

**DESOTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**JOHN M. M. CALDWELL, PRESIDENT, PRESIDING**

**August 20, 1997**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The August 20, 1997, meeting of the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors was called to order by John M. M. Caldwell, Sr., Board President.

W. E. "Sluggo" Davis, the DeSoto County Chancery Clerk was present and did open the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors meeting in a regular session to hear any and all business to come before the Board. The following were present:

- Jessie Medlin-----District 1
- Eugene C. Thach-----District 2
- James D. Pearson-----District 3, Absent
- John Caldwell-----District 4
- Tommy Lewis-----District 5
- W. E. "Sluggo" Davis-----Chancery Clerk
- James Albert Riley-----Sheriff, Absent
- Clovis Reed-----County Administrator
- William H. Austin, Jr.-----Board Attorney

**B. INVOCATION**

The invocation was presented by Supervisor Eugene Thach.

**C. BUDGET HEARING**

The Board of Supervisors discussed several items within the FY97-98 Budget including:

**Road Bond**

The County Engineer, Daniel Murphy, reported to the Board of Supervisors that the last estimate of 7/24/97, shows the bond balance at \$1,072,000.00. \$301,000.00 has been spent since that date and a retainage of \$56,000.00 must be held. Mr. Murphy estimates the County to be 49% complete with the asphalt contract, and that Getwell Road added an extra \$186,000.00+ to the contract.

The County Engineer said that there is:

\$2,143,000.00	Left to be paid on the asphalt contract,
+     76,000.00	For the engineering work on Church Road
\$2,219,000.00	Total left to be paid on the asphalt contract

**Item C., Continued,**

The Comptroller explained:

\$3,136,187.00	Road bond balance as of July 31, 1997
- 2,219,000.00	Total left to be paid on the asphalt contract
- 600,000.00	Hacks Cross Road
- 100,000.00	City of Southaven
\$ 217,187.00	

**County Wide Maintenance and Other Construction**

The Board of Supervisors reviewed and discussed the portion of the budget dealing with County wide Road Maintenance and Other Construction. The Board agreed to increase the budget revenues from \$120,000.00 to \$160,000.00 for Permits and Overweight Fines.

Supervisor John Caldwell asked how much DBST will be used in a bad weather year? Kenny Gunn said five miles. Supervisor Thach said the budget should be amended to reflect at least five miles of DBST. The Board agreed to:

Account #	Account Name	Increase	Decrease
156-285	Permits & Overweight Fines	\$40,000.00	
300-641	Asphalt Emulsions	\$40,000.00	

The Board agreed to:

Account #	Account Name	Increase	Decrease
300-498	Other Personal Service		\$50,000.00
300-541	Repairs to Road Equipment		10,000.00
300-549	Repairs/Insurance Deductible		25,000.00
300-586	Laundry Service		5,000.00
300-931	Purchasing Road Equipment		100,000.00
300-598	Other Contract Service		10,000.00
300-644	Cement Treated Base		5,000.00
300-674	Grease and Oil		5,000.00
300-697	Other Consumable Supplies		10,000.00
300-939	Other Capital Outlay		10,000.00
300-631	Road Gravel	\$ 60,000.00	
300-659	Chemicals (Weed Killer)	10,000.00	
300-905	Striping	50,000.00	
300-930	Automobile	100,000.00	
300-902	Road Improvements	10,000.00	

Supervisor Eugene Thach asked the Road Manager to plan to clean up around Central Maintenance.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis said he knew MSMA was a hazard to livestock, but asked the Road Manager to find an alternative to Roundup, which kills everything. Supervisor Lewis suggested the Road Manager check with the County Agent for alternatives.

**Item C., Continued,  
Tax Collector and Tax Assessor**

The Tax Collector and Tax Assessor requested an additional pay increase of \$2,500.00 per city each for a total of \$10,000.00 each for Budget Item #105-445 (Statutory Fees). This request was discussed.

The Tax Assessor, Parker Pickle, said most problems in his office come from city property, rather than non city property. He said the Collector and Assessor handle questions associated with city taxes in their offices. Mr. Pickle said there are more and more responsibilities associated with this as the cities grow. Further, Mr. Pickle says the cities are happy with their performance, and proved so through their endorsements sent to the Board of Supervisors, and said he would like to see the Mayors and Clerks come before the Board to reassure them of the spirit in which their gestures have been made. Mr. Pickle said in light of the increase in responsibilities, he does not understand the opposition to the issue, and asked the Board of Supervisors what they plan to do about their raise. Supervisor Caldwell said he will vote against it.

The Tax Collector, Joey Treadway, reminded the Board of Supervisors of the revenues from their work that go back to the general fund. Mr. Treadway said it is difficult to understand why, after seven years, the Tax Assessor and Tax Collector are not entitled to a pay increase for this work. Mr. Treadway said they are not asking for a pay increase for County work, but for their work for the cities as allowed by statute, as these responsibilities are increasing in these areas. Mr. Treadway suggested the Board consider separating the duties of their jobs as they relate to city and county work. He said to delete these responsibilities would not decrease his staff, but the responsibility of doing the job right, lies with him. He is the one who will go to jail if there is an error. Mr. Treadway said as an alternative, the money could be deleted from the tax collections, returned to the cities, and the cities could pay the money to the Tax Collector and Tax Assessor, thus giving the County less collections.

Supervisor Eugene Thach said these jobs are part of their performance. He said when they ran for the job, they knew what it paid. Supervisor Thach said he feels the appropriate time for a pay increase is at the term change. Supervisor Thach reminded the Assessor and Collector they have just received a substantial raise from the State. Mr. Treadway said the amount of the raise would not even cover cost of living increases if they were split by year during the last years in which an increase was not given. Supervisor Caldwell said, if anything, the Board should consider cutting out this item all together, since their raise was approved. Supervisor Thach said he would like to know the public perception of the issue.

Supervisor John Caldwell said he did not feel the Mayors would act on his suggestions to spend the cities' money if the situation were reversed. Supervisor Caldwell said he would go along with a 5% increase, but could not go along with doubling their fees for these services, and said this was not an issue during election year. Joey Treadway said he recollects differently.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin asked how the other counties are handling this. Joey Treadway said the same way DeSoto County does, but the charges vary. Supervisor Medlin said he remembers other times that this was brought up, and said the Board has funded their offices to do this work when the work was incorporated into the County, and have maintained it ever since.

After some discussion, all agreed that it is unlikely this request will pass if it is voted on with the absence of Supervisor Pearson. Parker Pickle asked the Board of Supervisors to take a vote when all five Supervisors are present. Clovis Reed said he will bring the issue back up later.

**Item C., Continued,**

**Library**

The Board discussed the library budget. Clovis Reed said the total request was for \$704,228.00; the request without the Walls library was \$619,228.00; and out of \$612,075 recommended, \$75,000.00 was for the Walls Library. Clovis Reed said with the exception of the Walls Library they are getting a 5% increase, but in effect the increase will be much greater, since the library will not likely open until April, 1998. However, the County Administrator said some of the charges will be the same no matter when the library opens in the fiscal year.

### **Sheriff's Budget**

The County Administrator, Clovis Reed said the Sheriff is happy with his budget. Supervisor Jessie Medlin asked what is the budget difference from last year? Mr. Reed said they requested a 12% increase, but he suggested a 7.11% increase. Supervisor Medlin said after the Board has provided this degree of support, automobiles with Tennessee tags residing in DeSoto County should decrease greatly.

### **Public Defenders**

Circuit Court Judge George Ready appeared before the Board of Supervisors to voice his support of insurance for part time public defenders. Judge Ready said he is interested in keeping good public defenders. He said if better benefits are offered, more good attorneys will apply for the job. Judge Ready said he was only here to support the four public defenders for Circuit Court, who are Clay Vanderburg, Melinda Meacham, Bill Travis (who lives in Tennessee), and Jack Jones.

Judge Ready pointed out that he is not the senior Circuit Judge, and said if he was, he would likely make changes in one of the public defenders.

The Board questioned how many hours these public defenders work. Judge Ready said some weeks they do much more than 30 hours, while other weeks they may not. Judge Ready said the public defenders in Panola County make more money and have 60% of the workload. He said he would like the employees to have the benefit of insurance, but if not would request, at least, a raise.

Judge Ready pointed out that County Attorney Larry Vaughn gets insurance, and the statute states that public defenders should get the same benefits as the County Attorney.

Judge Ready said this Board needs to request making DeSoto County their own district. County Administrator Clovis Reed said he will put it on the legislative wish list. He said the Board could create a public defenders office if they want to, but probably that would not be feasible until they become their own district, which will likely be considered after the year 2000.

Clovis Reed said if the Board approved such a request, they may be forced to provide insurance to all part time employees, which would not be cost effective.

### **Emergency Shelter**

County Administrator Clovis Reed said he has received a letter from Northeast Mississippi Emergency Shelter for Children asking for a budget increase from \$500.00

#### **Item C., Continued,**

to \$2,000.00. Clovis Reed said he recommends zero because the Board of Supervisors are supporting the DeSoto Sunrise Home. Supervisor Eugene Thach said if both

facilities offer the same services, the Board should not support both.

The emergency shelter for women was discussed briefly.

**DeSoto Sunrise Home**

The County Administrator said that DeSoto Sunrise Home's contract ends September 30 of next year. Mr. Reed said that according to Judge Mills Barbee, they are doing a great job. Mr. Reed said their arrangement is as a priority to fund the emergency shelter. After that, any unused funds can go to the Sunrise home.

**D. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Kenny Gunn - Budget**

This item was handled in Item C.

**2. Dale Thompson - Budget Amendments**

Comptroller Dale Thompson said Justice Court had provided a list of the equipment requested in their budget amendment request. Clovis Reed said that, if approved, their 1997-98 budget could be cut accordingly. He said the same is true of Data Processing.

Comptroller Dale Thompson said that she will ask the Road Manager to move some of his requests into other line items that better reflect where the items will be used.

The budget requests are as follows:

Budget transfer request for Tax Assessor -

From	001-103-570	Contractual Services	\$750.00
To	001-103-603	Consumable Supplies	\$500.00
To	001-103-606	Consumable Supplies	\$250.00

Budget Transfer for Planning Commission -

Increase	001-107-467	Workers Comp Ins	\$582.00
Increase	001-107-477	Travel in County	\$350.00
Increase	001-107-475	Travel out of County	\$200.00
Increase	001-107-523	Contract Printing	\$300.00
Increase	001-107-571	Dues and Subscriptions	\$250.00
Increase	001-107-639	Decals	\$96.00
Lower	004-107-404	Office Clerical	\$1,778.00

**Item D.2., Continued,**

Budget transfers for the Accounting Department -

Increase	001-121-501	Postage	\$400.00
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Increase	001-121-603	Office Supplies	\$500.00
Increase	001-121-934	Office Furniture	\$485.00
Lower	001-121-523	Contract Printing	\$900.00
Lower	001-121-933	Office Equipment	\$189.00
Lower	001-121-936	Computer Equipment	\$296.00

Budget transfers for Veterans Service -

Increase	001-154-501	Postage	\$32.00
Lower	001-154-477	Mileage	\$32.00

Budget transfer for Constables -

Increase	001-262-463	Constables Fees	\$3,200.00
Increase	001-000-225	Justice Court Revenue	\$3,200.00

Budget transfer for Dog Catcher -

Increase	001-411-671	Gasoline	\$150.00
Lower	001-411-681	Repair parts	\$150.00

Budget transfer for Purchasing -

From	-475		\$100.00
To	-476		\$100.00

From	122-671-603	Gasoline	\$15.00
To	122-671-671		\$15.00

Budget transfer for Operations and Maintenance -

Increase	001-150-401	Managers salary	\$3,760.00
Increase	001-150-434	Overtime	\$ 17.00
Increase	001-150-465	Retirement	\$ 369.00
Increase	001-150-466	Social security	\$ 271.00
Increase	001-150-467	Workmans comp	\$ 72.00
Increase	001-150-571	Dues or subscriptions	\$ 50.00
Increase	001-150-570	Insurance	\$1,075.00

Lower	001-150-475	Travel out of county	\$200.00
Lower	001-150-475	Meals and lodging	\$100.00
Lower	001-150.477	Travel in County	\$100.00
Lower	001-150-933	Office Equipment	\$100.00
Lower	001-150-934	Office Furniture	\$100.00
Lower	001-150-950	Insurance premium	\$1,075.00
Lower	001-901-999	Working Cash balance	\$3,939.00

**Item D.2., Continued,**

Budget transfer for Building Maintenance -

Increase	001-151-935	Equipment purchase	\$933.00
Lower	001-701-935	Building & improvement	\$933.00

Budget transfers for Circuit Clerk -

Increase	001-161-501	Postage	\$200.00
Increase	001-161-523	Contract printing	\$400.00
Increase	001-161-534	Other Machine Rental	\$100.00
Lower	001-161-575	Juror & witness tees	\$700.00
Increase	001-102-502	Phone	\$100.00
Lower	001-102-600	Record Books	\$100.00

Budget transfers for County Court are as follows -

Increase	001-162-454	Clerk attending court	\$4,000.00
Increase	001-162-456	Clerk indigent tees	\$1,000.00
Decrease	001-161-575	Circuit Court Jurors	\$5,000.00
Increase	001-162.400	Judges salary	\$1,688.00
Lower	001-162-440	Part time	\$1,529.00
Lower	001-162-467	Workmens Comp ins	\$ 159.00
Lower	001-162-933	Office machinery	\$253.00
Lower	001-162-934	Furniture	\$1,000.00
Increase	001-162-936	Computer	\$1,253.00

Budget transfers for Youth Services -

Increase	001-164-460	Clerk's fees	\$5,000.00
Increase	001-164-523	Contract printing	\$128.00
Increase	001-164-934	Furniture	859.00
Lower	001-192-933	Other machinery	\$987.00
Lower	001-162-575	County Court jurors	\$5,000.00

Budget transfers for Circuit Court Reporters -

Increase	001-163-411	Court reporters salary exp	\$24,622.00
Lower	001-163-465	Retirement	\$4,210.00
Lower	001-163-466	Social Security	\$3,302.00
Lower	001-163-468	Insurance	\$1,623.00
Lower	001-163-933	Office Machines	\$ 650.00
Lower	001-901-999	Working cash balance	\$14,837.00

**Item D.2., Continued,**

Budget transfer for Chancery Court reporters -

Increase	001-174-411	Court Reporters salary expense	\$14,808.00
Lower	001-174-465	Retirement	\$3,725.00
Lower	001-174-466	Social Security	\$2,982.00
Lower	001-174-468	Insurance	\$3,600.00

Lower	001-174-476	Meals & Lodging	\$ 500.00
Lower	001-174-933	Office Equipment	\$1,654.00
Lower	001-901-999	Working cash balance	\$2,347.00

Budget transfer for Justice Court -

From	001-166-523	Contract Printing Supplies	\$1,000.00
To	001-166-934	Furniture and fixtures	\$1,000.00
From	001-166-469	Unemployment	\$800.00
To	001-166-934	Furniture and fixtures	\$800.00
From	001-166-570	Ins. & Fidelity Bonds	\$800.00
To	001-166-934	Furniture & Fixtures	\$800.00
From	001-166-587	Training & registration	\$200.00
To	001-166-934	Furniture & fixtures	\$200.00
From	001-166-477	Travel in county	\$200.00
To	001-166-934	Furniture & fixtures	\$200.00
Increase	001-166-434	Overtime	\$7,592.00
Increase	001-166-465	Retirement	\$1,991.00
Increase	001-166-466	Social Security	\$1,027.00
Increase	001-166-467	Workers Comp Insurance	\$ 668.00
Increase	001-166-521	Advertising	\$ 298.00
Increase	001-166-581	GC Services	\$5,300.00
Increase	001-166-558	Judges Wedding Fees	\$ 425.00
Increase	001-000-230	Revenue from GC Services	\$5,300.00
Increase	001-000-224	Revenue from Justice Court	\$ 425.00
Lower	001-166-469	Unemployment	\$ 966.00
Lower	001-901-999	Working Cash balance	\$10,610.00

Budget transfer for Sheriff's Department -

Lower	001-200-571	Dues & Subscriptions	\$500.00
Lower	001-200-933	Office Equipment	\$ 40.00
Lower	001-202-587	Training	\$300.00
Lower	001-202-674	Grease & oil	\$2,500.00
Lower	001-202-681	Repair parts	\$2,700.00
Lower	001-220-654	Cleaning	\$5,190.00
Increase	001-200-502	Phones	\$500.00
Increase	001-200-936	Computer Equipment	\$ 40.00
Increase	001-202-552	Medical Fees	\$200.00
Increase	001-202-554	Consultant Fee	\$100.00

**Item D.2., Continued,**

Increase	001-202-671	Gas	\$4,000.00
Increase	001-202-680	Tires	\$1,200.00
Increase	001-220-692	Inmate Dry goods	\$4,750.00
Increase	001-220-935	Other equipment	\$ 400.00
Increase	001-220-936	Computer	\$ 40.00



Budget transfer for Emergency Management -

From	001-260-587	Training & registration	\$50.90
To	001-260-543	Repair of office Mach & furnit	\$50.90
From	001-260-584	Tags and Title	\$7.65
To	001-260-571	Dues & subscriptions	\$7.65
From	001-260-935	Other Mach & equip	\$175.00
To	001-260-950	Insurance premiums	\$175.00
From	001-260-695	Consumable Supplies	\$200.00
From	001-260-650	Bldg repairs & supplies	\$200.00
To	001-260-603	Office Supplies	\$400.00

Budget transfer for Department of Human Services -

From	001-450-570		\$200.00
From	001-450-430		\$500.00
To	001-450-581		\$700.00

Budget transfer for Extension Service -

From	001-631-544	Service Maint. Contracts	\$200.00
From	001-631-934	Furniture & Fixtures	\$262.00
To	001-631-466	Social Security Match	\$462.00

Budget transfer for Chancery Court Administrator -

Increase	106-160-401	Salary expense	\$5,042.00
Increase	106-160-467	Workers comp insurance	\$ 5.00
Increase	106-160-479	Travel out of state	\$1,159.00
Increase	106-160-571	Dues	\$ 75.00
Increase	106-160-587	Registration fees	\$ 250.00
Increase	106-000-398	Beginning cash balance	\$6531.00

Budget transfer for Metro Narcotics -

Lower	115-226-565	Confidential funds	\$2,000.00
Increase	115-226-603	Office supplies	\$2,000.00

**Item D.2., Continued,**

Budget transfer for Central Maintenance -

Increase	156-300-541	Repairs to Road Maint	\$19,200.00
Increase	156-300-581	Other Contract Services	\$25,000.00
Increase	156-300-598	Other Contract Services	\$15,000.00
Increase	156-300-697	Other Consumable	\$100,000.00
Lower	156-300-902	Road Improvements	\$159,200.00

Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion and Supervisor Tommy Lewis seconded the motion to approve all the budget amendments and transfers as recommended by the Comptroller and County Administrator, and instructed the Comptroller to get with the Road Manager on line items. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----Yes  
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Yes  
Supervisor James Pearson-----Absent  
Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes

**3. Animal Control Officer @ Bridgetown (Part Time) - Greg Barnes**

This item was held over.

**4. Emergency Purchase of Generator for Jail**

The County Administrator, Clovis Reed notified the Board of Supervisors that the necessary equipment has been received for the emergency purchase of the generator at the jail. Supervisor Tommy Lewis asked if it is up and running? Clovis Reed said it should be by the end of the week. Mr. Reed said the temporary fix for the smaller generator was to use that in case of emergency with only the essential items. Non-essential items would be turned off. **See Exhibit D.4.**

**E. OTHER ISSUES**

**1. Emergency rental of Roller**

The County Administrator explained that the Road Department had a breakdown while working on Myers Road. The Board of Supervisors read a letter from the Road Manager, Kenny Gunn, stating the nature of the problem. The County Administrator said the Road Manager had looked 12 places before finding someone that rented this equipment. The Board agreed that in relying on the letter from the Road Manager and personal observation of Supervisor John Caldwell, the Board of Supervisors found that leaving this road at this level of construction would be very hazardous to the traveling public. Therefore, Supervisor John Caldwell made the motion and Supervisor Tommy Lewis seconded the motion that based on the letter from the Road Manager and the personal observation of Supervisor John Caldwell that safety of the traveling public is at risk, to approve the emergency rental of the roller from Barton Equipment for a price of \$1,000.00 per week or \$3,000.00 per month. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

**Item E.1., Continued,**

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----Yes  
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Yes  
Supervisor James Pearson-----Absent  
Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes

**See Exhibit E.1.**

Supervisor Tommy Lewis asked if this rental could not be justified through lost labor alone. The Board Attorney William Austin said probably not unless it impacted public safety.

Supervisor Eugene Thach asked if the Road Manager knew this when the Board met on Monday. Supervisor Caldwell said probably not.

**F. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The executive session portions of these minutes are recorded under the portion of the minutes called "Executive Session".

**G. OTHER ISSUES**

**1. Purchasing**

At the recommendation of the County Administrator, Supervisor Tommy Lewis made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to receive Janine Ruby for a temporary appointment to Purchasing in the absence of the Director of Purchasing. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----Yes  
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Yes  
Supervisor James Pearson-----Absent  
Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes

Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion and Supervisor John Caldwell seconded the motion to recess until Monday, August 25, 1997, at 9:00. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----Yes  
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Yes  
Supervisor James Pearson-----Absent  
Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes

THIS the 20th day of August, 1997, these minutes have been read and approved by the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors.

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JOHN M. M. CALDWELL, President  
DeSoto County Board of Supervisors