

**CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2008 6:00 PM
COUNTY ANNEX, 107 GROSS ROAD
KINGSLAND, GEORGIA**

A regular meeting of the Camden County Board of Commissioners was held at 6:00pm on Thursday, January 3, 2008, at the County Annex in Kingsland, Georgia.

Present: Chair Preston Rhodes; Vice-Chair Katherine Nisi-Zell; Commissioner David Rainer; Commissioner Stephen L. Berry; Commissioner Charlene Sears; County Administrator Steve L. Howard and County Attorney Brent Green.

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

Chairman Rhodes delivered the invocation and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The roll call indicated that all Commissioners were present.

ELECTIONS:

Commissioner Rainer made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell, to elect Commissioner Rhodes as Chair, Commissioner Zell as Vice-Chair, and reappoint Brent Green as the County Attorney.

The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS:

None.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA:

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to adopt the agenda.

The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Rainer made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to approve the regular meeting minutes of December 18, 2007.

The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS:

➤ **Project Manager Harvey Amerson provided the following updates:**

- Central Office Building: Currently behind schedule due to design flaws in the air conditioning system and changes resulting from County Administrator Steve Howard’s input. These changes will result in a better flow. Building completion should be in February. The end of March is the anticipated move in.
- Ralph Bunche: The project is on schedule and expected to be completed in February.
- Dover Bluff Fire Station: The dirt has settled and expected to go to bid in 4 weeks.
- Training Center: It is expected to advertise for bid in mid January.
- Emergence Operations: It is in engineering.
- Woodbine Community Center: Has been advertised. The pre-bid meeting will be next week. Bids will open on January 26th.

➤ **Public Works Director Scott Brazell provided the following update:**

The new Georgia Department of Transportation Commissioner Gena Abraham currently has all projects on hold pending her financial review. Our DOT Board member, Mr. Harrington, is not in favor of changing the priority of the current projects. Mr. Brazell anticipates moving forward with Ella Park, Germantown, Old Red Bluff, Shirley Lane, Berry Street and Horsestamp Church Road.

➤ **EMA Director Mark Crews provided the following information on CODE RED:**

Mr. Crews advised they have contracted with Emergency Communications Network for CODE RED. CODE RED is a web-based, high speed, internet accessible telephone notification system. It will allow county officials to send out an emergency notification to a specific area. The messages will be recorded by county officials. The system can send approximately 1,000 calls per minute. CODE RED is the most affordable and Kingsland and St. Marys have the same system which allows for the sharing of databases. He anticipates including the City of Woodbine in the process of going countywide.

Mr. Crews encourages Camden citizens to visit the County’s website and register their current contact information.

The system went into effect January 1, and is active now.

Commissioner Berry questioned the cost. Mr. Crews advised it is very reasonable and based on the minutes purchased. Although Commissioner Berry liked the idea, he stated he has concerns with the program. He gave the example of a notification sent last year about a bank robbery. There was no evidence the robbers were in the area, and he received an enormous amount of calls from scared citizens. Mr. Berry said he was concerned about the use of the system. Mr. Crews advised the system would use pre-recorded messages recorded by County officials and would be used in emergencies only.

➤ **County Administrator Steve Howard advised the following:**

Mr. Howard advised he received an email from St. Marys City Manager Bill Shanahan regarding the Martha Drive traffic light. This matter was before the Board in 2003/2004. At that time, the Commissioners discussed assisting the City financially. The City Manager is now requesting the Board's position. Funds are not earmarked in SPLOST 6 for this. After speaking with Finance Director Mike Fender, Mr. Howard would not recommend taking monies out of contingency for this project. He requested the Board's direction on the matter.

Commissioner Berry questioned the motion made at that time. Mr. Howard stated there was an unanimous vote on a motion granting \$100,000.00 from SPLOST road funds for the construction of the turn lane in connection with the installation of the traffic signal at Martha Drive and Osborne Road. Commissioner Berry recalls making the motion and that the light was going to be put in quickly. Mr. Howard said the minutes reflected the project would begin 2 months after receiving the money. Commissioner Berry recalled agreeing to assist the City with the traffic light, but the City was to do the project then. Commissioner Berry stated the County had the funds at that time, but does not have them now.

Commissioner Rainer suggested Mr. Howard explore it further because the Department of Transportation agreed to provide the materials and only the installation would need to be paid for. It was Commissioner Rainer's recollection that the City would act quickly on this project. Mr. Howard advised he researched the matter and this is a City and Department of Transportation project. Mr. Howard stated the DOT did allocate funds for this project. Commissioner Rainer said he recalled this project only costing approximately \$20,000.00.

Mr. Howard said after speaking with the City, it appears the delay was caused by a delay in acquiring the property. Mr. Howard advised that the County does not have the funds available and recommends not doing this at this time.

Commissioner Rainer suggested taking the money from the current SPLOST if it is only \$20,000.00. It is a dangerous intersection and benefits the children of the school. Mr. Fender advised all monies in the new SPLOST have been allocated and there may not be enough for the projects the County has now. Commissioner Berry said the City had millions of dollars of unspent SPLOST funds, and inquired if the City can pay the \$20,000.00.

Commissioner Sears and Commissioner Rhodes suggested the entire matter be reviewed and the findings reported back to the Board.

Mr. Howard also reported he met with Senator Chapman this past Monday. They discussed grant opportunities and HR 900. HR 900 is still a very fluid document, and the Senator did not provide any indication as to his direction on this matter.

Also, Mr. Howard plans to bring State and Federal legislative priorities before the Board for the Board's consensus.

Mr. Howard stated he will attend the commissioning of the United States Coast Guard Cutter, the Sea Dragon, on January 14th.

He also encouraged everyone to buy a USS Georgia plank.

Finally, there is a good article in the *Georgia Magazine* about Camden County.

Mr. Rhodes also encouraged everyone to buy a USS Georgia Plank.

REPORTS:

A. Calendar

The January/February calendar was read.

B. County Administrator's Report

Administrator's Report was given under Presentations.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approve and authorize Chairman to execute Tax Release Applications:

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to approve and authorize the Chairman to execute the following Tax Release Applications:

Tax Release Application for Coastal Land Partners - Map/Parcel No. 014 – 003 - Tax Year 2007
Total relief granted \$19.74.

Tax Release Applications for Brenda McCollough - Map/Parcel No. 083D – 030E - Tax Years 2002 through 2007. Total relief granted \$107.69.

Tax Release Application for Pierce’s Landscape, Inc. – 2003 Lincoln Navigator. Total relief granted \$66.61.

Tax Release Application for Pierce’s Landscape, Inc. – 2006 Ford Truck. Total relief granted \$91.56.

Tax Release Application for Pierce’s Landscape, Inc. – 2007 Ford Truck. Total relief granted \$118.19.

Tax Release Application for William Andrew Pierce – 2004 Suzuki Motorcycle. Total relief granted \$10.25.

Tax Release Application for William Andrew Pierce – 2003 Utility Trailer. Total relief granted \$6.16.

The motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA:

- 2. Consideration and approval of the Agreement with Southeast Georgia Health System for payment of medical services rendered to persons in the custody of the Camden County Sheriff’s Office from current and future funds allocated for the payment of such services within the Sheriff’s Office Budget as approved by the Board of Commissioners.**

Mr. Howard advised a 35% discount will be given on invoices paid within 90 days.

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rainer to approve the Agreement with Southeast Georgia Health System for payment of medical services rendered to persons in the custody of the Camden County Sheriff’s Office from current and future funds allocated for the payment of such services within the Sheriff’s Office Budget as approved by the Board of Commissioners.

On discussion, County Attorney Brent Green advised the Commissioners that this agreement does not include emergency room services. Emergency room services are provided by a private contractor. This is for treatment beyond the emergency room. If private insurance coverage is in place, it will be billed.

Commissioner Sears said a nice feature in the agreement is that the Sheriff’s Office would not be responsible for pre-existing conditions. Pre-existing conditions would be the responsibility of the individual being treated.

Commissioner Berry asked if payments would be made from 6 million already allocated. Mr. Howard stated that was correct.

Voted, the motion carried unanimously.

3. Consideration of Approval of Consumption of Malt Beverages and Wine License for Kimmery Renee Bossier at Black Jack's Billiard located at 13265 Old Granger Circle, Woodbine.

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell, to approve the Consumption of Malt Beverages and Wine License for Kimmery Renee Bossier at Black Jack's Billiard located at 13265 Old Granger Circle, Woodbine.

On discussion, Chairman Rhodes questioned some concerns regarding this license. County Attorney Brent Green advised some questions had been raised regarding an arrest history of the applicant. Mr. Green advised the charges had been dismissed and under the County's ordinance the license could be granted.

Voted, the motion carried unanimously.

4. Amend and approve Surplus List to include the 18' Cobia boat previously employed by the Sheriff's Office.

Commissioner Rainer made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sears to amend and approve Surplus List to include the 18' Cobia boat previously utilized by the Sheriff's Office.

The motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to adjourn the January 3, 2008, meeting. The vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Preston Rhodes, Chairman

Jodi Gregory, County Clerk