

**CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 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 Tuesday, March 4, 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; County Attorney Brent Green and County Clerk Jodi Gregory.

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.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS:

Add to Presentations the American Cancer Society Relay For Life Award to be presented by Margaret Evelyn Tatum.

Remove Item 10, Camden County Strategic Plan 2008 – 2013.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA:

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

The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Vice-Chair Zell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sears, to approve the regular meeting minutes of February 19, 2008.

The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION:

- **American Cancer Society Relay For Life Award – Margaret Evelyn Tatum**

Ms. Tatum presented the Commissioners with the American Cancer Society Relay For Life Award for Camden County, as a whole, raising \$134,862.00 during the 2006/2007 Relay For Life event.

- **Georgia Department of Transportation Project – Widening of State Route 40 (Scott Brazell, Public Works Director)**

Public Works Director Scott Brazell advised that the widening of Highway 40 in the Browntown area is in the preliminary engineering stages. Georgia Department of Transportation is proposing two different plans for this project, labeled Alternate A and Alternate B. Alternate A proposes converting the current road in that area into a four lane highway with a median. Alternate B proposes a five lane curb and gutter section with five foot sidewalks. Alternate B is less detrimental to the citizens of the area and most beneficial to Camden County.

Mr. Royal Purdee, from the Browntown community, advised the Commissioners if Alternate A is chosen, he would have to move his house; a neighbor's house (Mr. Brown's) would be wiped out completely; and it would affect a cemetery in the area as well. He also advised the Commissioners that Browntown residents would host an Open House regarding this matter on March 27th at 5:00 pm.

Commissioner Rainer, with the consensus of the Board, requested a Resolution supporting Alternate B be placed on the March 18th agenda for consideration and adoption.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- **James Gurganus**

Requested a refund of 2006 property tax penalties and interest on his vacant Osprey Cove lot. On two separate occasions he contacted the Tax Commissioner's Office and inquired about his 2006 tax bill. He was advised on both occasions that there was no bill due. Subsequently, he received a late bill. Mr. Gurganus believes he is not liable for the penalties and interest because he did make contact with the Tax Commissioner's Office on two occasions about the same.

Commissioner Berry made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell, to refund Mr. Gurganus the penalties and interest he paid on his 2006 property tax bill.

The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. **Approve and authorize the Chairman to execute Tax Release Applications.**

2. Nomination of Ed Andrews to the Coastal Area District Development Board of Directors.

Commissioner Rainer made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to approve the Consent Agenda Items 1 and 2.

The motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA:

3. Authorization to Proceed with the Adoption of the Records Retention Schedules and subsequent Records Management Plan.

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell, authorizing staff to proceed with the adoption of the Records Retention Schedules and Records Management Plan.

The motion carried unanimously.

4. Consideration of rescheduling the April 15th Regular Meeting for April 22nd, and scheduling a Budget Work Session on April 24th.

Commissioner Rainer made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sears, to rescheduled the April 15th regular meeting for April 22nd and schedule a budget work session for April 24th at 5:00 pm.

The motion carried unanimously.

5. First Reading of the Development Impact Fee Ordinance.

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to waive the first reading of the Development Impact Fee Ordinance.

The motion carried unanimously.

6. Prescribed Burn Resolution.

Commissioner Sears read the following resolution into the record:

**CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
PRESCRIBED FIRE**

WHEREAS, Camden County recognizes the use of prescribed fire provides multiple ecological and economic benefits to the public; and,

WHEREAS, prescribed fire is a land management and public safety tool in the prevention of wildfires, reduces the liability and loss of private property and saves lives while it acts as a preventive measure saving taxpayers the cost of local government public safety and fire fighting officials from responding to wildfires which consume valuable tax resources; and,

WHEREAS, prescribed fire is a priority in the implementation of the State Wildlife Action Plan to improve wildlife habitat, it assists both public and private land managers in perpetuating fire-dependent ecosystems, its dependent game and non-game species and is a tool in managing endangered species; and,

WHEREAS, prescribed fire is a valuable tool used by land managers, timber growers and the Georgia Forestry Commission in reducing hazardous fuels, reducing the risk of destructive wildfires, preparing sites for both natural and artificial forest regeneration, improving access and controlling detrimental insects and silvicultural diseases; and,

WHEREAS, the Georgia General Assembly passed the Right to Burn Act in 1992, defining prescribed fires as, “Prescribed burning means the controlled application of fire to existing vegetative fuels under specific environmental conditions and following appropriate precautionary measures, which causes the fire to be confined to a pre-determined area and accomplishes one or more planned land management objectives or to mitigate catastrophic wildfires.”; and,

WHEREAS, many rural economies are dependent on the use of prescribed fire to manage for game species such as Whitetail Deer, Wild Turkey and Bobwhite Quail, whose hunting economy is vital to the State of Georgia: and,

WHEREAS, prescribed fire helps keep Georgia’s forest healthy and those forest, in return, provide clean air and clean water; and,

WHEREAS, prescribed fire practitioners contribute to the air quality of Georgia as healthy forest contribute vital ecological services as “air shed contributors”:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Camden County Board of Commissioners supports the appropriate and continued use of prescribed fire in Georgia,

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Camden County Board of Commissioners supports the Georgia Forestry Commission and Georgia Department of Natural Resources efforts to continue to provide educational and technical assistance to landowners in an effort to recognize the benefits listed above,

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Camden County Board of Commissioners urges Air Quality Regulators to work closely with all State agencies and landowners in a fair and balanced approach to smoke management.

APPROVED by the Camden County Board of Commissioners this 4th day of March, 2008.

Commissioner Rainer made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell, to adopted the Resolution in Support of Prescribed Burn.

The motion carried unanimously.

7. Prioritization of Georgia Department of Transportation Road Projects.

Public Works Director Scott Brazell advised the Commissioners that Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) has requested a prioritization of the County's current projects pending with GDOT. These projects are Ella Park Church Road, Bullhead Bluff Road, Oakwell Road and Clarks Bluff Road.

Commissioner Rainer suggested the roads should be prioritized according to the way they were approved by GDOT.

Commissioner Berry made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell, to make Ella Park Church Road the first priority, previously committed to projects would be second, the Kingsland by-pass third and all other projects on the list last.

The motion carried unanimously.

8. Legislative Update

Strategic Planning Director Diana Smith provided an update regarding HR 1246, HB 979 and SR 796.

No action required.

9. Resolution Supporting Governor Perdue's Tax Legislation

Commissioner Berry made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rainer, to adopt the Resolution Supporting Governor Perdue's Tax Legislation, which is by this reference incorporated into these minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

- **Calendar**

The March/April calendar was read.

- **County Administrator's Report**

County Administrator Steve Howard reported the following:

Planning and Development Director Loretta Hylton provided the Commissioners with the new River Trails Development material for their review prior to it coming back to the Board on March 18th.

Also, the Commissioners were provided material for review in connection with the March 6th work session.

Budget consensus meetings begin tomorrow.

Mr. Howard thanked Celenda Perry for her efforts and help with the citizens' surveys. He also thanked the citizens for their input.

He advised the Commissioners of the St. Marys River Celebration on March 15th from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. This is a clean up effort championed by Commissioner Sears.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Vice-Chair Zell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sears to adjourn the March 4, 2008 meeting. The vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Preston Rhodes, Chairman

Jodi Gregory, County Clerk