

**NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
April 17, 2001**

Newton County Executive Office Board Room

Presiding: Chairman Aaron Varner

Present: Chairman Aaron Varner, Commissioners Mort Ewing, Ronnie Dimsdale, Ester Fleming, J.C. Henderson, and Billy Strickland; Attorney Tommy Craig and Clerk Jackie Smith

Newspaper: Cindy Tumlin, Covington News; Josh Puckett, Newton Citizen and a small group of citizens.

Call To Order: Chairman Varner extended welcome and read thought for the day.

Invocation: Commissioner Ronnie Dimsdale

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Chairman Varner

Chairman introduced our new Administrative Assistant John Middleton and extended congratulations and welcome.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED April 3, 2001

Motion: To accept minutes for April 3, 2001 meeting as presented.

Proposed by: Commissioner Ronnie Dimsdale, District Two

Second: Commissioner Billy Strickland, District Five

Motion Carried Unanimously

WORKER'S COMPENSATION ADMINISTRATION

Chairman Varner stated this was previously discussed at last meeting and board requested further information. ACCG presented proposals as well, but SIA quotes were still much lower. SIA has agreed to decrease fees as follows:

Administration Fee:	\$3,000.00
Per Indemnity \$450.00 per claim x 3	1,350.00
Per Medical Only \$75 per claim x 40	3,000.00
Subtotal: (Estimate only)	\$7,350.00

(These figures are based on Newton County's history of claims.)

The following will be included in the Administrative Fee:
Loss Control Program, Subsequent Injury Trust Fund Recovery, Safety Training & Written Safety Plans, and Risk Management Reports.

SIA quoted 4 options for the excess insurance. (attached quotes made part of these minutes).

Recommendation to accept Option #4: 20,003.00

Estimated Administrative cost and excess insurance: \$27,353.00

Note: Excess coverage commences after \$250,000 is expended. Coverage is per occurrence. Example: If 4 or 5 firefighters were injured and the cost accumulated over \$250,000 then excess coverage would commence.

Discussion:

- Commissioner Ewing clarified that what county has been doing was to pay company to administer claims (Newton County is self-insured). They are recommending that we purchase excess coverage in case a group of people was to get hurt.
- Commissioner Henderson asked about past excess coverage and chairman stated we have not had excess coverage previously.
- Commissioner Fleming asked in talking about "excess insurance" if it was simply to administer claims or was there any reimbursement for claims from company. Chairman Varner stated that once Newton County reaches the \$250,000 then the company would reimburse Newton County up to \$1,000,000.
- Commissioner Ewing commented that this amounts to the county buying the coverage. He said per occurrence is the best way to go for this coverage.
- Commissioner Strickland asked for clarification if two people were hurt and the cost was \$125,000 each would excess coverage kick in and Chairman stated after the total amount of \$250,000 was expended excess coverage would commence.
- Commissioner Henderson asked about companies who administer this program.
- Commissioner Ewing stated in the last 12 months there has been a major shake-up in the worker's comp market and he wasn't surprised that companies have stopped offering this program.
- Chairman invited Commissioner Ewing to elaborate on this issue.
- Commissioner Ewing stated it was so important to have someone administer this program. He stated Newton County pays expenses of claims, but we pay BC/BS to administer claims. Re: health insurance BC/BS is one of the largest to offer this administration. Simply: Newton County pays claims and company administers said claims.

3.

Motion: To accept recommendation as presented for administrative fees as well as the excessive coverage.

Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

Second: Commissioner Billy Strickland, District Five

Motion Carried Unanimously

PLANNING REVIEW SERVICE

No action needed

TRAILBLAZERS PARK PLAQUE

After much discussion a motion was made by Commissioner Henderson to approve the request for a plaque to be placed in the Trailblazers Park to honor the people whose names were listed on attached memorandum from Cheryl Delk. This motion died for a lack of a second.

ZONINGS: NONE

STREETLIGHTS: NONE

ALCOHOL BEVERAGE LICENSE:

Final Reading:

Rameschchandra Chhaganlal Bhika
d/b/a Happy Food Mart (formerly Hwy. 36 Grocery Store)
15825 Hwy. 36
Covington, Georgia 30014
Owner: Rameschchandra Chhaganlal Bhika

Note: Sheriff Office investigation indicated “no record.”

Motion: To approve alcohol license as requested.

Proposed by: Commissioner Ester Fleming, District Three

Second: Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four

Motion Carried Unanimously

APPROVAL OF COUNTY CHECKS

Motion: To approve county checks as read.
Proposed by: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One
Second: Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four
Motion Carried Unanimously

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Time: 7:30 PM
Motion: To enter into E.S. to discuss litigation & personnel.
Proposed by: Commissioner Billy Strickland, District Five
Second: Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four
Motion Carried Unanimously

REGULAR SESSION:

Time: 7:50 PM
Motion: To enter into Regular Session.
Proposed by: Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four
Second: Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One
Motion Carried Unanimously

Motion: To settle claim with Mr. & Mrs. Chancey for a total of \$52,500 to cover damages incurred as a result of Cornish Mountain Tank overflow.
Proposed by: Commissioner Billy Strickland, District Five
Second: Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four
Motion Carried Unanimously

ADJOURN:

Being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jackie B. Smith, Clerk

