

**CAMDEN COUNTY, GEORGIA  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 17, 2009, 6:00 PM**

**A regular meeting of the Camden County Board of County Commissioners was held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2009, in the Board of Commissioners' Meeting Chambers of the Government Services Building, Woodbine, Georgia.**

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

Finance Director Michael Fender delivered the invocation.

Chair Rainer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Present: Chair David L. Rainer; Vice-Chair Katherine Nisi Zell; Commissioner Willis R. Keene, Jr.; Commissioner Stephen L. Berry; Commissioner Charlene Sears; County Administrator Steve Howard; County Attorney Brent Green, and Interim County Clerk Kathryn Bishop.**

**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 Keene made a motion, seconded by Chair Rainer to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2009 regular meeting.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**PRESENTATIONS:**

- GEB Corp - Retirement Plan Administrator (***Robert Kim, power point presentation***)

Robert Kim, Representative of GEB Corp Retirement Plan Administrator explained that the company is now 100 % owned by ACCG effective September 1, 2008 and presented an overview of GEB Corp.'s commitment to service and investment options.

- Joint Proclamation declaring March 28, 2009, Earth Hour 2009, for 1 hour between the hours of 8:30 PM & 9:30 PM (***read by Commissioner Sears and presented to Barbara Ryan, St. Marys Earthkeepers***)

Commissioner Sears read the Joint Proclamation declaring March 28, 2009, Earth Hour 2009, for 1 hour between the hours of 8:30 PM & 9:30 PM and presented the Joint Proclamation to Barbara Ryan, representative of the St. Marys Earthkeepers.

- Proclamation recognizing National Professional Social Work Month 2009 (***read by Vice-Chair Zell and presented to Mary Gail Lindsey, MSW, School Social Worker***)

Vice-Chair Zell read the Proclamation recognizing Professional Social Work Month 2009 and presented the Proclamation to Mary Gail Lindsey, MSW, School Social Worker.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Attorney Jim Stein, St. Marys

Attorney Stein approached the Board and presented a handout to each Commissioner. He explained the issues he had while trying to retrieve data requested from a disk provided by the Tax Assessors Office through an open records request. He stated that everyone here better beware of the fiasco with the property reassessments.

**REGULAR AGENDA:**

**1. Approval of Tax Release Application.**

Vice-Chair Zell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Keene to approve the Tax Release Application.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**2. Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement regarding Wayne County Passing Siding Project. (presented by Hillary Stringfellow)**

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement regarding Wayne County Passing siding Project.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**3. Verbal Resolution (if necessary) for actions to be taken in regards to any actions recommended from previous Work Session scheduled this date in regards to Reassessments.**

Commissioner Berry stated that during the break Robert Rudolph, Chair of the Board of Tax Assessors, was talking to the man from GMASS and he was heard saying "see what we have to put up with". Commissioner Berry stated that the Board of Tax Assessors just does not get it. He urged the Board that it is time to call for the resignation of the Board of Tax Assessors. He explained that it all comes down to accountability.

He stated that he then heard Terry McCormick, GMASS, say in his presentation that they need to get in a room with the door shut and get this worked out.

Commissioner Berry made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sears to pass a Resolution requesting that the four (4) members of the Board of Tax Assessors, Robert Rudolph, James Lucree, Freddy Nobles & Norman Covert, not including Richard Frizzell, resign by 5:00 PM Thursday, March 18, 2009 and if they do not resign withhold funding for the four (4) Board of Assessors allocated pay and forbid funding to be removed from any other line item within the Board of Tax Assessors budget to compensate said four (4) members.

Commissioner Sears asked County Attorney Brent Green if it is legal to ask the Board of Tax Assessors to resign.

County Attorney Green stated yes it is legal to ask.

Commissioner Keene asked what would happen if they resigned.

County Attorney Green stated that the new appointments would be required to attend 40 hours of mandated training before they could vote on matters pertaining to the Board of Tax Assessors. He explained that the ramifications could mean the digest would not be approved and disruption of the appeals process for taxpayers.

Commissioner Rainer stated that we need a workable solution.

Commissioner Berry urged the Board to take a stand and say we have had enough of the Board of Tax Assessors.

Chair Rainer adjourned the meeting for a 5 minute recess.

Chair Rainer reconvened the meeting.

Commissioner Berry explained that the mandated training could be achieved immediately with the upcoming offered courses by the Department of Revenue. He stated that it is not a good option to tell the citizens to go hire a lawyer and go to court. He stated that the Board of Tax Assessors scares him and he is sure that volunteers to be appointed to the Board of Tax Assessors will come forward.

Chair Rainer adjourned the meeting for a 20 minute recess.

Chair Rainer reconvened the meeting.

Commissioner Berry made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sears to withdraw the previous motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Commissioner Berry made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sears to adopt a Resolution requesting the resignations of four (4) members of the Board of Tax Assessors, Robert Rudolph, James Lucree, Freddie Nobles & Norman Covert, not including Richard Frizzell, by 4:00 PM, Friday, March 20, 2009 and in the event said resignations are not tendered, the County Administrator is directed to withhold all funding to compensate the said four (4) members of the Board of Tax Assessors, as provided by law, from their approved County budget and no other funds are to be utilized by the Board of Tax Assessors to pay said compensation.

Commissioner Keene asked for discussion regarding what is to be done if the Board of Tax Assessors refuses to resign.

Commissioner Berry stated that if they do not resign daily monitoring can be arranged and recording of the Board of Tax Assessor meeting can be arranged. He stated that at least we have done everything we could possibly do.

Chair Rainer called for the Interim County Clerk Kathryn Bishop to conduct a roll call vote of the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:**

- Chair Rainer - Yes
- Vice-Chair Zell - Yes
- Commissioner Berry - Yes
- Commissioner Sears - Yes
- Commissioner Keene - Yes

**The motion was approved by unanimous vote.**

Public Works - Director Scott Brazell

**4. Approval of contract between Camden County and Georgia Department of Transportation for acquisition of Right of Way for the Horse Stamp Church Road Interchange.**

Vice-Chair Zell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sears to approve the contract between Camden County and Georgia Department of Transportation for aquisition of Right of Way for the Horse Stamp Church Road Interchange.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**Reports**

- Calendar - January/February

Interim County Clerk Kathryn Bishop read the March & April calendars.

- County Administrator's Report

County Administrator Steve Howard reported the following:

County Administrator Steve Howard stated at this time he has asked Strategic Planning Director Diana Smith to provide the Board with current project updates.

Strategic Planning Director Diana Smith announced the Camden County has been selected to receive the Neighborhood Stabilization Grant. She also provided the Board with an overview of House Bill 480. She stated that the Spotlight on the Department tonight is the H.O.P.E. Charity Committee and encouraged everyone to visit the displays outside in the lobby area.

**ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Attorney Jim Stein

Attorney Stein explained that there are forty-two (42) charitable hospitals in Camden County not paying taxes and that is a big shortfall to the County. He asked that this issue be looked in to.

Chair Rainer asked County Attorney Green to look in to this matter.

Jay Moreno


Mr. Moreno stated that has of today there are thirty-two (32) applicants with master degrees for the Joint Development Authority position. He stated that the Joint Development Authority meets at 9:30 AM this Friday and he urged the Board to attend to this meeting.


Commissioner Sears reminded everyone that Saturday, March 21, 2009, is the St. Marys River Clean Up.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell, to adjourn the March 17, 2009, meeting. The vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

  
David L. Rainer, Chair

  
Kathryn A. Bishop, Acting County Clerk