

Looking like...Christmas?



Daily Mountain Eagle - Ed Howell

The temperature was 80 degrees and Halloween's barely over, but Jasper city workers, such as Scotty Woods, were placing Christmas decorations on light poles down U.S. Highway 78 Monday, with plans to put more up in the downtown area today. Workers said that while it is still a couple of weeks before Thanksgiving, the crews are happy they are not having to brave cold winds to install the decorations.

Commission rejects sheriff on 911 board

By ED HOWELL
Eagle News Editor

Despite recommendations from the Walker County 911 Board, the Walker County Commission has passed on putting Sheriff John Mark Tirey on the board, as well as reappointing Carbon Hill Mayor Phillip Howard.

The commission on Monday did agree with the board to reappoint Tim Stockman, whose term, along with the terms of Howard and Joe Filyaw, are set to expire Dec. 4.

"Joe Filyaw has requested that he not be appointed to serve another term," wrote county 911 director Roger D. Wilson in a Oct. 27 letter to the commission. "Joe Filyaw has served this board since its inception in December of 1990. He has always been active and attended the board meetings and provided excellent input into the operation of the board. The board understands his decision and wishes him well."

Wilson - who said Stockman, Howard and Filyaw had all served "with excellent guidance and attendance" - added in the letter that the board voted on Oct. 20 to recommend reappointing Howard and Stockman and "to ask that Sheriff John Mark Tirey be appointed to serve."

However, Hamrick said he had a list of other names that had been recommended to him for placing on the board. Besides the board's three recommendations, the list included Scott Tucker, David Edgil, Randy McGinnis, Garland Alexander, Danny Berry, Randy Godeke and Bual Tubbs, brother of District 1 Commissioner Dual Tubbs.

Dual Tubbs, who never mentioned his brother, moved that Stockman, Berry and Godeke be appointed to the board, and the motion passed unanimously. He later

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worst overnight violence so far, and foreign governments warned their citizens to be careful in France. Apparent copy-cat attacks took place outside France,

France "has not done everything possible for these youths, supported them so they feel understood, heard and respected," Chirac added, noting that

and gendarmes already deployed. The Cabinet will meet Tuesday to authorize curfews "wherever it is necessary," he said.

Board

explained that it had nothing to do with the performance of Tirey nor Howard, nor with taking an endorsement on the next sheriff's election — although he said the election did factor in.

"Our sheriff has an election coming up, and he's busy all the time," Dual Tubbs said, adding that Howard is also busy as the mayor of Carbon Hill. Howard also serves on the city's fire department and is an employee with the Citizens Bank of Winfield.

Dual Tubbs said Berry is a District 1 mechanic and Godeke is semi-retired.

Tirey and Howard could not be reached for comment late Monday afternoon.

In other action Monday:

- The commission agreed to a resolution with the state for resurfacing seven miles of Horse Creek Boulevard from Highway 78 in Dora to the city limits of Cordova.

- The commission voted for an agreement to swap land in District 1 near Smith Lake on Stonebrook Drive to obtain road right-of-way. The swap will be at no cost to the county.

- The commission accept-

ed the low bid of \$16,056 from Jasper Fence Co. for a security fence at the District 1 shop. The work should take 60 days.

- The commission agreed to a lone bid of \$53,810 from ADT for a new security system for the Walker County Courthouse and the annex where the commission meets. "We are purchasing the system. We are not leasing it," county engineer David Edgil said, adding that the entire cost will be paid through Homeland Security money. Edgil said the work should be completed by Dec. 1.

- The commission accepted the low bid of \$131,406 from TCA Electrical of Omega, Ga., for medium intensity runway lighting at Walker County Airport-Bevill Field. The county will be responsible for 2.5 percent of the funding, with the rest paid for by federal and state funds. The current lighting at the airport is now out of operation. The 45-day project is expected to begin in January.

- The commission approved a new contract for housing prisoners from the city of Jasper. The county

had earlier housed only some of the city's female prisoners, but is now housing both men and women. The new agreement calls for the city to pay the county \$31 a day. The city will be billed by the county for medical treatment within the walls of the jail, while hospital and ambulance services outside the jail will require Jasper to send personnel to handle transfers. The city will directly handle the out-of-jail medical costs, as well as for prescription services.

- The commission renewed its annual contract with AlaTax for collecting tax revenues.

- The commission reappointed C.A. (Bull) Naramore to the Carl Elliott Regional Library System Board of Trustees. The new term will expire on Oct. 1, 2009.

- The commission tabled a proposal from the Solid Waste Department about a fuel surcharge. Hamrick said only dumpsters had been looked at closely in terms of impact, and that \$1.25 per dumpster per load would generate \$31,850 a year, while \$1.50 would generate

\$38,220 a year. Hamrick said higher or lower rates could also be considered. The commission tabled discussion until the Nov. 21 meeting.

- The commission tabled a decision on the Christmas and New Year's holidays for county employees. Hamrick said for Friday, Veteran's Day, the Walker County Courthouse will close but county garbage service will continue. The courthouse will close Nov. 24-25 for Thanksgiving, with garbage runs for Thursday made on Wednesday, Nov. 23, and runs for Friday made on Monday, Nov. 28. However, there was uncertainty as to what the state would do in closing for Christmas and New Year's.

Compounding the problem is that the December holidays fall on the weekend, and the last day of the year is also the last day to collect taxes. Hamrick said it is possible the commission might just take Friday for the New Year's holiday, but if the county took Thursday and Friday for Christmas, the state could then close the following Monday, which would mandate closing a third day.

From A1

Commission

From A1