

**DESOTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**TOMMY LEWIS, PRESIDENT 2009 PRESIDING**

**March 2, 2009**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The March 2, 2009 meeting of the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors was called to order by Supervisor Tommy Lewis, Board President.

Sheriff Bill Rasco 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 Bill Russell-----District 3  
Supervisor Allen Latimer-----District 4  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----District 5  
W. E. Sluggo Davis-----Chancery Clerk  
Michael Garriga-----County Administrator  
Tony Nowak -----Board Attorney  
Sheriff Bill Rasco-----Sheriff

**B. INVOCATION**

Deputy Carl Hurt presented the invocation.

**C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**D. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MINUTES**

The official minutes of the Board of Supervisors were read for the month of February, 2009 pursuant to Section 19-3-27 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated. Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion and Supervisor Eugene Thach seconded the motion to approve the minutes for the month of January, 2009. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES  
Supervisor Eugene C. Thach-----YES  
Supervisor Bill Russell-----YES  
Supervisor Allen Latimer-----YES  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----YES

**See Exhibit D**

**E. CONSENT**

The Board of Supervisors considered the items presented on the Consent Agenda.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin questioned item 9.a. that approves to ratify the AOP Contract with Turning Point Counseling. County Administrator Michael Garriga said the AOP grant requires a licensed counselor. Because there is not enough money in the grant to pay for a full time counselor, the program contracts with Turning Point for that service.

Supervisor Allen Latimer made the motion and Supervisor Bill Russell seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda and the reports and actions set forth therein as follows:

**1. Accounting**

**a. Dept. of Human Resources - Ratification of Monthly Health Claims**

The following is a recap of all insurance claims funded for the month of February and paid to Humana:

<b>Funding Request</b>	<b>Date Paid</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Claim Type</b>
<b>Date</b>			
2/1/09	2/2/09	\$56,818.49	Administration Fees
2/2/09	2/3/09	\$37,508.21	Medical
2/2/09	2/3/09	\$9,158.05	Dental
2/2/09	2/3/09	\$15,100.04	Pharmacy
2/9/09	2/10/09	\$35,226.11	Medical
2/9/09	2/10/09	\$5,195.15	Dental
2/9/09	2/10/09	\$20,312.62	Pharmacy
2/16/09	2/17/09	\$21,868.22	Medical
2/16/09	2/17/09	\$5,228.00	Dental
2/16/09	2/17/09	\$26,504.46	Pharmacy
2/23/09	2/24/09	\$55,628.93	Medical
2/23/09	2/24/09	\$6,894.90	Dental
2/23/09	2/24/09	\$18,980.16	Pharmacy
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$314,423.34</b>	

<b>February Book Balance</b>	<b>\$3,180,415.80</b>	
<b>January Book Balance</b>	<b>\$3,205,610.20</b>	
<b>December Book Balance</b>	<b>\$3,132,003.17</b>	
<b>November Book Balance</b>	<b>\$3,170,627.74</b>	
<b>October Book Balance</b>	<b>\$3,164,497.16</b>	
<b>September Book Balance</b>	<b>\$3,194,506.12</b>	

**2. Accounting**

**a. Ratify Bond Payment**

**\$18,000,000.00 MS Development Bank Special Obligation Bonds**

Trustmark Bank Ck#043446 issued 2/26/09

Interest \$33,658.20 215-800-802  
 Total \$33,658.20

**\$5,000,000 Miss Development Bank Promissory Notes**

Hancock Bank Ck#043442 issued 2/23/09

Principal \$ 20,833.33  
 Interest \$ 6,583.79  
 \$ 27,417.12

**b. Approval for Interfund Loans (2)**

From: General County Fund 001-000-054 \$86,352.80

To:	State Aid Fund	170-000-149	\$86,352.80
From:	General County Fund	001-000-054	\$113,000.00
To:	Civic Center Tourism Building Fund	384-000-149	\$113,000.00

**c. Repay Interfund Loans**

From:	Civic Center Tourism Building Fund	\$191,231.00	(384-000-149)
To:	General County Fund	\$191,231.00	(001-000-054)

**d. E-911 Audit**

**3. Justice Court Report**

Criminal Cases Filed – 146	State Assessments -	\$72,043.81
Civil Cases Filed – 525	County General Fund -	\$129,373.30
Traffic Tickets Filed – 1,021	Total Collections -	\$201,417.11
Total Cases Filed – 1,692		

**4. Bailiff Pay**

Joe Holmes - \$200.00      Jason Motz -\$160.00      Liz Medlin - \$200.00      Lee Hodge - \$80.00

**5. Chancery Clerk Allowance - \$2,850.00**

**6. Approval of Publication of Board Proceedings**

**7. Sheriff – Street Crimes Unit – Declaration of Forfeiture – 1998 Honda Passport vin#4s6gk58wow4416826**

**8. Make Part of Minutes – Agreement with Caremark PCS Health & NACO Pharmacy Program**

**9. Grants – Ratify AOP Contract with Turning Point Counseling**

**10. Department of Road Management**

**a. Road Report and Work Schedule**

**b. Road Bond Report**

**c. 2009 Asphalt Overlay-Advertise and Open Bids**

**d. Advertise for Bids – Equipment – one or more: motor grader, rubber tire backhoe**

The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----	NO
Supervisor Eugene C. Thach-----	YES
Supervisor Bill Russell-----	YES
Supervisor Allen Latimer-----	YES
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----	YES

Supervisor Medlin said his reason for dissenting on the vote for the Consent Agenda is because he does not think the County needs to buy additional equipment at this time due to the state of the economy.

**See Exhibit E**

**F. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Greenway Project**

Larry Jarrett, Director of the County Greenway Project, appeared before the Board of Supervisors and presented information to show their progress on the Greenway Project. He said, two weeks ago, they

started inventorying greenway spots in DeSoto County. This included in all areas of the County. He showed the completed project web site on the overhead. Mr. Jarrett pointed out the access points that are being mapped and recorded on the web site which can be accessed at [desotogreenways.org](http://desotogreenways.org).

After reviewing the maps showing the greenway path, Sheriff Bill Rasco asked why the program would go through the middle of property instead of on either side. Mr. Jarrett said, in those specific cases noted by Sheriff Rasco, the greenway may be following the right of way for Entergy or TVA. Mr. Jarrett said the current plans for the County greenway may change as details require the path to meander. He explained the Greenway Project in its entirety.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin asked who approved the greenway study. Mr. Jarrett said that he and Jim Flanagan approved the study and has kept the County Administrator informed of the progress and operation. Supervisor Medlin said he just wants to make sure the project is operating legally.

Mr. Jarrett talked about the Coldwater River and the kayak trail. He explained the concept to the Board and the Greenway Projects plans to create that trail. Mr. Jarrett said there are unique benefits to protecting greenways which includes health benefits.

Mr. Jarrett said on March 11-13, 2009, there is a Green Infrastructure Training Meeting. He explained what a good opportunity this will be for professionals to see the program. Mr. Jarrett said all funding for this training was provided through a grant.

Supervisor Medlin asked if the Homeowners Associations have given him feedback regarding the parks. Mr. Jarrett said he thinks those parks should be on the inventory. He said the program has a lot of issues to discuss. He said perhaps Parks and Recreation could be in charge of their own security. He said they need to talk about future developments. Supervisor Medlin said he was thinking about the parks that are already built. Mr. Jarrett said that is a big part of it. Mr. Jarrett said they are working with Entergy and TVA as well.

Supervisor Bill Russell said he thinks it will be helpful to designate a Board member. He said most of the trails go through Supervisor Lewis, Supervisor Latimer and Supervisor Medlin's districts.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion to appoint Supervisor Tommy Lewis as the Board of Supervisors representative on the Greenway Committee and Supervisor Allen Latimer seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES  
Supervisor Eugene C. Thach-----YES  
Supervisor Bill Russell-----YES  
Supervisor Allen Latimer-----YES  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----YES

Supervisor Allen Latimer asked if they are still making the greenway suitable for people who ride horses. Mr. Jarrett said yes. He said they are already getting pressure to open Johnson Creek for horseback riding.

Supervisor Latimer asked, if people have more questions about the program, is it appropriate to contact Michael Garriga or Mr. Jarrett. Mr. Garriga said he will welcome the calls and he will forward any questions he cannot answer to Mr. Jarrett.

Supervisor Russell reminded the Board that Larry Jarrett does not work for Michael Garriga but for the Economic Council. Mr. Jarrett said anyone with questions about the program need to remember that although we do have a plan, it can be changed. Mr. Jarrett said he welcomes any phone calls to him about the Greenway Project.

## **2. Dept. of Human Resources – Donation of Leave Policy**

Department of Human Resources Director, Janna Rogers, presented information the Board had requested regarding donation of leave. She said the state and federal government allows donation of leave.

Ms. Rogers presented the proposed changes. She said there is a definite need to update the County employee handbook. Ms Rogers presented the proposed forms to be used when requesting to donate leave time or receiving donated leave time and explained the procedures.

Supervisor Allen Latimer said the problem the County has had with the donation of leave policy is the definition of a catastrophic illness or injury. Ms. Rogers said catastrophic is defined as a life threatening illness or injury to an employee or a member of an employee's immediate family, totally incapacitating the employee and preventing them from working, and which has been verified by a licensed physician. Conditions that are short in nature, including, but not limited to, common illnesses such as influenza and the measles and common injuries, are not catastrophic. Ms. Rogers said specifically it is defined as, chronic illnesses, such as cancer or major surgery which result in intermittent absences from work and which are long-term in nature and require long recuperation periods may be considered catastrophic. She said the new policy would leave it to the physician to define catastrophic.

Supervisor Latimer said the issue of clarifying the definition of a catastrophic illness or injury came up when an employee had to be off of work for several weeks, but it was not a life threatening situation. Supervisor Bill Russell said he thinks about a police officer who cannot work because of a broken leg. It is not life threatening. He said, in his opinion, the new definition of catastrophic is too strict. He asked what would be wrong with letting employees help each other no matter what kind of illness they have. Supervisor Latimer agreed, and said, it is the employee's time and they should be able to use it as they want.

County Administrator Michael Garriga said he agrees with the comments. He asked the Board to consider that a lower paid employee may donate leave to a higher paid employee and increase the liability on the County. He said, also there are times when a higher paid employee donates to a lower paid employee.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin said a lot of employees lose time they are to get paid. Ms. Rogers said 23% of the County employees have enough vacation banked to tide them over for 30 days. She said those employees are prepared for any long term illness or injury. She said there are others who take their leave as soon as it is accrued and then they are unprepared if they need it for any situation.

Supervisor Russell said, in many other industries, they do not have such a policy. Ms. Rogers said that many private businesses that do not have a formal policy have an informal policy.

Mr. Garriga said they are recommending making the County's policy consistent with the state employee's policy. Ms. Rogers said the Board can decide to leave the current policy in place or make changes in any way.

Supervisor Medlin asked how much leave a person can accrue. The Board discussed the County's policy regarding maximum leave as well as software capabilities for tracking employee leave information.

Ms. Rogers said the ideal solution would be to allow the employees to take their time in excess of the County's limit or pay them for the time so they will not lose it.

Supervisor Latimer said the Board has worked hard to provide good salaries and benefits for the County employees. He said people do have to take responsibility for protecting themselves when considering donation of leave.

Supervisor Russell asked if the Board can insist on a second opinion from a physician. Ms. Rogers said yes, if that is part of the policy.

Supervisor Lewis said he understands the Board is requesting Ms Rogers to work on clarification on employee accrued time off and the definition of catastrophic.

Supervisor Russell said Ms. Rogers is also going to work on a return to work policy.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion and Supervisor Eugene Thach seconded the motion to take the donation of leave policy recommendations under advisement. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES  
Supervisor Eugene C. Thach-----YES  
Supervisor Bill Russell-----YES  
Supervisor Allen Latimer-----YES  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----YES

**See Exhibit F.2**

### **3. Pleasant Hill Road Agreement with Olive Branch**

Supervisor Eugene Thach said this road comes by his house, so he recused himself from the discussion and left the room.

Board Attorney Tony Nowak said there has been conversation with Olive Branch about how the MPO funds will be allocated. The County will pay one half of the project up to \$650,000. The question has been whether MPO funds will come off the top before calculating County's one-half share or not. Mr. Nowak said the City of Olive Branch has requested that the County pay \$650,000 up front, and at the end of the project the County will be reimbursed any part of the \$650,000 that exceeds the one-half obligation. Supervisor Tommy Lewis asked if this would be binding under the new Board. Mr. Nowak said no. He said the City of Olive Branch thinks the \$650,000 will be less than half of the project.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin said he thinks any of the developers' money should come off on the front end and then the project should be split.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis asked the status of the Craft Road money. Mr. Garriga said the County has one more outstanding invoice to pay before the project is complete. He said at that time the County will submit the invoices to the City of Olive Branch for reimbursement. He said they still owe the County approximately \$1.9 million on Craft and Stateline Roads. Supervisor Lewis asked if this money is available. Mr. Garriga said yes, it is in the road budget.

Mr. Nowak asked if the Board agrees to pay the money up front. The Board of Supervisors discussed the issue and agreed to pay the money up front and the other basic terms outlined by Mr. Nowak and asked the Board Attorney to make that part of the agreement.

### **4. Justice Court/Tax Collector Building Update**

County Administrator Michael Garriga said there was a meeting with the Mayor of Southaven about two weeks ago in regards to the project to update the façade of the Justice Court and Tax Collector building in Southaven. Mr. Garriga said they discussed exterior modifications on the Justice Court and Tax Collector building. He said that Mayor Davis said the City would be willing to pay the architect fee and assist paying for landscaping. Mr. Garriga said the City would be able to pay for retro fitting the parking lot lighting as well. Mr. Garriga reported that Marvin Johnson is in the process of setting up a meeting with McKee and McFarland to see if they want to join the County to update the entire project since they are the owners of the building. He said things are moving forward on this project in a positive direction.

Sheriff Bill Rasco expressed concern over decreasing the number of parking spaces. He said, on court days, the parking lot is full.

Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion and Supervisor Allen Latimer seconded the motion to carry this item over until March 16, 2009. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES  
Supervisor Eugene C. Thach-----YES  
Supervisor Bill Russell-----YES

Supervisor Allen Latimer-----YES  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----YES

**5. Town of Walls – Animal Control Agreement**

Board Attorney Tony Nowak said there are times when the Town of Walls requests Animal Services assistance from the County. He said when this item was previously discussed the Board requested that information be obtained from the Town of Walls regarding their needs and the costs associated with the County providing those needs.

Vanessa Lynchard said she talked to Mayor Gene Alday of the Town of Walls. Mayor Alday said they would prefer the County to assume the animal control duties. He said if that is not possible, they would like for the County to house their animals. Ms. Lynchard gave the Mayor options of costs per day of \$9.74 to house the animals or a cost per animal of \$36.71 to provide animal control. Mayor Alday said they would call the County only when they had unique situations that could not handled within the City. Vanessa said she asked the Mayor to have the Town of Walls’ attorney contact the Board Attorney to work out the details of the situation based on these costs.

Supervisor Bill Russell made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to authorize the Smith, Phillips, Mitchell, Scott and Nowak Law Firm to draw up an agreement with the Town of Walls to use the Animal Shelter and Animal Services. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES  
Supervisor Eugene C. Thach-----YES  
Supervisor Bill Russell-----YES  
Supervisor Allen Latimer-----YES  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----YES

**G. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Nail Road Railroad Crossing**

This item was held over until March, 3, 2009.

**2. Human Resources – DMV project**

Human Resources Director Janna Rogers presented information regarding County employees who drive County motor vehicles. She said a policy that protects the County includes background checks on employees who drive County vehicles and would be part of the pre-employment hiring process. Ms. Rogers said we need to determine our current standard and what is acceptable. She said there is a lot of HR impact on such a program. Ms. Rogers said we have information on how to develop a best practice program for Fleet Vehicle Management and we are implementing this policy in that department. Ms. Rogers said she suggests a task force be set up to develop the DMV component of the Fleet Management program.

Supervisor Bill Russell said unless the elected officials agree to participate in this program it will only apply to non elected offices. He asked if it would be appropriate to have some of the elected officials on the task force.

County Administrator Michael Garriga said currently the elected offices have their own policy. He said if this policy is implemented, it would centralize the program. He said implementation will take time.

Supervisor Russell said he would like input from the Sheriff. Sheriff Bill Rasco said they already do pre-employment background checks.

Ms. Rogers said we would have to determine who would do the background checks and who determines if it is a pass or fail. She said we can set standards the same as DOT regulations.

Sheriff Rasco said the Sheriff's Department can run the background checks but someone else would have to determine if it is a pass or fail.

Ms. Rogers said this is a program that will need to be implemented in phases. It is quite a big project.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis asked what kind of time line it would take when hiring a new employee. Ms. Rogers said that will need to be worked out by the task force. She said the project is hefty and large in scope.

Supervisor Eugene Thach asked who would be on the task force. Ms. Rogers suggested the County Administrator, Amy Henley of Fleet Management, department heads with employees who regularly drive County vehicles in their job, Road Manager, Sheriff, Tony Nowak and Janna Rogers.

Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion and Supervisor Allen Latimer seconded the motion to hold this item over for a firm recommendation on the task force. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES  
Supervisor Eugene C. Thach-----YES  
Supervisor Bill Russell-----YES  
Supervisor Allen Latimer-----YES  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----YES

**See Exhibit G.2**

### **3. Inventory Dispositions – Preliminary – Buildings & Grounds**

At the recommendation of the Inventory Clerk Amy Henley, Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion and Supervisor Bill Russell seconded the motion to approve the preliminary inventory dispositions as follows:

<b>Asset #</b>	<b>Serial #</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Reason for Disposal</b>	<b>Location at Preliminary</b>	<b>Preliminary Approval Date</b>
38362	SDC241NA	Samsung Camera	Broken	B & G Shop	3-2-2009
31725	C157B1066	RCA TV	Broken	B & G Shop	3-2-2009
31723	C157B30V6	RCA TV	Broken	B & G Shop	3-2-2009
31724	C157B30RO	RCA TV	Broken	B & G Shop	3-2-2009

The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES  
Supervisor Eugene C. Thach-----YES  
Supervisor Bill Russell-----YES  
Supervisor Allen Latimer-----YES  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----YES

**See Exhibit G.3**

### **4. Claims Docket**

Supervisor Allen Latimer asked about the group that is handling the Sheriff's Department medical claims. County Administrator Michael Garriga said he has contacted the company that provides that service and they will appear before the Board on March 16<sup>th</sup> to present an annual update. Sheriff Bill Rasco said they have saved the County a lot of money so far.

In accordance with Section 19-13-31 and Section 19-11-23 of the Mississippi Code annotated, Supervisor Bill Russell made the motion and Supervisor Eugene Thach seconded the motion to authorize the Chancery Clerk to pay the bills as presented by the Comptroller. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----ABSENT  
Supervisor Eugene C. Thach-----YES  
Supervisor Bill Russell-----YES  
Supervisor Allen Latimer-----YES  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----YES

**See Exhibit G.4**

**5. Board Attorney**

**a. Annual Litigation Audit Report**

Supervisor Bill Russell made the motion and Supervisor Allen Latimer seconded the motion to authorize the Smith, Phillips, Mitchell, Scott and Nowak Law Firm to prepare the annual litigation audit report for the auditors. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES  
Supervisor Eugene C. Thach-----ABSENT  
Supervisor Bill Russell-----YES  
Supervisor Allen Latimer-----YES  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----YES

**b. Secure Alert Agreement**

Board Attorney Tony Nowak said Craig Sheley of the Adult Drug Court has been working on an agreement with Secure Alert, Inc., to provide bracelets for individuals when it is mandated through the Adult Drug Court. Mr. Nowak recommended approving the revised agreement and sending the standard agreement letter to clarify the County's limitations and revisions to Secure Alert.

Supervisor Bill Russell made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to approve the agreement with Secure Alert, Inc., for the Adult Drug Court and to send the standard contract cover letter with the agreement. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES  
Supervisor Eugene C. Thach-----YES  
Supervisor Bill Russell-----YES  
Supervisor Allen Latimer-----YES  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----YES

**See Exhibit G.5.b**

**c. MS Youth Justice Project – Public Records Request**

The Board Attorney said he received a request for a list of public records. He said some of the records may be impossible to provide.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion and Supervisor Bill Russell seconded the motion to authorize the Smith, Phillips, Mitchell, Scott and Nowak Law Firm to respond to the request for public records on behalf of the County. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES  
Supervisor Eugene C. Thach-----YES  
Supervisor Bill Russell-----YES  
Supervisor Allen Latimer-----YES  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----YES

**d. DeSoto Civic Center Lease Agreements**

Board Attorney Tony Nowak said there needs to be a lease agreement in connection with the construction of the Civic Center Tourism Building. Mr. Nowak said one of the agreements will be

leasing the property to the County for the construction of the building and the other agreement will lease the building back to the Civic Center. The Board of Supervisors discussed the ownership of the building and the Civic Center property.

Supervisor Allen Latimer said the property belongs to the Civic Center and the building belongs to the County until such time as the CAP loan is paid off.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin asked what will become of the building in years to come if the CVB ceased to function.

Mr. Nowak said if the property was sold any debt owed by the CVB to DeSoto County, under the loan assessments, would have to be paid to DeSoto County and any remaining funds or property would have to continue to be used for tourism purposes.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion and Supervisor Allen Latimer seconded the motion to approve the lease agreements with the Civic Center as presented by the Board Attorney as follows:

- 1.) Lease Agreement for the Tourism Building between DeSoto County and DeSoto County Convention and Visitors Bureau
- 2.) Ground Lease between DeSoto County Convention and Visitors Bureau and DeSoto County

The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES  
 Supervisor Eugene C. Thach-----YES  
 Supervisor Bill Russell-----YES  
 Supervisor Allen Latimer-----YES  
 Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----YES

**See Exhibit G.5.d**

**6. Volunteer DeSoto Request for Funding**

Supervisor Bill Russell said Volunteer DeSoto asked for money in the FY 09 budget, but that money was not included in the budget. Supervisor Russell said the soldiers will soon be deployed. He said Volunteer DeSoto has agreed to help the families of the soldiers while they are at away at war. They will be looking for volunteers to adopt families.

After determining that this is a worthy opportunity to advertise County resources and opportunities which further social and moral standards in the community, Supervisor Bill Russell made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to promote DeSoto County by approving funding for Volunteer DeSoto County in the amount of \$5,000 for the soldiers support program from Advertising County Resources. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES  
 Supervisor Eugene C. Thach-----YES  
 Supervisor Bill Russell-----YES  
 Supervisor Allen Latimer-----YES  
 Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----YES

**7. Dept. of Road Management**

**a. I-269 Bridge Projects**

The Board of Supervisors discussed the need and cost to provide assurance to MDOT that the County would bear the cost of increasing the size of the bridges on I-269 from three lanes to five lanes.

County Administrator Michael Garriga said a ballpark figure is \$2 million per bridge for this work. Supervisor Jessie Medlin said that price probably does not include the approaches.

Supervisor Allen Latimer verified that the Board was considering both bridges. Mr. Garriga said yes. Supervisor Latimer questioned the need for a five lane bridge on Red Banks Road. The Board discussed past development in that area and increased usage of that road.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion and Supervisor Tommy Lewis seconded the motion to assure that the County will commit to pay the difference in the cost of a three lane bridge and a five lane bridge span on Red Banks and Craft Roads up to \$4 million not payable before 2012. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES  
Supervisor Eugene C. Thach-----YES  
Supervisor Bill Russell-----YES  
Supervisor Allen Latimer-----NO  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----YES

**b. NRCS Request – Belmor Lakes**

County Engineer Andy Swims presented a proposed resolution between the County and NRCS for Belmor Lakes drainage. He said this is the same area where the County did a study between the two developments. Mr. Swims said NRCS wants to straighten the creek. He said we will probably have to remove some of the trees.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to approve the project at Belmor Lakes Subdivision based on the Road Manager’s conclusion that the area is affecting the health, safety and welfare of citizens of DeSoto County and by making a minor realignment of the channels to prevent future undermining and erosion of College Road behind Belmor Lakes Subdivision would help the situation, and to approve the resolution of the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors to request the assistance of Natural Resource Conservation Service in the Belmor Lakes Subdivision. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES  
Supervisor Eugene C. Thach-----YES  
Supervisor Bill Russell-----YES  
Supervisor Allen Latimer-----YES  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----YES

**See Exhibit G.7.b**

**c. Lake Cormorant Park**

Supervisor Bill Russell said the County needs to replace the walking trail at Lake Cormorant Park.

Supervisor Bill Russell made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to approve removing the grass and applying a three inch asphalt surface mix in an area that is 260 feet by 5 feet, at an estimated cost of \$2,394 from the District 3 Park Fund. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES  
Supervisor Eugene C. Thach-----YES  
Supervisor Bill Russell-----YES  
Supervisor Allen Latimer-----YES  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----YES

**See Exhibit G.7.d**

**H. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

## **I. OTHER ISSUES**

### **1. Roads – Craft and Goodman**

Supervisor Jessie Medlin said when we put in five lanes in at Craft Road and Goodman, the Board authorized a left turn signal for Church Road. Now there is a left turn lane for Goodman but no right turn lane. After discussing the issue the Board of Supervisors asked the County Administrator to ask Daniel Murphy to determine a cost to add a right turn lane on Craft and Church Roads so the Board can consider the issue.

No motions were made nor votes taken on this issue.

### **2. Subdivisions – Emerald Estates**

Chancery Clerk Sluggo Davis said Mr. Ivey contacted his office about calling a bond on Emerald Estates. He said the people are complaining about the roads and needed improvements. He said they are working on the bond which comes due in September.

No motions were made nor votes taken on this issue.

### **3. Courthouse - Parking**

Chancery Clerk Sluggo Davis said the parking place the Board created on the south end of the Courthouse is great. He asked the Board to do the same thing on the north end.

County Administrator Michael Garriga said the cost to make the change on the south end was about \$3,500. He said he talked to Director of Emergency Services Bobby Storey about the options on the north end. Mr. Garriga said that Mr. Storey said we can stripe a fire lane and probably get two spaces back on the north end. The Board of Supervisors instructed the County Administrator to fix that area of the Courthouse parking in any manner possible to add parking spaces.

### **4. Courthouse – Chancery Court - Space**

Chancery Clerk Sluggo Davis said there have been days when people have to wait for a computer in the Chancery Clerk's office due to the space being reduced.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis said there has been talk about moving the Election Commission into the space currently occupied by EMS in the Administration Building when they consolidate with EMA.

### **5. School Bus Turnarounds**

Supervisor Bill Russell said, whatever the School Board declares as a school bus turnaround is considered a turnaround according to state law. He said this Board does not have to approve all of those requests. Supervisor Russell said the Board can act on some and not others. He said we need to meet with the School Board and establish a policy and guidelines. He said we need to receive all of the requests at one time, if possible, instead of receiving them scattered throughout the year.

Supervisor Russell said the information from the Board Attorney addressed ongoing annual maintenance of the school bus turnarounds. It said we do not need a School Board action just a written request from a designated school board representative.

Supervisor Bill Russell made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to form a committee of the County Administrator, Road Manager and one Board member and the Board

Attorney to establish the guidelines to make recommendations to the Board of Education regarding school bus turnarounds and to appoint Supervisor Bill Russell to represent the Board on that committee. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES  
Supervisor Eugene C. Thach-----YES  
Supervisor Bill Russell-----YES  
Supervisor Allen Latimer-----YES  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----YES

## 6. Media Relations

County Administrator Michael Garriga said there was an article in the DeSoto Appeal where we were inaccurately quoted. Mr. Garriga said he sent a policy to the department heads that all comments to the media be in writing with a copy to Mr. Garriga. Supervisor Bill Russell said he does not think it is proper to tell the press we can only speak in writing.

## 7. Roads – Tchulahoma

County Administrator Michael Garriga said, because of Hernando’s most recent annexation, the bridges on Tchulahoma Road are in the City of Hernando. Any agreement involving this road will have to be with the City of Hernando.

## 8. Human Resources – Benefit Update

Human Resources Director Janna Rogers said in February the Board approved benefit changes. She said that Human Resources conducted employee meetings to inform them of the changes. Ms. Rogers said they met with 217 employees who voluntarily attended the meetings. She said they also included a handout detailing the changes with the February 20<sup>th</sup> pay checks. She said the employees were appreciative of the information. Ms. Rogers said Human Resources will distribute the new cards until mid March. Ms. Rogers said they will do a second round of meetings to explain other County benefits to the employees. **See Exhibit I.8**

Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to recess the meeting until March 3, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES  
Supervisor Eugene C. Thach-----YES  
Supervisor Bill Russell-----YES  
Supervisor Allen Latimer-----YES  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----YES

THIS the 2nd day of March, 2009, 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