

**CAMDEN COUNTY, GEORGIA  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 6, 2011, 6:00 PM**

**A regular meeting of the Camden County Board of County Commissioners was held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 6, 2011, in the Board of County Commissioners' Meeting Chambers of the Government Services Building, Woodbine, Georgia.**

Chair Rainer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Finance & Budget Director Mike Fender delivered the invocation.

Chair Rainer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Present: Chair David L. Rainer; Vice-Chair Willis R. Keene, Jr.; Commissioner Chuck Clark; Commissioner Jimmy Starline; Commissioner Gary Blount; County Administrator Steve Howard; County Attorney Brent Green; and County Clerk Kathryn Bishop.**

**Agenda Amendments:**

None

**Motion to Adopt the Agenda:**

Vice-Chair Keene made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Blount to approve the Agenda as presented by staff.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

**Approval of Minutes**

- August 16, 2011 Regular Meeting minutes

Vice-Chair Keene made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Clark to approve the August 16, 2011 regular meeting minutes

***The motion carried unanimously.***

**Presentations**

- General Fund Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Rebalancing (***Finance and Budget Director Mike Fender***)

Finance & Budget Director Mike Fender presented the Board with a power point presentation regarding the General Fund Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Rebalancing.

The Board was in consensus to allow staff to proceed with the proposed budget reduction solutions as stated in the reduction in revenues.

- Insurance Services Office (ISO) Re-evaluation / Countywide Unincorporated Service District. (**Chief Dennis Gailey & Finance and Budget Director Mike Fender**)

Finance & Budget Director Mike Fender presented the Board options regarding the Insurance Services Office (ISO) Re-evaluation / Countywide Unincorporated Service District.

Chair Rainer clarified that staff is recommending .67 as the millage rate for the unincorporated tax district and the ISO plan is for a period of five (5) years which will generate approximately \$1.1 million dollars.

Commissioner Keene stated that he, Commissioner Starline and Chief Dennis Gailey traveled to Sumter County, Georgia on Tuesday to view the inmate firefighting program currently in place there. He stated that the only difference in the firefighter was they wore a different color shirt. He explained the inmate firefighter were well trained and work three hundred and sixty-five days a year (365) with no time off, no vacation and the cost associated with the program is minimal. He stated that the County is required to feed the inmates and the firefighters were supportive of the program because they show up on scenes better manned. He stated that the substations were a small building, no frills, red-frame, steel building, no electricity, no plumbing but just simply equipment. He stated he feels that if purchasing used equipment it will be beneficial to have a full-time, highly trained mechanic and have the pumps certified every year on the used equipment.

Commissioner Starline stated that he went on this trip asking what is wrong with the program but he found that there were no complaints. He explained that if an inmate broke the rules or failed the program they were sent back to prison. He stated that he was told that since its inception this program in Sumter County lost two (2) inmates for using cell phones and one (1) inmate that just did not get along with anyone. He stated that the Fire Chief gives a welcome speech; he expects them to behave and to get along within the department.

Chair Rainer stated that he was aware that this program had a consensus from the Board to explore the program.

Commissioner Starline stated that they are waiting on approval from the Department of Corrections. He explained that Sumter County has agreed to do a satellite program in Camden County. He explained there is a huge potential for savings with this program. He stated that firefighters would be required to attend correctional officer training, which he explained is twenty-four (24) hour course and video equipment would be installed in the fire stations at a minimal cost. He stated that an inmate is there twenty-four-seven and a fireman's typical schedule is they work one day on and are off two days. He stated that one (1) fireman can oversee three (3) inmate firefighters. He stated that he did a rough estimate and there is a potential \$100,000.00 saving per inmate firefighter. He stated that six (6) inmates could be instated within this program without a lot of expense and the inmates are very happy to be in the program.

Chief Gailey asked if there were any questions with the ISO proposal.

Commissioner Starline stated that he would not vote on the proposal until he saw a detailed budget.

Chair Rainer directed staff to bring back a definitive detailed budget, to include line items and a breakdown of costs.

## **Public Comments**

Pastor Knight, Woodbine Coalition Committee

Pastor Knight stated that he is perturbed, perplexed and confused about the terms of the Community Center located in Woodbine. He stated that he believes it is a segregated building for the use of a particular group of people. He asked the Board if it is not a Community Center then to take that name off of it. He stated that the building is only slated for bluegrass singing. He explained that Mr. Hoyt Drury was nasty, rude and hung up on him. Pastor Knight stated that he needed to know answers and he declared that he would picket and petition if needed.

Chair Rainer directed the County Administrator and County Attorney to meet with the committee for the Community Center and work with Pastor Knight to resolve these issues.

## **Regular Agenda**

1. Approval of Chair to execute Tax Release Applications.

Vice-Chair Keene made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Blount to approve the Chair to execute Tax Release Applications.

Commissioner Blount stated that the form was not clear whether this is a credit or refund. He explained that the perception is that it is a refund.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

2. Approval of Budget Amendments for Fiscal Year 2011.

Commissioner Blount made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Clark to approve the Budget Amendments for Fiscal Year 2011.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

3. Request for change of owner from Sea Island Company, dba Cabin Bluff to MWV Cabin Bluff, LLC as requested for The Lodge at Cabin Bluff, The Pub at Cabin Bluff, The River house at Cabin Bluff, and In Room Service at the Lodge.

Vice-Chair Keene made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Clark to approve the Request for change of owner from Sea Island Company, dba Cabin Bluff to MWV Cabin Bluff, LLC as requested for The Lodge at Cabin Bluff, The Pub at Cabin Bluff, The River house at Cabin

Bluff, and In Room Service at the Lodge.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

## **Reports**

- Calendar - ***September & October 2011***

County Clerk Kathryn Bishop read the calendars for September & October 2011.

- County Administrator's Report

County Administrator Steve Howard stated that he would like to congratulate the Finance Department and Director Mike Fender for receiving the Government Finance Officers Certificate of Achievement which is the highest form of recognition that can be received. He stated that the finance department delivers great work and this award is a testimony of Director Mike Fender's efforts.

He announced that there is a vacancy on the St. Marys River Management Committee for an at-large member.

Chair Rainer congratulated the Finance Department and Director Mike Fender for the award.

Commissioner Blount reiterated Chair Rainer's words and stated that the award is very prestigious, voted upon by a bunch of critical individuals and again, he congratulated the Finance Department for their achievements in Financial Reporting.

## **Additional Public Comments:**

Danny Daniels, Kingsland, taxpayer

Mr. Daniels said kudos to Commissioner Starline and Vice-Chair Keene for the insight into the inmate firefighter program. He stated that the cost savings looks good but another element to look at is the decrease that will come within the general fund due to the cost savings from this program. He stated that he was saddened at the decisions this Board having to make in times of financial crisis. He stated that the Board asked the Chief to provide an itemized budget but the Board should also remember that he has to barter for used equipment and the budget has to be maintainable. He applauded Vice-Chair Keene for the comments regarding the need for a diesel mechanic and stated he agrees with those sentiments.

Staci Bowick, Harriett's Bluff, taxpayer

Mrs. Bowick stated that she resides in the unincorporated tax district and while she appreciates the Board's conservative approach she urged them to be certain before they vote. She proclaimed that she would pay the additional nine dollars (\$9.00) a year for the same fireman, who are highly trained and take pride in their jobs and department to come to her family's aid when needed. She urged the Board to take a closer look at the program.

**Adjournment:**

Commissioner Blount made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Keene to adjourn the September 6, 2011 meeting. The vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Rainer, Chair

Kathryn A. Bishop, County Clerk