardner	District 2
Supervisor Bill Russell	District 3 Participated by phone
Supervisor Lee Caldwell	District 4
Supervisor Harvey Lee	District 5 Participated by phone
Sheriff Bill Rasco	Sheriff
W. E. Sluggo Davis	Chancery Clerk
Vanessa Lynchard	County Administrator
Jody Neyman	Board Attorney

#### B. INVOCATION

County Administrator Vanessa Lynchard presented the Invocation.

#### C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

#### D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Supervisor Mark Gardner asked if there was anyone who wished to add or delete items to the Agenda.

The following requested changes were made to the Agenda:

##### 1. Update on Storm Damage

Director of Emergency Services Bobby Storey said the weather turned out to be a little better than he anticipated. There were two tornados over DeSoto County but fortunately they did not strike. Director Story said 1,600 residents were without power and several tree limbs were down. He said that the power issues were only breakers that needed to be reset. Director Storey said the issues were a little worse in Hernando, ACI and Lewisburg. The power being off was resolved by resetting the breakers. Entergy and Northcentral had the power restored by yesterday at 5:00 p.m.

Director Storey said he is concerned about the EOC and Storm Spotters being down. He said he sent several emails to different people including the Board of Supervisors to keep them informed on the situation. Several people didn't receive their emails until the next day.

Supervisor Gardner agreed that it is an issue. He said at least most of the cell communication was okay.

Chief Storey said at a later date, the situation needs to be looked at and maybe use AT&T as a backup. AT&T would charge \$50 per month.

Supervisor Gardner said he would like to get IT involved and see about using C Spire. Director Storey said their accesses are also blocked when they need to get into the system.

Supervisor Gardner said he was returning from a trip and sent a note to Tim Curtis. He said that Mr. Curtis instructed him to get off of the highway immediately. Supervisor Gardner said they were driving between Como and Senatobia and the wind was moving his car.

Director Storey said that Senatobia was hit pretty hard. It is his understanding that they are back on now.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin said that he was told last night that Craft and Vaiden Roads were back on.

Director Storey said he would like to thank all of the responders including the Sheriff's Department and the Road Department. He said everyone worked well together. He said they removed limbs very quickly and made sure lines that were down were dead. Director Storey said it is always amazing when everyone comes together in situations like this one. He said the Sheriff got hit with calls. Everyone was working in straight-line winds of 60-80 miles per hour.

Sheriff Bill Rasco agreed that they all worked very well together. He pointed out an issue regarding the cleanup of limbs by tree companies. He said the companies will tell the people they will haul off the limbs. Sheriff Rasco said in one case, they took the limbs to a cove and dumped them. It happened to be in Sheriff Rasco's neighborhood. He said it is not the first time it has happened in that cove. Sheriff Rasco said that Stan Rochelle of the Road Department says it happens quite frequently. Then residents call the Road Department to remove the limbs. Tree services are charging the residents for removing limbs to dispose of them; then the Tree Service takes the limbs somewhere nearby and dumps them out for someone else to clean up.

Supervisor Medlin said the Board has tried to address this before with the Tree Services.

Sheriff Rasco said the Tree Service told him that their boss said to pick up the limbs and dump them in the cove.

Supervisor Medlin said the school buses and police and deputies use the cove to turn their vehicles around.

Supervisor Gardner asked Environmental Services Manager Ray Laughter to get with the Road Department to take pictures and haul the limbs to the rubbish pit.

Director Storey said then they call Emergency Services for a burn permit.

Supervisor Gardner ask if the hours at the rubbish pit that were modified in the last meeting are effective this week, especially with Christmas wrappings and Christmas trees.

Mr. Laughter said the modified hours go into effect the end of this week. They will stay open as long as we need them too.

Sheriff Rasco said limbs are still in yards.

Supervisor Medlin confirmed that the Rubbish Pit is open till noon on Saturday. Mr. Laughter said that is correct. He said the trucks are not running on Saturday so rubbish pit will not be as busy. Most of their traffic is from our trucks.

Supervisor Medlin said they have discussed chipping wood in the past instead of taking it to the rubbish pit. He said we are not going to be able to put rubbish pits just anywhere. He said residents will be taking down Christmas trees and he would like for someone to check into renting a chipper.

Supervisor Mark Gardner asked the Environmental Services Manager Ray Laughter to check into renting a chipper. Supervisor Gardner said the limb companies could haul the limbs to the rubbish pit but don't because it is an inconvenience.

Supervisor Gardner asked about the hours the rubbish pit is open. Mr. Laughter said the Board recently voted to cut hours. He said the trucks were not going to be running so the pit probably does not need to stay open till 4:30 p.m.

Supervisor Medlin said he thinks we should be chipping a certain number of days per week. Supervisor Gardner agreed.

Supervisor Medlin said this will save air space and help cut down the capacity. He said we have used them during storm events.

Supervisor Lee Caldwell confirmed that the county used a chipper and then used the mulch during the storm in 1994. Supervisor Medlin said yes.

Mr. Laughter said Mr. Jim Bearden was here during that time. He said a chipper was rented and that the chips were given to the public at no cost. Mr. Laughter said he thought that MEMA reimbursed the county the entire cost.

Deputy Director of EMS Bobby Storey said the levy board has a chipper.

Supervisor Medlin asked if the county had borrowed it before. Chief Storey said yes, during the tornado.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion and Supervisor Lee Caldwell seconded the motion to approve Ray Laughter looking into using a chipper at the rubbish pit by Thursday.

The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin, First District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Mark Gardner, Second District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Bill Russell, Third District	<u>YES</u> (By Phone)
Supervisor Lee Caldwell, Fourth District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Harvey Lee, Fifth District	<u>YES</u> (By Phone)

Mr. Laughter asked if DeSoto County was still in a local emergency declaration. Supervisor Gardner said yes.

**2. Planning Commission: Approval of Order to Vacate Plat**

Supervisor Lee Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to approve an Order to Vacate the Subdivision Plats for Lake Forest Business Center, Sections A and B. and authorize the Board President to sign the Order.

The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin, First District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Mark Gardner, Second District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Bill Russell, Third District	<u>YES</u> (By Phone)
Supervisor Lee Caldwell, Fourth District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Harvey Lee, Fifth District	<u>ABSENT</u> (By Phone)

**3. CVB Tourism Tax Collections**

County Administrator Vanessa Lynchard said the past two months tourism collections have been down. She said they have a new computer system and said she is concerned that data may have been lost during the conversion. Ms. Lynchard said she and Karen Wills of the Tourism Center have constantly checking into the matter.

Chancery Clerk Sluggo Davis asked if that is the reason the county is receiving two checks. Ms. Lynchard said yes.

Supervisor Gardner confirmed that the numbers are low for 2011 and 2012.

Ms. Lynchard said the numbers are usually low this time of year and that has not been a concern. She said she offered to review the report before and after the change. It is obvious there is some kind of issue. Ms. Lynchard said she expressed her concerns to the Department of Revenue; that is how serious it is for the county.

Supervisor Medlin said there is a certain dollar amount to serve food.

Ms. Lynchard said this discussion is for information purposes at this point. She said she would continue to work closely with Ms. Wills and keep the Board informed.

#### **4. Compensation Study Update**

Human Resources Director Janna Rogers said she and Ms. Lynchard had a conference call with Mississippi State on December 9<sup>th</sup> to get an update on the compensation study.

Ms. Lynchard said that Dr. Wiseman said the survey was held up due to the government closing. He asked for a continuation until January 31, 2014. This would give him more time to get information to Human Resources for next year's planning. Ms. Lynchard said they want to stay on track with us.

Supervisor Mark Gardner asked what happens if the Board does not approve of the plan. Ms. Lynchard said they still have to come and present the report.

Supervisor Gardner said he is frustrated with how long it has taken. The county employees have received two pay raises since this survey started.

Ms. Rogers said this is a big job and they have the basic information. The baseline point system was set when they interviewed each employee and applied education and experience.

Ms. Lynchard said the last time we did a compensation study there was a feeling that it was not compared equally.

Supervisor Gardner asked how much this is costing the county. Ms. Rogers said it cost \$12,400 from last fiscal year to this fiscal year.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion and Supervisor Harvey Lee seconded the motion to approve extending the deadline for the employee survey compensation study to January 31, 2014.

The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin, First District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Mark Gardner, Second District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Bill Russell, Third District	<u>YES</u> (By Phone)
Supervisor Lee Caldwell, Fourth District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Harvey Lee, Fifth District	<u>YES</u> (By Phone)

#### **5. Ozone Action Committee Update**

County Administrator Vanessa Lynchard presented a booklet on Keeping Our Air Clean One Act at a Time. She said a committee has been formed and they are a very good group of people. She said the cities are participating and have also formed good groups.

Ms. Lynchard said MDEQ gave us an opportunity to possibly putting money into it on our own. She said the committees are going out into the communities to spread the word. She said they are also using this time of year for learning and training. Ms. Lynchard said this booklet is also being distributed to the cities and communities.

Ms. Lynchard said they will provide monthly reports to MDEQ. She said there are other things in the works and they are hoping they will come to fruition.

**See Exhibit D.5**

#### **6. Tim Curtis – Certified Emergency Manager Designation**

Chief Director of Emergency Services Bobby Storey presented a letter from the International Association of Emergency Managers congratulating Deputy Director Tim Curtis for earning recognition from the IAEM by being among the group of professionals who have maintained their Certified Emergency Manager designation. This is the highest honor of professional achievement available from the Association which has in its membership more than 5,000 emergency managers representing local, state, and federal, private and military emergency managers. Chief Storey said there are only 1,550 men and women in the emergency management profession that have attained this status. It is a five year process and takes a lot of hard work and dedication to the county. Mr. Storey said as a CEM, Mr. Curtis demonstrated a high level of competence and ethical fitness for emergency management.

The IAEM commended DeSoto County Emergency Services for having a professional of this caliber on staff.

Supervisor Mark Gardner thanked Chief Storey and all of the Emergency Services staff and Sheriff Bill Rasco and all of his staff for their efforts, dedication and hard work to make DeSoto County a safe place to live.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion and Supervisor Lee Caldwell seconded the motion to establish the letter from the International Association of Emergency Managers congratulating Deputy Director Tim Curtis for earning recognition from the IAEM by being among the group of professionals who have maintained their Certified Emergency Manager designation as part of the formal record and enter into the Board's minutes.

The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin, First District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Mark Gardner, Second District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Bill Russell, Third District	<u>YES</u> (By Phone)
Supervisor Lee Caldwell, Fourth District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Harvey Lee, Fifth District	<u>ABSENT</u> (By Phone)

Chief Storey congratulated Tim Curtis and commended him on doing such a great job.

#### **See Exhibit D.6**

Supervisor Mark Gardner asked Chief Storey if the Sheriff's dispatch system goes down when the county internet is down. Chief Storey said the system really gets overloaded and it causes significant delays for us to receive calls. He said it is an issue that needs to be addressed.

Chief Storey said during the past storm, a lot of power was out. He said there was a tree down on a house on Woolsey Road and the dispatch was sent. Chief Storey said the message was not received until the next morning because the 911 system at the Sheriff's office (CAD) was overrun with calls. He said in the past they used pagers which received those calls. Now that we do not use pagers, the calls overload the CAD system.

Chief Storey said people need to be educated on the technology.

Supervisor Lee Caldwell said we really appreciate the work on getting sirens installed. She said they are very loud and effective.

Supervisor Gardner said he would like an updated list of siren locations.

The Board discussed areas where sirens are still needed and the radius they cover.

Chief Storey said if the wind is blowing it will make a difference in the radius the sirens will cover.

#### **7. Jail – Septic Tank for Trailer**

Supervisor Lee Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to approve the purchase of a septic tank not to exceed \$3,400 for a trailer at the Jail.

The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin, First District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Mark Gardner, Second District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Bill Russell, Third District	<u>YES</u> (By Phone)
Supervisor Lee Caldwell, Fourth District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Harvey Lee, Fifth District	<u>ABSENT</u> (By Phone)

**8. Report on Medical Bills at the Jail**

Sheriff Bill Rasco said that medical bills at the Jail are steadily going down. The reason for the decrease is that SAS is doing a great job of reconciling bills and because Dr. Thompson is very efficient and takes excellent care of the inmates. Sheriff Rasco said the invoice was approximately \$560,000 in 2010 and 2011. After SAS took over and Dr. Thompson came on board, it was approximately \$266,000 in 2012 and we have not received 2013 yet.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion and Supervisor Lee Caldwell seconded the motion to approve the medical bills report for the DeSoto County Jail part of the minutes.

The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin, First District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Mark Gardner, Second District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Bill Russell, Third District	<u>YES</u> (By Phone)
Supervisor Lee Caldwell, Fourth District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Harvey Lee, Fifth District	<u>YES</u> (By Phone)

**See Exhibit D.8**

**9. Supervisor Jessie Medlin asked if the county health insurance was adopted in a previous meeting.**

County Administrator Vanessa Lynchard asked the Director of Administrative Services to check the minutes to verify the motion.

**10. Environmental Services Contract**

Environmental Services Manager Ray Laughter presented a contract with Magnolia Data Solutions to provide various services for the county.

Supervisor Lee Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to approve a contract with Magnolia Data Solutions, LLC for electronic asset recovery, destruction, disposal and/or waste recycling services for the County; and to authorize the Board President to sign the documents.

The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin, First District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Mark Gardner, Second District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Bill Russell, Third District	<u>YES</u> (By Phone)
Supervisor Lee Caldwell, Fourth District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Harvey Lee, Fifth District	<u>YES</u> (By Phone)

**See Exhibit D.9**

Supervisor Lee Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to approve the Agenda with the additions and deletions set forth above.

The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin, First District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Mark Gardner, Second District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Bill Russell, Third District	<u>YES</u> (By Phone)
Supervisor Lee Caldwell, Fourth District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Harvey Lee, Fifth District	<u>YES</u> (By Phone)

**E. CONSENT AGENDA**

The Board of Supervisors considered the following items on the meeting’s Consent Agenda as follows:

- 1. County Attorney: Approval for Mr. Wallace Anderson to serve as Justice Court special Prosecutor in the matter of Michael Manning due to a conflict of interest for County Prosecutor Mr. Craig Treadway**
- 2. Road Dept.: The plat for Lake Forest Business Center has been vacated by the Planning Commission: Request to release the bond for the development, \$46,500**
- 3. Justice Court: Approval for Pat Sanford to sign Purchase Requisitions**

Supervisor Lee Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to approve the actions set forth in Consent Agenda.

The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin, First District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Mark Gardner, Second District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Bill Russell, Third District	<u>YES</u> (By Phone)
Supervisor Lee Caldwell, Fourth District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Harvey Lee, Fifth District	<u>YES</u> (By Phone)

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Human Resources Department: Annual Certificate of the County with Respect to Drug-Free Workplace Policy – Board President and Clerk to Sign**

Human Resources Director Janna Rogers presented the Annual Certificate of the County with Respect to Drug-Free Workplace Policy and requested approval of the certificate and to authorize the Board President and the Chancery Clerk to sign.

Supervisor Lee Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Harvey Lee seconded the motion to approve the Annual Certificate of the County with Respect to Drug-Free Workplace Policy and to authorize the Board President and the Chancery Clerk to sign.

The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin, First District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Mark Gardner, Second District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Bill Russell, Third District	<u>YES</u> (By Phone)
Supervisor Lee Caldwell, Fourth District	<u>YES</u>
Supervisor Harvey Lee, Fifth District	<u>YES</u> (By Phone)

**See Exhibit F.1**

**G. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The executive session portion of these minutes is recorded under the portion of the minutes called “Executive Session”.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion to adjourn the Board meeting until January 6, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Lee Caldwell.

The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin, First District  
Supervisor Mark Gardner, Second District  
Supervisor Bill Russell, Third District  
Supervisor Lee Caldwell, Fourth District  
Supervisor Harvey Lee, Fifth District

YES  
YES  
YES (By Phone)  
YES  
YES (By Phone)

THIS the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of December, 2013, these minutes have been read and approved by the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors.

---

Mark Gardner, President  
DeSoto County Board of Supervisors