

December 29, 2005

**PRESENT:** Chairman Chuck Hufstetler, Commissioners Tom Bennett, Garry Fricks, John Mayes, and Jerry Jennings.

## OTHERS

**PRESENT:** County Attorney Tommy Manning, County Clerk Kathy Arp, and Assistant County Manager Sammy Rich.

**ABSENT:** County Manager Kevin Poe was out of town

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Hufstetler called the meeting to order.

**INVOCATION:** Commissioner Bennett led the Invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Hufstetler.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

**George Anderson, 211 Saddle Mountain Road,** stated for too many years he has placed the Rome City Commission up on a pedestal. He stated he shouldn't have done that. He stated to quote Teddy Roosevelt about the man in the arena; it's not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, nor where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena. Whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood. Who strives valiantly, who errs and comes up short again and again, because there is no effort without error or shortcoming. But who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, who spends himself for a worthy cause. Who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at their worst if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory or defeat. Mr. Anderson stated that his intent is not to criticize, but to ask that the Board analyze this important matter. Let no one control your action. He stated three of you gentlemen are up for reelection next year, and you need to remember the taxpayers of Floyd County did not vote for this TAD project. It is time for servant leadership. He stated this is something he has believed in for years. He has spoken at many libraries and counties around the state, on ethics seminars, servant leadership, dealing with leading by example. He stated you serve the people. You lead by serving the needs of others, not the wants. He stated he had said to his children for years growing up, all three of them, there are needs and wants in this world. We've go to take care of the needs in this family before we can take care of the wants. He stated who do you serve, all the people, some of

the people, special interest. Let's look at your resumes. He stated Chairman Hufstetler spent 15 years in corporate management. He has been Floyd County's bean counter. He serves on many boards, committees and commissions. He stated Vice-Chairman Jennings serves on many boards, committees, etc. The list is quite long. His calendar is quite long as far as the many appointments, meetings, boards, committees and so-forth. He stated it has got to be exhausting, what you do in a year's time. He stated Commissioners Bennett, Mayes, and Fricks all wear many hats serving the community, constantly throughout the year. He stated he thanks them, because it has got to be out of a sense of wanting to give back to the community. However, leaders can count on facing conflicts of interest when representing so many of the public's interest. There is truth vs. loyalty. What is the truth when it conflicts with one of your friendships or associations. He stated you must decide whose interest benefits most in this West Third Street Development Project – the people of we the people or special interest. Before you vote today, search your conscience and ask yourself if you are comfortable with your decision. What is the ethical thing to do. Ethics involving your honor, your integrity, and your oath of office. He stated again, as he has said before the city and before the county here today, please protect the public's trust.

**Serpentfoot, 324 Forsyth Street NE**, referenced an article that she wrote when she was a student at Floyd College. She stated the article predicted that mark my words you will get a baseball stadium whether you vote for it or not. She referenced another paper that she stated shows just how true that was. She stated the sample ballot shows that it was a city election, and not even the whole city commission was running, only about three of them. She stated the Rome-News Tribune sort of publicized it, emphasized it was a city election. A lot of county voters didn't bother to get out and vote, but those that did voted against it. She stated the article shows the six city precincts. It passed the whole county by 142 votes only. She stated if more county people had voted, if it hadn't been paired with that city election, it would have been defeated. She stated it was defeated in the unincorporated area of the county. It was about 600 more against it in the unincorporated area. She stated three of you commissioners are supposed to represent the people of the unincorporated area of the county, and only two are supposed to represent city interest. She stated even those two that represent the city interest, as an honest public servant must serve the city. If the city is going to be the county seat, you've got to think about something besides just downtown Rome business interest. You've got to think about the other people of this county too, and all five of you have got to consider the SPLOST law requires that one city, downtown, cannot benefit from all the SPLOST money. That all money must be appropriated rather proportionately to benefit people all over the county. She stated we had The Forum to build up downtown Rome. We had the stadium to build up downtown Rome. She stated here's a project now, the TAD, that we haven't even had a chance to vote on it. You know how it would be voted on if the county was voting on it, and they will vote on it in your next election if you don't serve the people you are sworn to serve. It has to be some consideration for other people in this county, especially if Rome is going to be a county seat. She stated we spent over \$15 million, closer to \$16 million, of county money for a project that the unincorporated area of the county voted against, on that stadium. Chairman Hufstetler advised Serpentfoot that her time was up and she needed to finish. She stated, don't spend one penny more of county taxpayer money for a project, the county

didn't want that stadium to start with. Don't spend another penny to put anything else out there next to it.

## WEST THIRD STREET PROPOSALS:

Commissioner Garry Fricks presented a Resolution rescinding the December 16, 2005 TAD related Resolution and consenting to the inclusion of certain Floyd County ad valorum taxes in the computation of the Tax Allocation increments for the new Rome TAD and authorizing the execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement to be entered into by the County and City of Rome, conditioned upon an Agreement by January 16, 2006 being to be entered into by the County, City of Rome and the Atlanta National League Baseball Club, Inc., regarding parking. The Intergovernmental Agreement that was adopted by the City of Rome on December 28, 2005 was reviewed. Commissioner Fricks gave a brief synopsis of the document and points that were discussed at the City meeting. County Attorney Tommy Manning reviewed in detail the changes in the Intergovernmental Agreement that were adopted by the City.

Chairman Hufstetler had to leave the meeting early and turned the meeting over the Vice-Chairman Jennings. Following the review and discussion Chairman Jennings called for a motion.

Commissioner Fricks made a MOTION to adopt the Resolution, incorporating the minor changes to the Resolution suggested by the County Attorney, which do not affect the Intergovernmental Agreement. SECOND by Commissioner Mayes. VOTING:

**Discussion:** Commissioner Fricks also asked that the Board consider in the future the presented changes that were presented today [document identified as Sections 3.3 (b) (d) (q) (r)].

Commissioner Fricks  
" Mayes

## Commissioner

Bennett

Chairman Jennings

## Motion Carried

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Board, MOTION was made by Commissioner Bennett, SECOND by Commissioner Jennings, that the meeting be adjourned. VOTING:

Commissioner Fricks  
" Mayes  
" Bennett  
Chairman Jennings

## Motion Carried

**FLOYD COUNTY BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS**

**CHUCK HUFSTETLER,  
CHAIRMAN**