



**PICKENS COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
JUNE 26, 2008
4:00 P.M. - COMMISSIONER'S CONFERENCE ROOM
M I N U T E S**

- I. Commissioner Jones called the meeting to order.
 1. Prayer
 2. Pledge of Allegiance
 3. Amendments to Agenda - None
- II. Approved Minutes from May 22, 2008 meeting.
- III. Reports from Committees and Departments
 1. Mechelle Champion, Pickens County Finance Director, gave a 2007 & 2008 Budget presentation. She explained that in 2006 the projected budget for 2007 was set. It was projecting \$17million in revenue but actually we brought in \$19 million due to a D.O.T. grant for about \$675,000 plus our charges for services helped collect a little over \$1 million more. The contract associated with the D.O.T. grant was for the paving of Steve Tate Road. In November 2007 we were able to purchase 16 acres for the Airport. When Commissioner Jones took office in 2005 we had 50+ acres at the Airport that was purchased through the Industrial Development Authority of Pickens County. Out of that we were able to purchase 16 acres and get out of a contract that been started on that piece of property and to expedite the process of getting that project done, and also to pay off debt that was associated with that. The total amount on that was \$502,558. We also purchased paving equipment and began paving with our own crew instead of having to contract out. We also had to purchase equipment for the Tax Commissioner and the Clerk of Court's offices that were state-mandated. We updated the Tax Commissioner's computer servers so she has everything she needs to process her office. This was an expense that we did not know about until after the Budget was set. We also finished the Administrative Office building and moved in on February 26, 2007. The \$1mil. shown at the end of 2006 was carried over into 2007 and was pulled out to pay off this building. The current Budget is for \$19 million,. We have received a CDBG Grant for the Burnt Mtn. Center so a Budget Amendment is being made for that today. That puts it at \$19.5 million. Currently we are at 62% for the remaining of the year. We should be at 58%. We should be at 58% on our Revenues but we are a little behind - we are slowing down on building permits because of the economy and a little slow on the LOST. We have a little bit of a lag time on our Revenues. It might be collected for May but we may not get it until July. That is due to the Department of Revenue. We also have some revenues that we don't receive until the latter part of the year such as property taxes. Insurance premiums and excise tax we just bill one time each year and receive them once each year. Commissioner Jones also commented that the Sheriff's Department went over budget in 2007 by around \$400,000. He also

mentioned that in Emergency Services the amount of \$678,000 was an over-run of uncollected bills since 1999. We cleared it up and got it off the books. Since then we have a company that does the billing for us to collect the revenue. Ms. Champion also mentioned that the Tax Commissioner's office is going to make it possible for citizens to pay their property taxes online. Also, in the Water Department, probably in August they will be able to do automatic draft.

IV. Consent Agenda

1. Adopted Resolution Re-Appointing Ann Parks to the Pickens County Board of Family & Children Services for a term beginning July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2013.
2. Adopted Resolution Adopting two roads located in Willow Creek Subdivision into the Pickens County Road System: Jacobs Bend - 1320 Linear Feet and Blakes Lane - 1637 Linear Feet.
3. Adopted Resolution Appointing Ms. Pat Holmes to the Pickens County Planning Commission to fill the unexpired term of Ms. Elizabeth Ray who resigned. The term ending December 31, 2009.
4. Purchased Caterpillar model 305CCR (mini excavator) from Yancey Brothers. \$21,787.80 after \$31,200 trade allowance (420D backhoe).
5. Adopted Resolution to Adopt Amended and Restated Defined Benefit Plan for Pickens County allowing ACCG counsel to file all necessary forms with the Internal Revenue Service.
6. Signed Proclamation proclaiming Tuesday, June 24, 2008 as Ed Lovern Day in Pickens County.
7. Budget amendments for 2007 and 2008. (Attached in these minutes)
8. Signed Acknowledgement that Pickens County agrees to enter into a service agreement or some variation that would allow Big Canoe Utility, LLC to be the service provider for water on any and all property owned by Big Canoe Company and their affiliates. This service agreement will be executed upon finalizing the entire service provider areas throughout the Pickens County that is currently under review with local and state officials.
9. Adopted Resolution Amending the Pickens County Land Use District Ordinance Map in regard to Parcel 063-096 composed of 1.11 acres from Rural Residential (RR) to Highway Business (HB) with the following conditions attached:
1) Permits must be obtained from Georgia DOT for access. 2) Type II landscape buffers must be installed along all adjoining residential and agricultural properties. 3) Security lights to be adjusted so that bright lights and glare would not be directed towards the road.
The change in land use classification was requested by Anthony Powell. Property is located on Waleska Hwy 108. (Amendment # 45).
10. Adopted Resolution Amending the Pickens County Land Use District Ordinance Map in regard to Parcel 044B-004-001 composed of 1 acre on Cove Road from Agricultural (AG) to Rural Residential (RR) with the following conditions: 1) Existing driveway on Cove Road must be utilized for proposed residential structure. 2) Lot will be limited to one residential structure.
Re-zoning request from Miles Carpenter. (Amendment #47)
11. Adopted Resolution Amending the Pickens County Land Use District Ordinance Map in regard to Parcel 012-001 and 012-013 composed of 213.64 acres from Agricultural (AG) to Highway Business (HB) with condition attached: 1) A variance will be required for the proposed 6 units per acre under the Highway Business (HB) Classification. Re-zoning requested by Forum Shops Cumming LLC. Property located on Old Whitestone Road East and Carnes Mill Road. Intended purpose of rezoning would be to develop a CCRC (Continuing Care Retirement Community). (Amendment # 46)

V. Old Business

None

VI. New Business

Commissioner Jones announced the formation of the Pickens County Courthouse Advisory Commission (Pickens CAC) to be chaired by Dr. Sanford Chandler, President of Appalachian Technical College. This advisory group is commissioned to oversee, advise and recommend to the Commissioner's Office decisions on all aspects of the planning, construction and furnishings of the new SPLOST funded courthouse facilities. The creation of this Advisory Commission is a direct out-growth of discussions with the last Grand Jury and their recommendation to form a four member Courthouse Committee. Commissioner Jones has expanded on that request to include representation from all areas of Pickens County. Six Commission Members will represent pairings of the twelve voting precincts of the County as follows:

Nelson - Yellow Creek	Mr. T. J. Keener
Sharptop-Talking Rock	Mr. Curtis Hamrick
Appalachian-Jasper	Mr. Jan Oda
Refuge-Townsend	Mr. Arthur Allred
Hill-Jerusalem	Mr. Terry Long
Westend-Ludville	Mr. Donnie Holmes

Additional members are:

Jasper's Merchants Association	Mrs. Martha Forrest Pool
Judicial Appointee	Mr. Frank Martin
Historic Representative	Rev. Charles O. Walker
Project Coordinator & Vice Chair	Tom Eubanks

VII. Guests/Comments

Resident of Henderson Woods Subdivision commented that a fire had taken place at his residence while he was out of town and neighbors reported a slow response time. Commissioner Jones replied that he would have to check 9-1-1 records.

VIII. Adjournment

Commissioner Jones adjourned the meeting at 4:27 p.m.

Robert P. Jones
Sole Commissioner

ATTEST:

Deborah E. Watson
Certified County Clerk