

**Montgomery County Commissioner's Meeting
March 18, 2008**

Chairperson – Sally M. Morris
Vice Chairman – Dolon W. Corbett
Commissioner – William D. Maness
Commissioner – Jackie Morris
Commissioner – George H. Knight, Jr.
County Manager – Lance L. Metzler
Finance Officer - Cathy S. Baxter
Clerk to the Board – Laura B. Morton
County Attorney – Russell J. Hollers

The Montgomery County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session on Tuesday, March 18, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioner's Assembly Room. All Board Members were present with the exception of Commissioner Billy Maness who was out of the country. *Chairperson Sally Morris called the meeting to order and the following was heard:*

Invocation

Rev. Paul Whitely of Revival Temple Church of God gave the invocation.

Chairperson Morris said she wanted to rearrange the agenda due to time constraints.

Plaque Presentation to Carolyn Maness

Chairperson Sally Morris presented a retirement plaque to Ms. Carolyn Maness who had worked for the Montgomery County Health Department for over 30 years.

Planning Board Report

Mrs. Theresa Thompson, Planning Director presented the following report:

Mr. Parker Cranford was requesting a conditional use permit for an automobile repair shop located at 273 McCallum Road in Candor (Parcel Identification Number 7545 00 65 4819).

This property is located at 273 McCallum Road, Candor 27229, and is known as "Jo's Fashion's." The property is approximately seven and a half (7.5) miles and twenty (20) minutes travel time west of Candor. See attached pictures and maps.

The property was rezoned from Residential 3 to Industrial on August 21, 2001. Currently there is a warehouse located on the property for storage, accompanied with two storage trailers, an office, metal remains on the lawn, and one "junk" car. The current property owner, Parker Cranford, is requesting a conditional use permit for an automobile repair shop. This would include adding a 33' X 33' two door garage attached to the existing office. See attached site plan.

Chairperson Morris explained that we are in public hearing. There were no public comments. Mrs. Morris closed the public hearing.

In a motion made by Commissioner Corbett, seconded by Commissioner Jackie Morris, and so the motion carried unanimously to approve the conditional use permit for Parker Cranford.

Overview of Rules & Procedures

Chairperson Sally Morris asked County Manager Lance Metzler to give a brief synopsis of the rules and procedures. Mr. Metzler gave the overview as requested.

Public Forum

The following spoke during the public forum:

Gladys Marshall of Faduma Street in Troy was present to support Habitat for Humanity and get County leadership involved. She said on Saturday we built a shack at West Middle to show people how property is around Montgomery County. She said Mr. Lassiter came in from the Rotary Club and gave us \$2,000 for our affiliation fee. She said I am here to ask two questions to get both my town and county leaders involved in us raising money for Habitat for Humanity. She said second is to get us on the next agenda. She said they maybe going to do a skit or something. The kids could not be at the meeting tonight, but will be at the next meeting.

This is to show you as our leaders what they are doing to improve Montgomery County, not just South Troy but surrounding communities. She said there are some other things I want to talk about when the young people are here because I want the young children to know that our leaders are interested in helping them and in getting Montgomery County back on track. She said to me, Montgomery County is a long, long way off track, not just my area, there are areas around Star, Biscoe and all around Montgomery County that need help. I am not running for Commissioner or anything like that, but I am the type of person that likes to help people that help themselves, especially the children. I want our children to know that we have commissioners and a mayor and leaders that are concerned. If you have 6th, 7th, and 8th graders can go out and try to help get Montgomery County better and housing. I am sure we can sit down and put our differences aside and help make Montgomery County a better place to live. I want us to come together this one time. That is my plea and my cry to let the children of our county know that we care and we are willing to make a change. We need to let them know we love them. If we don't catch them now and let them know we love them, it is going to be too late. I want them to know (the students) that we will support them and love and care about them. They will be at the next meeting.

Commissioner George Knight took the speaker podium during the public forum to speak to the Board regarding the recent water rates that were approved by the Board. He said there were two people (Woodrow Steele and Ella Knight) in the audience that gave him their time. He provided the Board with the new rates scheduled approved by the Board. He said the first 2,000 gallons. He said people who are using less than 2,000 gallons on the average are using on average using less 1,000 per month. I think it is unfair for people to be charge \$7.00 per 1,000 to those who use less than 1,000 gallons per month. Please pay particular attention to the people at the bottom of the page. The residents using 1,000 per months are going to be increased by \$2 and if you will notice no one else on the page will receive an increase of that amount. He said I am not going to cover every item on the page. He said I want you to pay close attention to the people at the bottom of the page. The commercial people were only increased by 60 cents and 30 cents. Notice also the bulk customers (inside County bulk sales which are the towns, Carolina Water Services, and out of town people) we sell water to. It costs us \$2.14/1,000 to produce. Our outside people – Carolina Water pays amount of \$2.10 which is less than it costs to produce. Our bulk customers (inside county) are only paying \$1.90 for this water. Compare this to the \$7.00 per 1,000 for our residential customers. You can see where most of our water is going. Our residential customers are using a little over 1,000,000 gallons per month (that is very little water); our commercial customers only use close to 2,000,000 gallons per month. Our in-County Bulk Customers, Our towns, plus Carolina Water, and our Out-of County customers are using 17,629,126 gallons of water. He said that is a lot of water. We are sending more water out of this County – look at the last line and you will see over 7,000,000 gallons and our residential customers do not use that much and what do we charge those people. I want you to take a close look at that. I believe it is unfair to those 1,169 customers that do not use a drop of water and we are going up on them \$2. We are charging those people \$7 per thousand. They are going to be paying \$14 a month comparing to the people we are selling to out of the County. It is a shame as Commissioners that we will do our people that way. He asked if the Board had any questions. There were none. Commissioner Knight thanked the Board for their time.

Mrs. Mary Pemberton of Maske Road in Mt. Gilead was present regarding the water rates. I am one of the ones that only use the limit. We stay highly involved with the senior citizens and there are a lot of seniors that can not afford it. Some of these seniors only get between \$300 and \$400 per month. I deal with these people. I even have paid some of their bills and I really do not have the extra to do that. A lot of times it is between them getting medicine and the food they need. Two dollars may not make a difference, but when you do not get but \$300 or \$400 a month, \$2 makes a big difference. I just made a call this afternoon to a 80+ year old lady who broke a tooth and her insurance did not cover it. The doctor's visit was \$60, the extraction was \$100, and the x-ray was \$20. If people like me and other concerned citizens do not come to their rescue, then they would not get the proper medication, food, etc. Consider as Commissioners if you could make it on \$200 or \$300 a month and having to pay all of this. What would you do? We have a lot of people in our County in this situation. I help a lot of people and I hope someone will help me. I am talking about people who have worked here in the County all of their life and it is not their fault their income wasn't enough to make their Social Security Benefits better or save for extra when they retire. I am going to take that lady to the doctor to get her tooth fixed. I am going to have to her to the doctor. Before you make decision, consider these people.

A few had signed up not wanting to speak. (Ann Long, R. Troublefield, R. Ingram)

Commissioner Corbett said Mrs. Pemberton is exactly right. If you run for Commissioner at Large in this County, most people do not have a clue what is going on in this County that has this income. Everyone needs to get out and look. We need to take a close look when we do our budget this year.

Consent Agenda

In a motion made by Commissioner Corbett, seconded by Commissioner Jackie Morris, and so the motion carried unanimously to approve the following consent agenda item:

- Approval of Minutes – February 19, 2008.
- Budget Amendment 43/08 – Department of Social Services – New State Money - \$54,869.75
- Budget Amendment 44/08 – Family Planning – DHHS money for Family Planning – New Money - \$4,735
- Budget Amendment 45/08 – CDBG Revitalization Dry Creek – CDBG Funds Returned to Water Fund
- Appointment of Michelle M. Yarboro to serve on the Board of Health in the Registered Nurse Position
- Appointment of Commissioner Jackie Morris to BRAC Committee
- Approval to Send Thank You Letter to Sponsors of Health Director's trip to Mexico
- Request for approval of Criminal Justice Partnership grant application

Introduction of New Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development

Mrs. Susan Hamilton, County Extension Director introduced Ms. Chrissy Haynes the new Extension Agent/4-H Development Agent. She is from Montgomery County and she started her new position on February 2, 2008.

County Manager's Report

Mr. Lance L. Metzler presented the following report:

County Jail Construction Update

- 60% of the plumbing rough-ins have been installed and inspected.
- 80% foundation block has been installed.
- 80% of the storm drainage has been installed.
- 25% of the electrical conduit has been installed.
- They are putting up fence posts and temporary safety fencing.

Litigation Committee

- Russ Hollers and I spoke about pending litigation with the County Commissioners and suggested that a Litigation Committee be formed to discuss issues pertaining to the litigation.
- He recommended that the Committee consist of Commissioner Sally Morris, Corbett and Maness. He said that he would be the coordinator and that Womble & Carlyle would be the counsel for the Commissioners.

In a motion made by Commissioner Corbett, seconded by Chairperson Sally Morris, and so the motion carried 3-1 (Commissioner Knight abstained from the bid due to the content) to appoint a Litigation Committee to include Chairperson Sally Morris, Commissioner Billy Maness, and Commissioner Dolon Corbett. *(Attorney Hollers would be a coordinator & would work in conjunction with Womble, Carlyle)*

Discussion on Property, General Liability and Auto Insurance

- A Commissioner has been asking about how we go about soliciting bids for Property, General Liability and Auto Insurance for the County.
- We have developed the RFP internally in the past but will be using a local broker to help us get the best protection for the County.

Commissioner Corbett asked who it would be. Mr. Metzler said Bill Hudson's firm. Mr. Corbett said do we need to vote on that. Chairperson Morris asked Mr. Metzler if the Board needed to vote. Mr. Metzler said no because it is administrative. Mr. Corbett asked if any kind of contract had been signed. Mr. Metzler said no, not yet. Mr. Corbett said are you certain we are going to? Mr. Metzler said yes. Mr. Corbett suggested the Board vote on this issue. Mr. Metzler said we certainly can do that. Mr. Corbett said our insurance is \$1,536,000 million this year and it is the biggest part of our budget, and since we have had trouble will no coverage for different reasons this year. I move to hire a professional County firm to hire all of our County insurance. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Knight.

Mr. Metzler said just for clarification, Mr. Corbett asked that we get bids from brokers. Mr. Corbett said yes any County brokers. Mr. Metzler said okay so we will solicit brokers for insurance.

Commissioner Jackie Morris said he didn't think he could vote because of a potential conflict because his company owns an insurance agent. I am going to abstain just in case.

Commissioner Corbett said he personally thought there were only two in the County that could handle it and they are Montgomery Insurance and First Bank.

Discussion on Health Insurance

- We have placed out all of the RFP's to Health Insurance providers so that they can provide us with quotes for a recommendation to the County Commissioners.
- If we were not as far along in the process with responses and working on the budget that I would use the same local broker but will consider using them next year as a broker.
- He proposed doing all other Insurance through a broker this year and next year put all with broker the Board decides to go with.

Commissioner Corbett said we have over 3 months. Mr. Metzler said okay, but when it comes to a budget and we have to have those numbers in here and that is a big part of our budget when you are dealing with 212 employees. Mr. Corbett said you have a good idea what the percentage would be correct? Mr. Metzler said it depends on who we go with. Right now, we now what it would be with Cigna, but someone else, I am not sure.

Commissioner Corbett said my motion was for this year. Chairperson Morris said are you making a motion. Mr. Corbett said it is the same motion that was for this year. Mr. Metzler said that was for general liability, auto, and property. Chairperson said now we are discussing health. Mr. Corbett said my motion included all insurance, I repeated myself twice. Chairperson Morris asked the County Manager if he had already sent out everything for health. Mr. Metzler said yes.

Mr. Corbett said there is absolutely no reason why we can't get it in three months and two weeks. It is just another thing, similar thing, and if we are not careful, it is going to be the same thing as the general fund.

Chairperson Morris said I thought we were on the property, auto, and general liability. Mr. Corbett said my motion stated all insurance. Chairperson Morris asked the Board if they wanted to vote on the Health Insurance separately. Mr. Corbett said I thought I did.

Commissioner Corbett asked Mrs. Morton (Clerk to the Board) to clarify the motion. Mrs. Morton said the motion included all insurance.

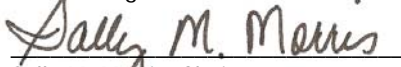
Chairperson Morris said okay.

Upcoming Budget

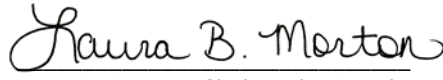
- We are fast approaching the budget time.
- I am still waiting for a few key budgets so that I can start working on the budget but we are beginning to project revenues from federal, state and local.
- You all will have to bear with me during the budget process because without a Finance Director it will be extremely time consuming.
- I hope to have a budget calendar to you in the near future.

Adjourn

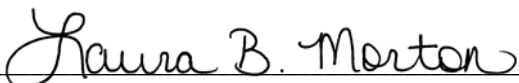
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.


Sally M. Morris, Chairperson




Laura B. Morton, Clerk to the Board

As Clerk to the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners, I hereby certify that this is a true and accurate copy of the March 18, 2008 Board minutes.


Laura B. Morton, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners