

**NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES  
February 20, 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; Attorneys Tommy Craig and Scott Cole, Clerk Jackie Smith

**Newspaper:** Cindy Tumlin, Covington News and small group of citizens.

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

**Invocation:** Commissioner T.M. "Mort" Ewing

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Chairman Varner

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED FEBRUARY 6, 2001**

**Motion:** To adopt minutes for February 6, 2001 as submitted.

**Proposed by:** Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

**Second:** Commissioner Billy Strickland, District Five

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**NEWTON COUNTY PHYSICAL & MENTAL HEALTH BUILDING  
BID**

Chairman Varner stated there were some unanswered questions regarding this project. Commissioner Fleming said he would like to see this tabled for more information. There was no further discussion and motion duly made.

**Motion:** To table for further information to be discussed at future meeting.

**Proposed by:** Commissioner Ester Fleming, District Three

**Second:** Commissioner Billy Strickland, District Five

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

## **RESOLUTION R-02-001 ISTE A FUNDING**

Chairman Varner asked attorney Scott Cole to address the resolution. Mr. Cole stated the GDOT provided the draft for this resolution, requesting county approval/passage. The resolution authorizes the chairman to sign contract for ISTE A project and supply any additional information required by the GDOT; to comply with the Civil Rights Act of 1964; to adhere to GDOT policies for hiring employees; to substantiate that we have appropriated funds and services for our matching portion.

### **Discussion Points:**

- ◆ Commissioner Ewing said, “all this does is bring us into compliance with the law.” He stated that we need to be in compliance with the law and moved for adoption.

**Motion:** To adopt Resolution R-02-2001 ISTE.  
**Proposed by:** Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One  
**Second:** Commissioner Ester Fleming, District Three  
**Motion Carried Unanimously**

Note: The original Resolution is contained in file number R-02-2001, incorporated herein by reference and expressly made a part of these minutes.

## **APPOINTMENT TO FOUR COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

Chairman Varner apprised the board that he had been asked to serve on this board, but because of his schedule he would recommend that Commissioner Ewing be appointed to serve. He stated that project is in Commissioner Ewing’s district. He expressed confidence of the outstanding job that Commissioner Ewing will do and board concurred.

**Motion:** To appoint Mort Ewing to serve on Four County Development Authority.  
**Proposed by:** Commissioner Ronnie Dimsdale, District Two  
**Second:** Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four  
**Motion Carried Unanimously**

## **SALEM VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT PURCHASE**

Chairman Varner stated this was previously discussed at the work session and was a housekeeping item that was inherited from the previous board. He asked Commissioner Dimsdale to give a run down of the purchase.

- ◆ Commissioner Dimsdale said there were some high structures in the west part of the county and other areas and the county did not have equipment to reach these structures.
- ◆ The county did not have a ladder truck.
- ◆ Salem VFD had the resources and the man-power and willingness to purchase truck.
- ◆ The truck they were normally using would become excess property.
- ◆ The county asked them (instead of trading in) to let the county purchase it.
- ◆ The truck was well maintained and used regularly.
- ◆ The county intended to use this truck as we open new stations.
- ◆ With the county purchasing that truck it would also help Salem in their budgeting process to buy the new ladder truck.
- ◆ The county is giving them less than the original appraisal of the truck; however it is a number they can live with and help them to afford the payments on their new truck and give the county a truck to use in the new station at Hwy. 212 when opened.
- ◆ This is initial payment and later on we will look for money to help them with their next payment.
- ◆ Commissioner Henderson requested cost be stated for record.

**Motion:** To approve the purchase of fire truck from Salem Volunteer Fire Department. First payment will be \$22,000, plus consideration for balance due (\$20,000) in future.

**Proposed by:** Commissioner Ronnie Dimsdale, District Two

**Second:** Commissioner Ester Fleming, District Three

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**ZONINGS: NONE**

**STREETLIGHTS: NONE**

**ALCOHOL BEVERAGE LICENSE: NONE**

**APPROVAL OF COUNTY CHECKS**

**Motion:** To approve county checks as submitted.

**Proposed by:** Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four

**Second:** Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**Time:** 7:30 PM

**Motion:** To enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel issue.  
**Proposed by:** Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four  
**Second:** Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One  
**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**REGULAR SESSION:**

**Time:** 7:40 PM  
**Motion:** To enter into Regular Session.  
**Proposed by:** Commissioner  
**Second:** Commissioner  
**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**COUNTY ENGINEER POSITION:**

After short discussion regarding qualifications and need for this position Commissioner Fleming duly made motion to approve request. Commissioner Henderson asked that record show he felt this approval would set a precedent and was against approval.

**Motion:** To approve request for salary increase of County Engineer to Grade 18; Step 10. This increase is for said applicant only.  
**Proposed by:** Commissioner Ester Fleming, District Three  
**Second:** Commissioner Ronnie Dimsdale, District Two  
**Motion Carried**  
**For:** Commissioners Ewing, Dimsdale, Fleming, and Strickland  
**Against:** Commissioner Henderson

**ADJOURN:**

**Time:** 7:45PM  
**Motion:** To adjourn  
**Proposed by:** Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four  
**Second:** Commissioner Ronnie Dimsdale, District Two  
**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

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Jackie B. Smith, Clerk

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Aaron Varner, Chairman

