

**CAMDEN COUNTY, GEORGIA
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 16, 2016, 6:02 PM**

Present: Chairman James H. Starline; Vice-Chairman Gary Blount; Commissioner Willis R. Keene, Jr.; Commissioner Chuck Clark; Commissioner Tony Sheppard; County Administrator Steve Howard; County Attorney John S. Myers and Administrative Assistant Renee' Crews.

Absent: County Clerk Kathryn A. Bishop

Chairman Starline called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Finance & Budget Director Mike Fender delivered the invocation.

Chairman Starline led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Amendments:

Removal of item under regular agenda and renumber the agenda accordingly:

8. Approval to submit a grant application for the "319 h grant – Clean Water Act" through Georgia Environmental Protection Division.
9. Approval of contract proposal with Leidos.

Amend consent agenda Item 4 to include the addition of the following:

4. Approval of Fiscal Year 2016 **and Fiscal Year 2017** Budget Amendments.

Commissioner Keene made a motion, seconded Commissioner Sheppard to approve the agenda amendments as presented.

The motion carried unanimously.

Motion to Adopt the Agenda:

Commissioner Keene made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sheppard to adopt the agenda as amended.

The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes

- August 2, 2016 Public Hearing & Regular Meeting minutes

Commissioner Clark made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Keene to approve August 2, 2016 Public Hearing & Regular Meeting minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

Presentation

- Proclamation recognizing the Employee of the 4th Quarter

Finance & Budget Director Mike Fender presented the employee of the Fourth Quarter to Janice Beckham.

WHEREAS, *the Employee Recognition Committee is pleased to announce that Janice Beckham has been named Employee of the Quarter for the 4th Quarter of Fiscal Year 2016; and*

WHEREAS, *Janice's commitment to the Camden County Office of Finance & Budget began on March 23, 2015 where she currently serves as Senior Accountant. Her willing attitude, and diligent work ethic have played an important role in the growth and success of this organization; and*

WHEREAS, *Janice's motto is "Give it to me, I can do that." She is always willing to do get the job done regardless if it is her direct responsibility or not; and*

WHEREAS, *she has been described by her peers as having impeccable attention to detail, a greater understanding of the job, a sense of teamwork, and a positive attitude; and*

WHEREAS, *it has been said that Janice thinks outside of the box, and tries to discover new and better ways of getting the job done. She does all of this with a professional, pleasant attitude; focusing on achieving the goal even during very stressful times; and*

WHEREAS, *when faced with a problem she always comes to management with suggestions for a solution. Janice goes above and beyond every day and sets a high bar for being efficient, effective, accurate, and does it all with a smile; and*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS *that the members of this body recognize Janice Beckham as Employee of the Quarter for Camden County Government, and, we hereby express our gratitude for her continued efforts and commitment.*

- Review of the Tax Digest for calendar year 2016 presented by Finance & Budget Director Mike Fender

Finance & Budget Director Mike Fender presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Board regarding the Tax Digest for calendar year 2016.

Public Comments

Brice Hill, St. Marys

Mr. Hill stated that he supports the gun range. He explained that he believes the public likes to shoot at a range where it is controlled and there is a need for a range in the County. He stated the nearest ranges are located in Florida and Waycross.

Commissioner Keene made a motion seconded by Commissioner Sheppard to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:18 PM.

The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Starline convened the Public Hearing at 6:18 PM.

Convene Public Hearing

To receive comments from the public regarding the following item:

- Seeking public comment and input regarding the construction of a public target shooting range in Camden County

Joe, Kingsland

He expressed his concerns about safety, and needing to work with Sheriff's Office. He asked if there are possible Federal grants for target ranges. He stated that the best environment for a shooting range are those that are properly staffed.

DNR Rep. Walter Lane said they were looking for partners to help with the expenses for the gun range. This is a \$1 million project DNR will contribute \$750,000 and County is responsible for \$250,000. By charging a daily or annual fee, this will provide revenue for operating costs.

Tony, unknown address / location

He stated the gun range in Charlotte, NC is a state/county partnership. Waycross Dixie Memorial gun range is not staffed, and he feels it is not safe for the public.

Walter Lane said a good many ranges are rural ran by DNR, and are not staffed. He explained that someone just comes by from time to time to check on things. Camden's gun range would be the 1st county run range. He further stated that the noise issue, is really not an issue. At the current site noise only travels approximately one (1) mile, and no residents are impacted. He stated that only hand guns and rifles will be allowed at the County range.

Rick Winters, Kingsland

Mr. Winters expressed his support for the gun range.

John Wojcik, Kingsland

Mr. Wojcik stated that while yes he believes the County needs a range for the public, there are gun shots being heard all over the County and that is not safe for the communities.

Joe Perry, St. Marys

Mr. Perry stated that he is In favor of the range, and currently he travels to Waycross. He explained he feels this gun range would have a high usage, but he would like to see it open from sunrise to sunset.

Robert Sweatt, Sr., Woodbine

Mr. Sweatt stated that he has a house located the closest to the site, and he would like the county to look for property somewhere else. He expressed that he is not in favor of the range.

Ben Casey, Kingsland

Mr. Casey stated that while he is concerned about the noise the range will produce, the noise would be based on the number of guns being shot at the same time. He explained the more shooting at once will give out more noise. He stated that Gateway Gun Club is in a residential area, and while it has not always been residential over time they built homes around it along with an airport. He explained that there are ways to eliminate the noise from the range.

Jamie Bekler, Kingsland

Mr. Bekler stated that there is nowhere else to go, and he hears people shooting all around his neighborhood. He explained that when he calls the police nothing is really done.

Dwight Don, St. Marys

He stated that there is nowhere to shoot in Camden County. He explained that he wants to make sure a Ranger Officer is there at all times when it is open to keep everyone safe. He stated that everyone needs a place to learn how to shoot, and how to handle a gun. He stated that he bought his wife a hand gun for home defense, and finding indoor ranges can be limited. He informed the Board that the nearest range is at Gateway in Jacksonville.

Steve Walker, Harriett's Bluff

Mr. Walker explained that when he is sitting outside in his yard he can hear gun shots coming from every direction. He stated that people are shooting in uncontrolled environments which is a liability, and that is why he feels we need a gun range.

Brian Taylor, Kingsland

He asked if there are States that give grants to do projects like this.

DNR Walter Lane replied yes, and explained that DNR awards (2) \$25,000 grants a year.

Sheriff Proctor replied yes Camden County received \$25,000 for the range already.

Mr. On' House, Kingsland

He stated that we need to think outside the box and plant more trees to help buffer the noise. He explained that construction sound barriers can help alleviate the noise issue. He stated that he would like to see this range open before he dies and urged everyone to get the ball rolling, and enough will all the discussion.

Curt Lacey, Woodbine

He asked what is the estimated number of people needed to fund the cost of running the range of this size?

DNR Walter Lane replied that if you charge \$10 per person that could generate \$90,000 per year to maintain the range.

Savannah Suniga, St. Marys

She stated that the views on the noise issue are short sided, and that car radios are so loud going down her street they rattles the windows in her home. She explained that with all the traffic the noise is an issue from that, and the range is a great idea if used correctly. She stated that this would benefit the next generation.

Howard Davis, Kingsland

Mr. Davis stated that he is in favor of the gun range.

Chairman Starline reminded everyone that this will be voted on at a later date.

Vice-Chairman Blount made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Clark to adjourn the Public Hearings at 6:41 PM.

The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

1. Consideration of Equitable Sharing Agreement and Certification.
2. Approval of Resolution regarding O.C.G.A. §36-80-20 (b) (2) - Decal or seal required on vehicles owned or leased by any county, municipality, regional commission, school system, commission, board, or public authority.
3. Joint Resolution to establish the 2018 Camden County, City of Kingsland, City of St. Marys, City of Woodbine Joint Comprehensive Plan Workgroup.
4. Approval of Fiscal Year 2016 and Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Amendments

Commissioner Keene made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Clark to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

The motion carried unanimously.

Regular Agenda

5. Consideration of approval of the Moreland Altobelli Associates, Inc Work Authorization 12722, SA #2.

Commissioner Keene made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Clark to approve the Moreland Altobelli Associates, Inc. Work Authorization 12722, SA #2.

The motion carried unanimously.

6. Approval to submit a Firehouse Subs Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) equipment grant.

Vice-Chairman Blount made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Keene to submit a Firehouse Subs Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) equipment grant.

The motion carried unanimously.

7. Approval to submit a grant to the State Farm Foundation.

Vice-Chairman Blount made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Keene to approve the submittal of a grant to the State Farm Foundation.

The motion carried unanimously.

8. Approval of Bid award for boom mower.

Commissioner Clark made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Keene to approve the bid award for a boom mower to Reynolds – Warren Equipment Company.

The motion carried unanimously.

9. Approval of Online Bill Payment Processing for the Offices of Curbside Collection and Planning and Development.

Vice-Chairman Blount made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Clark to approve the contract for Online Bill Payment Processing for the Offices of Curbside Collection and Planning and Development with Acculynk, Inc.

The motion carried unanimously.

Reports

- **Calendar – August & September 2016**

Ms. Crews stated there were no changes to the calendar at this time.

- **County Administrator Comments**

County Administrator Steve Howard announced that he will be traveling to Washington, D.C. in the coming weeks with Commissioner Clark and Vice-Chairman Blount to present a Spaceport Camden presentation for U.S. Representative Jack Kingston.

Executive Session – Litigation

The Executive Session was cancelled.

Additional Public Comments

No additional public comments were offered during this time.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Clark made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sheppard to adjourn the August 16, 2016 regular meeting. The vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 PM.