

CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Regular Business Meeting  
7:00 P.M.

February 15, 2011

POST SUMMARY MINUTES

PRESENT: Chairman Eldrin Bell, Vice-Chairman Wole Ralph, Commissioner Sonna Singleton, Commissioner Michael Edmondson, Commissioner Gail B. Hambrick, and Clerk Shelby D. Haywood.

1. Chairman Bell called the meeting to order.
2. Invocation led by Pastor James Harris of Dixon Grove Baptist Church in Jonesboro, GA. Pledge of allegiance to the flag.
3. Amended the agenda by noting that Dennis Johnson, Budget Manager, would be substituting for Angela Jackson, Director of Finance, under item #6 (Consider requests of Angela Jackson, Director of Finance); deleting item #7 (Resolution 2011-17 – Authorizing Clayton County to provide additional funding to the Clayton County Circuit Public Defender’s Office); adding Resolution 2011-25 (Authorizing Clayton County to enter into a Georgia County Internship Program Subgrant Agreement 2<sup>nd</sup> Modification with ACCG); and acknowledging that the Executive Session would address litigation matters. The agenda was adopted, as amended, as all commissioners had copies before them. Vote unanimous.
4. Approved the February 8, 2011 Regular Business Meeting minutes. Vote unanimous.
5. Rod Gray, Director of Central Services, presented these items which resulted in the following actions. (NOTE: The Board voted on all of these items at once.)

1) Approved a Purchase Request for Targetry Components for the Police Department’s Shooting Range. These components include a Dual Head Bobber Xtreme Target, TCM cards and modules, Air Command Ultra and Smart Range 2000, as requested by the Police Department. This request is to purchase these items from Action Target, Inc., located in Provo, UT, which is the sole source provider for this equipment at a total cost of \$34,048.00. Monies are available in the Edward Byrne Memorial Grant Fund. The motion carried 4-1. Commissioner Edmondson opposed.

**Targetry Package** **\$29,290.00**

1 Bobber Xtreme dual head steel target; a continuous duty air compressor with dryer system; Smart Range 2000 Software with laptop; Air Command Ultra wireless hand held control; Protective “RAMP” raceway; 50 foot single track runner with harness for controller; A runner 120 charging and retreating target with 3D target kit; Installation materials and lead man installer and Shipping (will relocate 16 existing Dual Head Bobber Xtremes to this new Combat Range).

2 New “Heavy Duty” power supplies and Shipping **\$ 779.00**

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Adding a “Pro-Int” timer to both the existing “Line of Fire Range” and the “Tandem 90 Range”; Pro-Int Pigtail cable; Pro-Int Extension Cable; Pro Timer; and Shipping   **\$ 4,758.00**

2)       Approved a bid (RFB Pkg. #10-50; 1/13/11) to purchase fitness equipment for the Clayton County Frank Bailey Center, as requested by the Senior Services Department. Vote unanimous.

The bids were reviewed and evaluated by Mary Byrd, Director of the Senior Services Department, and her staff. Their recommendation is to award a contract to Classic Fitness Concepts, LLC, located in Lawrenceville, Georgia, with the lowest responsive bid of \$41,755.90. Funds are available through HUD.

3)       Approved a Funding Source Change, under RFP Pkg. #10-44, from CDBG Funds to SPLOST Funds in the amount of \$13,919.00. Vote unanimous.

6.       Dennis Johnson, Budget Manager, presented the following items which resulted in these actions. (NOTE: The Board voted on both items at once.)

1)       Approved Budget Amendment #2-23 (Parks & Recreation), for FYE 6-30-11, in the amount of \$4,000.00 to recognize a donation received from the National Recreation and Parks Association for the “Take Me Fishing Program.” Vote unanimous.

2)       Approved Budget Amendment #2-24 (Senior Services), for FYE 6-30-11, in the amount of \$500.00, to recognize a donation received from the Amerigroup Corporation for the Senior Services Worksite Wellness Program. Vote unanimous.

7.       Approved Resolution 2011-18 authorizing Clayton County to enter into a lease agreement with the Hope Shelter, Inc. providing for the lease of property located at 170 Flint River Road, Jonesboro, Georgia to operate a homeless shelter for women and children. Vote unanimous.

8.       Approved Resolution 2011-23, a Resolution authorizing W. Frank Newton, Inc. to complete and submit a 2010 Annual Action Plan Substantial Amendment [Application] to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to obtain Neighborhood Stabilization Program 3 Grant Funds provided under The Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of

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2010 for the purpose of assisting in the redevelopment of abandoned and foreclosed homes; to authorize the Chairman to execute all necessary documents to accomplish the intent of this resolution, etc. Vote unanimous.

9. Approved Resolution 2011-24, a Resolution authorizing Clayton County to allow Project Haiti Heart, Inc. to sponsor and host a 5K Walk/Run event which will commence from and finish at the Clayton County International Park; to authorize the Chairman to perform all acts necessary to accomplish the intent of this resolution, etc. Vote unanimous.

Chairman Bell noted that Commissioner Edmondson requested that an insurance stipulation be in place prior to Project Haiti Heart, Inc. using any facilities at the Clayton County International Park for the 5K Walk/Run event.

10. Approved Resolution 2011-25 authorizing Clayton County to enter into a Georgia County Internship Program Subgrant Agreement 2<sup>nd</sup> Modification with the Association County Commissioners of Georgia; to authorize the Chairman to execute the agreement, and otherwise perform all other acts necessary to accomplish the intent of this resolution, etc. This program allows counties throughout Georgia to employ an intern funded by this grant from May 1, 2010 until September 30, 2010 which is being extended by this Agreement 2<sup>nd</sup> Modification through June 30, 2011. Vote unanimous.

Chief Staff Attorney Michael Smith requested an Executive Session following the business meeting on litigation. The Board agreed to do so.

11. Appointed Rubye Harris and Tonya Clarke to the Housing Authority of Clayton County to replace the terms of Alita Knox (**removed**) and John T. Walker, Jr. (**resigned**). (NOTE: Ms. Harris' term will expire on May 11, 2011 and Ms. Clarke's term will expire on December 1, 2014.) The motion carried 4-1 for both of these appointments. Commissioner Edmondson opposed.

Commissioner Hambrick expressed that Ms. Harris has been in Clayton County for over thirty years and is a retired educator.

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PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Erma Young asked the Board to reconsider its decision to increase senior center membership fees. She also requested to have a voice in the decision-making process regarding senior center members. Ms. Young was concerned about out-of-county residents who now have to pay \$180.00 a year to become a member in the county's senior centers. For example, this fee is too much for her roommate to pay – especially when they travel on out-of-state trips. She was aware that other counties do not have a fee for travel, so this county's fee creates a hardship.

2. Mary Collington stated she has been a member of the Frank Bailey Senior Center for two (2) years, and she enjoys this center very much. During her first year at the Frank Bailey Senior Center, she had so much fun. Per Ms. Collington, people who grow older need places to go and things to do. At the senior center, seniors are able to dance, play cards and bingo, fish, etc. These are all enjoyable activities for seniors. From a personal perspective, Ms. Collington admitted that she was a victim of depression in the past and used to go to a therapist three (3) times a week. Since she joined the Frank Bailey Senior Center, however, the laughter and fun activities replaced her need for therapy. The money she used to pay the therapist now goes to the Frank Bailey Senior Center. As a spokesperson for several seniors, Ms. Collington stated that they are on a fixed income and cannot afford to pay an increased senior center membership fee. She urged the Board to reconsider its decision because the seniors earn and deserve a reconsideration.

3. Lee Bell, of Jonesboro, Georgia, also asked the Board to reconsider its decision to increase the membership fees for the county's senior centers. He did want to commend and express his appreciation to the Clayton County leadership and Senior Services Center staff for services which reflect a positive image of Clayton County. The current decision to increase the senior center membership fees, however, creates a less favorable impression which is perhaps unintended. A reconsideration of this increase, therefore, would be in the best interest of all concerned. Mr. Bell understood the difficulty of reconciling fiscal responsibility against the concept of caring, but he believed the seniors deserved a second chance. He concluded that the Board should render a more palatable resolution or show some evidence of concern for seniors.

4. Carose Carter, Jr. waived his right to speak before the Board.

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5. Chuck Ware reminded the commissioners that he was present at many of their campaigns when they ran for election. These same commissioners promised to help the seniors because they knew the seniors had experienced a rough time. He recalled that the commissioners had stated during the campaigns that whatever happens, “there is always a light at the end of the tunnel.” Based on how seniors have been treated by this Board, Mr. Ware said there is no light – a train is coming and seniors need to get out of the way. Making decisions in the best interest of seniors is not a priority for this Board because it is knocking everything down. He alerted the commissioners that a day is coming when they, too, will become seniors and he wondered what would happen then. Mr. Ware stressed that it is time for seniors to stop begging the Board in these business meetings to make a change. Seniors must “hit the streets” and start voting to get the commissioners out if the commissioners do not support the seniors. Although the commissioners state they are for the seniors, they really are not. Seniors are always the persons who get cut, and it is now time for them to get what they deserve.

6. Johnny Jones acknowledged that he is a part of a senior group that meets weekly in bingo rooms and card rooms to determine what to do in order to survive. This group has visited downtown Atlanta and the capital, and it is here again tonight to ask the commissioners if they are putting forth the same effort (as his group) to make things stay the same for seniors.

7. Dwight Rowe affirmed that he was a part of the Frank Bailey Senior Center family. The recent increase in senior center membership fees has caused a lot of people not to attend the center. Seniors have worked and served this country all their lives and, at some point, they should be able to go to a center and not have to pay those fees. Mr. Rowe emphasized that seniors are on a fixed income, and they should not have to pay the increased membership fees to enjoy the centers (which are a vital part of their lives).

On another issue, Chairman Bell stated that Finance Director Angela Jackson notified him that the public needs to be aware that Monday, February 21, 2011, will be a furlough day for the county.

The Board next made a motion to go into Executive Session in the Commissioners’ Conference Room to discuss litigation. Following the Executive Session, the Board reconvened in the Commissioners’ Boardroom to vote on recommendations concerning senior center membership fees. Chief Staff Attorney Michael Smith presented the following recommendations for a Board vote:

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1. The County will continue to honor those current senior center memberships for members who have receipts showing payment for the period July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.
2. The fee structure will remain the same -- \$12.00 per year for in-county senior center members.
3. For out-of-county senior center members, the fee remains at \$180.00. Payment options are \$90.00 semi-annually, \$180.00 annually, or \$15.00 monthly. If out-of-county senior center members choose the monthly payment option, then there will be a \$50.00 administrative surcharge. This surcharge will be waived if these members sign up for membership by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Ralph, second by Commissioner Singleton, to approve the aforementioned recommendations regarding senior center membership fees. The motion carried 4-1. Chairman Bell opposed.