

DESOTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

BILL RUSSELL, PRESIDENT 2010 PRESIDING

September 8, 2010

A. CALL TO ORDER

The September 8, 2010, meeting of the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors was called to order by Supervisor Bill Russell, 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

Supervisor Allen Latimer gave the invocation.

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

D. PLANNING COMMISSION AGENDA

**DeSoto County Board of Supervisors
 Planning Agenda
 September 8, 2010**

CONSENT

Minor Lot

District 5

Barry Cross Minor Lot (6797) - Application is for final subdivision approval of one (1) lot of 4.5 acres and one (1) lot of 5.5 acres out of 10 acres. Subject property is located on the north side of Brights Road and west of Laughter Road in Section 2, Township 3, Range 7 and is zoned Agricultural (A). (District 5)

Mr. McDougal presented the application above and stated the application appears to be in compliance with the County’s Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances. He added that the Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend to the Board that approval of the application be granted.

Supervisor Lewis made a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda, subject to and conditioned upon staff recommendations, required dedication of public road right-of-way and Health Department approvals. Supervisor Thach seconded the Motion.

THE FOLLOWING ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THIS MATTER:

- | | |
|---|------------|
| FIRST DISTRICT SUPERVISOR, JESSIE MEDLIN | <u>YES</u> |
| SECOND DISTRICT SUPERVISOR, EUGENE THACH | <u>YES</u> |
| THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR, BILL RUSSELL | <u>YES</u> |
| FOURTH DISTRICT SUPERVISOR, ALLEN LATIMER | <u>YES</u> |
| FIFTH DISTRICT SUPERVISOR, TOMMY LEWIS | <u>YES</u> |

Other Items:

1. Stormwater Awareness Week

Stormwater Coordinator Ray Laughter appeared before the Board of Supervisors with information regarding the upcoming Stormwater Awareness Week being held September 27 through October 1, 2010. Mr. Laughter asked the Board to consider designating that week as Stormwater Awareness Week in the County. He said the Board has designated one week during the month of September as Stormwater Awareness Week for the past three years. Mr. Laughter explained that representatives from the County visit the schools and read stories to the children and discuss stormwater awareness. Approximately 3,300 children in DeSoto County Schools receive educational information about stormwater through this program.

Mr. Laughter also advised the Board that October 23, 2010 will be a Household Hazardous Waste collection day from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the DeSoto Civic Center. In addition to household hazardous waste items, there will be a collection trailer at the site for e-waste such as old televisions, cell phones, copiers and fax machines and other electronic devices that are no longer in use.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to approve a resolution adopting the week of September 27 through October 1, 2010 as Stormwater Awareness Week and authorize the Board to sign the resolution.

THE FOLLOWING ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THIS MATTER:

FIRST DISTRICT SUPERVISOR, JESSIE MEDLIN	<u>YES</u>
SECOND DISTRICT SUPERVISOR, EUGENE THACH	<u>YES</u>
THIRD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR, BILL RUSSELL	<u>YES</u>
FOURTH DISTRICT SUPERVISOR, ALLEN LATIMER	<u>YES</u>
FIFTH DISTRICT SUPERVISOR, TOMMY LEWIS	<u>YES</u>

2. I-69/I-269 International Trade Corridor Study – Update

County Planning Director McDougal announced that a Draft Work Program, developed by the McBride Dale Clarion consulting team with Planning staff, was reviewed and approved by the Planning Commission at their regular meeting on September 2, 2010. Mr. McDougal stated that the Planning Commission, as the Steering Committee appointed by the Board for the I-69/I-269 International Trade Corridor Study, discussed the Draft Work Program in detail. He said the Work Program is intended to clarify the process and tasks to complete the study such as developing stakeholder groups, identifying the types of research and data that will be needed, clarifying the “visioning” process, identifying the format and number of public hearings anticipated to occur throughout the 18-to 24-month study period, and the development of plan documents. Mr. McDougal went on to say that the Work Program document will become the basis for the consulting team’s development of a scope, a project calendar, identification of staff and consulting team assignments and responsibilities, and, ultimately, the consultant’s budget estimate for this project. He reported that Planning staff is now working with the consulting team to develop a project budget and scope of work that is based on the Planning Commission’s input at last Thursday’s meeting.

E. CONSENT

F. OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Budget**
- 2. Tax Levy**

Supervisor Jessie Medlin said he has noted enough line items in the budget that could be reduced that the Board cut back the millage and give it back to the taxpayers which are as follows:

11 Month Expenditures	% Spent	Remaining FY 2010	Current Proposed	Reduction	New Proposal
77,565	35.20%	142,935	220,500	-75,000	145,500
255,224	52.50%	231,176	486,400	-125,000	361,400
326,071	19.30%	1,360,989	1,687,060	-500,000	1,187,060
391,673	47.90%	425,557	583,897	-200,000	383,897
72,411	34.30%	138,718	211,129	-50,000	161,129
5,240	3.90%	129,760	135,000	-50,000	85,000
664,343	53.20%	585,152	1,286,980	-200,000	1,086,980
25,102	27.30%	66,768	91,870	-20,000	71,870
32,287	20.20%	127,313	159,600	-50,000	109,600
1,849,916	36.60%	3,208,368	4,862,436	-1,270,000	3,592,436

Supervisor Medlin also presented a memo which included the road budget and his comments as follows:

September 13, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: DeSoto County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Supervisor Jessie Medlin, District 1

SUBJECT: Department of Road Management FY 2011 Budget

Please consider this request to further examine expenditures within the proposed budget for the Department of Road Management. Specifically, I ask the Board to examine the following line items and amounts:

<u>Road Maintenance Fund (156)</u>	
300-555 Engineering Fees	\$ 135,000
300-631 Gravel	\$ 220,500
300-672 Diesel Fuel	\$ 486,400
300-912 Roads	\$1,687,060
300-916 Heavy Equipment	\$ 817,230
300-927 Striping	\$ 211,129
<u>Bridge and Culvert Fund (160)</u>	
399-420 Employees	\$1,249,495
399-594 Contractual Services	\$ 91,870
399-672 Diesel Fuel	\$ 159,600

Based upon my review of the proposed Road Department budget and current actual expenditures within the FY 2010 Budget, I propose reductions to each of the above mentioned lines by the following amounts:

<u>Road Maintenance Fund (156)</u>	
300-555 Engineering Fees	\$ 50,000
300-631 Gravel	\$ 75,000
300-672 Diesel Fuel	\$ 125,000
300-912 Roads	\$ 500,000
300-916 Heavy Equipment	\$ 200,000
300-927 Striping	\$ 50,000
TOTAL	\$1,000,000
<u>Bridge and Culvert Fund (160)</u>	
399-420 Employees	\$ 200,000
399-594 Contractual Services	\$ 20,000
399-672 Diesel Fuel	\$ 50,000
TOTAL	\$ 270,000

*Page 2
Budget Memo*

As you can see, reducing these expenditure lines by the proposed amounts would net a total savings of \$1,270,000 to the County. Thank you for your consideration of this proposal. Should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Supervisor Bill Russell said perhaps Supervisor Medlin should take the list and go to the departments for their response to the cuts. He said we need to get input back from departments and let the Board of Supervisors go over the list.

Supervisor Allen Latimer said it looks like all the recommended are cuts are from the Road Department. He said Road Manager Russell Dorris is here and may be prepared to discuss the items.

Mr. Dorris said some of the reasons they have an excess is because they did not know what the revenue would be. He said, rather than spend the money, they held off on spending. He said they county will need both striping and equipment. He said you never know what the price of diesel fuel will do. He said he would rather the Board not make the cuts. Mr. Dorris said they will need to replace equipment very soon. He said the cuts may come back later to haunt them. He said it is the Board of Supervisors' decision and he would rather the Board look at it in detail and let him tell the Board if he can live without the money.

Sheriff Bill Rasco said they have spent a lot of money to get equipment and such to get the department the way it should be. He said there may be some excess money in their budget.

Sheriff Rasco said he tries to save as much money as possible. He said if there is money left over he will turn it back over to the Board. He said they have spent a lot of money on equipment this year.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin said all money in the road budget rolls back into the road budget at the end of the budget year. He said the Sheriff's Department budget rolls back into the general fund.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis said he thinks the department heads should figure out whether the money is needed in the department or not. He said he does not think they can do it immediately.

Supervisor Eugene Thach said we took 1.2 mills from the budget already. He said he would want to make sure his roads were taken care of. He said DeSoto County has the best roads in the State of Mississippi. Supervisor Thach said the Board hired employees to tell the Board whether they need the money. He said he does not know whether Mr. Dorris needs the money or not. Supervisor Thach said he does not mind taking the money if it is not needed.

Supervisor Allen Latimer just came back from New Hampshire. He said our roads are better than their roads. He said the last thing he wants to do is jeopardize the road system.

Supervisor Bill Russell said you need to get with Mr. Garriga and the departments. Supervisor Russell said he would like to give a .5 mill refund but he is not going to do it unless he knows the impact it will have on the budget. He said if they can cut corners they certainly will.

Supervisor Thach said it sounds good to cut taxes but we need to start with all the departments.

Supervisor Bill Russell made the motion to ask Supervisor Jessie Medlin to put together a report of proposed cuts and go over it with County Administrator Michael Garriga and have the Board come back together to settle the budget at a later date. Supervisor Eugene Thach seconded the motion.

After discussing the issue, Supervisor Russell withdrew the motion and Supervisor Thach withdrew the second.

Supervisor Latimer said he would like to give a tax decrease. He said the stock market is going up and down which is a concern. The county has lost businesses, but we have replaced some businesses too. The millage has been kept low and these times are uncertain.

County Administrator Michael Garriga said he understands that he is here to provide information to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Garriga said the staff is here to do whatever the Board needs them to do.

Mr. Dorris said the roads are certainly important to all of the people. He said they do try to keep the roads in good condition. He said we have good roads because the Board has always funded the Road Department. He said the road department will make do with whatever the Board funds the department. Mr. Dorris said he does not know why you would take \$1 million after all that is already been taken from the Road Department. He said it will affect the road program if we have stop work for budget reasons. Mr. Dorris requested the Board not do any additional cutting if at all possible.

Supervisor Medlin said the Board should be fine with the budget. He said if no one wants to cut the budget then we should move on.

Supervisor Russell said he does not want to do it like it was proposed. He said he would rather get it together in a list for the Board to consider and have the entire Board make the decision.

Supervisor Bill Russell made the motion and Supervisor Eugene Thach seconded the motion to ask Supervisor Jessie Medlin to put together a report of proposed budget cuts and go over it with Mr. Garriga and the Board to come back at a later date for consideration of the budget. 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 Bill Russell said, yesterday the Board discussed inequities between the departments in the payroll system. Supervisor Russell said he would like to ask Mr. Garriga to write a letter to the departments and coordinate our payroll efforts. He said we need to find a way to look at these jobs and make these decisions.

Sheriff Bill Rasco said public safety cannot be compared to some other county departments. Mr. Garriga said public safety would be compare to other area's public safety in a salary comparison study. He said law enforcement would be compared to other law enforcement.

Supervisor Eugene Thach said this would be difficult to study.

Supervisor Allen Latimer said he does not want to undermine the authority of the elected officials.

No motions were made nor votes taken on this issue.

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. A2H Engineering: Tornado Retrofitting Grant

Mr. Cecil Sowell with A2H Engineering appeared before the Board to discuss the availability of a grant that may be beneficial to DeSoto County. Mr. Sowell said the grant is from MEMA and is for construction of tornado shelters throughout the county. He said there are two other programs and funding is the same. The two programs are Pre-Hazard and Hazard Mitigation.

Supervisor Bill Russell asked who can get the grant. Mr. Sowell said it is for private and public. Supervisor Russell asked if it is a specific product. Mr. Sowell said it is for modifying an existing building or building a new building and there is a criteria to be met. Supervisor Russell asked if they are public shelters. Mr. Sowell said yes, and a 50 year commitment is required. He said 75% comes from FEMA and there is 25% from MEMA for possible construction cost but only for shelters.

Supervisor Russell confirmed, if the county does any construction on a building then we should look at this grant. Mr. Sowell said yes.

Mr. Sowell said the Pre-Hazard Mitigation grant must be in by November 1 and the Hazard Mitigation deadline is December 1. Supervisor Russell asked if businesses have been notified. Mr. Sowell said he does not know if it is extended to private businesses. He has talked to a non-profit, Impact Missions but they did not want to participate because of the 50 year commitment.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis said he and Mr. Sowell talked yesterday about a few possible locations in DeSoto County.

Mr. Sowell said if the application is approved, the county would have three years to use the money.

No action was taken on this item.

See Exhibit G.1

2. Stormwater Awareness Week

This item is recorded under the portion of the minutes called "Planning Commission".

3. Accounting: Purchase of Ambulances

Comptroller Tom Arnold said EMS ordered five ambulances and they received them sooner than expected.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin asked how many ambulances will EMS buy next year. County Administrator Michael Garriga said they are spreading out the purchases now and only one is budgeted for next year. Supervisor Medlin asked how EMS will handle replacing ambulances in the future. Mr. Garriga said in the future, they will cycle them in.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion and Supervisor Tommy Lewis seconded the motion to approve paying the bill to Pro-Fire for five ambulances in a total amount of \$404,100.00. 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. Park Funds: District 3: Weather Warning Sirens

Supervisor Bill Russell made the motion and Supervisor Allen Latimer seconded the motion to donate \$2,500 to the City of Horn Lake from the District 3 Park Fund for the purchase of weather warning sirens for use at the parks but will also benefit the area surrounding the sirens. 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. Public Transit Authority

County Administrator Michael Garriga said yesterday Mr. Charlie Spearman of Region IV Mental Health gave the Board information on ways to consolidate our fragmented transportation service. Mr. Garriga recommended setting up a committee, group or task force to determine the best option and come back to the Board

Supervisor Tommy Lewis said he did not know if they needed a committee. He said they can put a presentation together and see if it saves money.

Mr. Garriga said all components need to be assessed to see if there is a need for an authority to oversee the program. This issue did come up a few years ago and that is when Senator Cochran got money for HOV lanes. Senator Cochran was able to do that because he went through the transit authority. He said, long term, an authority may open doors later for more money. It may be the start of a long term transit authority.

Supervisor Lewis asked if MDOT is looking at Rapid Transit. The county has to be careful in that area. Mr. Garriga said it is all inter-connected.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis made the motion and Supervisor Allen Latimer seconded the motion to authorize the County Administrator to work on the possibility of a public transit authority in DeSoto County and report back to the Board. 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

H. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Supervisor Tommy Lewis made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to recess the meeting until September 15, 2010, 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 8th day of September, 2010, these minutes have been read and approved by the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors.

Bill Russell, President
DeSoto County Board of Supervisors