

**NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 3, 2004**

**MINUTES**

Newton County Historic Courthouse  
Covington, Georgia  
Chairman Aaron Varner Presiding

Present: Chairman Aaron Varner, Commissioners' Mort Ewing, Ronnie Dimsdale, Ester Fleming, Jr., J.C. Henderson and Monty Laster; Administrative Assistant John Middleton, County Attorney Tommy Craig and County Clerk Jackie Smith

Also Present: Will Whitehorn, Covington News  
Crystal Tatum, Newton Citizen  
Small group of citizens

Chairman Varner called the meeting to order, read the thought for the day and welcomed all present. Commissioner Mort Ewing gave the invocation and Chairman Varner led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED JULY 20, 2004**

**Motion:** To approve Minutes as written.  
**Proposed by:** Commissioner Mort Ewing, District One  
**Second by:** Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five  
**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**APPROVAL OF WORK SESSION MINUTES DATED JULY 20, 2004**

**Motion:** To approve Minutes as written.  
**Proposed by:** Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five  
**Second by:** Commissioner J.C. Henderson, District Four  
**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**SETTING OF QUALIFYING FEE – DISTRICT ONE – NEWTON  
COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION – SPECIAL ELECTION**

O.C.G.A. § 21-2-131 (a) states that Qualification Fees shall be established by the county governing authority for each county office to be filled in the general primary or general election (special election).

**Motion:** To set the Qualifying Fee at \$216.00 for the Special Election to be held on Tuesday, November 2, 2004 to fill the District One Seat formerly held by the late Mr. Richard Tiede.

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

**Second by:** Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE/LANDFILL**

County Attorney Tommy Craig addressed the board regarding ground water contamination in an isolated area at the landfill. He provided the board with a copy of a letter from the EPD and from MAAI regarding issue. He noted this is a serious problem and will be very costly to rectify, but must be addressed ASAP.

The contaminated section is located in an area of the landfill that was closed in the late nineties. No landfills were lined to prohibit runoff contamination before the Sub-Title D Landfills were created. He also noted there was no contamination in our Sub-Title D landfill.

Mr. Craig requested the board take steps to ascertain the nature and extent of the problem, hire experts, secure their opinion, and receive guidance from them to address this problem. He would then come back to this board and report their findings and board could decide on the course of action to pursue. Commissioner Ewing asked how long it would take to determine the extent of action needed to take care of the problem? Goal is 60 days. The board concurred and directed the county attorney to proceed with the process and report back to board with findings and cost.

**Motion:** To direct the county attorney to research the issue, secure proper experts to analyze the problem, and report back to the board with cost and recommendation to resolve the problem.

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

**Second by:** Commissioner Ester Fleming, Jr., District Three

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

## **STREETLIGHTS**

**Rosedown – Elks Club Road**

**District One**

**Motion:** To approve streetlight request as presented.

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

**Second by:** Commissioner Monty Laster, District Five

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**Trelawny Unit 10 – Browns Bridge Road  
District Three**

**Motion:** To approve streetlight request as presented.

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

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

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**COUNTY CHECKS:**

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

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

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

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Time: 7:30 P.M.**

**Motion:** To enter into Executive Session for purpose of discussing personnel, and land acquisition.

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

**Second by:** Commissioner Ester Fleming, Jr., District Three

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**REGULAR SESSION**

**Time: 8:05 P.M.**

**Motion:** To enter into Regular Session.

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

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

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

**ADJOURN**

**Time: 8:05 P.M.**

**Motion:** To adjourn.

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

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

**Motion Carried Unanimously**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jackie B. Smith  
County Clerk

