

**CAMDEN COUNTY, GEORGIA  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
NOVEMBER 3, 2009, 6:00 PM**

**A regular meeting of the Camden County Board of County Commissioners was held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3, 2009, 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.

Director of Solid Waste Lannie Brant delivered the invocation.

Chair Rainer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Present: Chair David L. Rainer; Commissioner Willis R. Keene, Jr.; Commissioner Charlene Sears; Commissioner Stephen L. Berry; County Administrator Steve Howard; County Attorney Brent Green, and Strategic Planning Director Diana Smith. Interim County Clerk Kathryn Bishop was absent.**

**Agenda Amendments:**

**Removal of Presentation:**

Presentation by Steve Williams, MIROBA, LLC regarding Bridge Pointe

Vice-chair Zell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Keene to adopt the agenda amendments as presented.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

**Motion to Adopt the Agenda:**

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

***The motion carried unanimously.***

**Approval of Minutes**

- October 20, 2009 Regular Meeting minutes & October 27, 2009 Special Called Meeting minutes

Commissioner Keene made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to approve the October 20, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes & October 27, 2009 Special Called Meeting Minutes.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

**Presentations:**

- Presentation by Steve Williams, MIROBA, LLC regarding Bridge Pointe

This item was removed during agenda amendments.

**Public Comments:**

Tim Ward, St. Marys

Mr. Ward stated that he is a member of the Citizen's Academy and he feels there is a sense of urgency in reference to the jail. He stated that he has concerns for the safety of officers and the public. He explained that the issues are associated with overcrowding in the jail and everyone needs to work together to solve the problem. He

stated that the officers need our support and the Board should act quickly before lawsuits emerge.

Charles & Leslie Rowland, Kingsland

Mr. & Mrs. Rowland explained that they paid their ad valorem taxes on August 30, 2009. He explained that on September 13, 2009 they were involved in a car accident essentially totaling the vehicle. They respectfully requested that the Board of County Commissioners issue a refund for tax & tags paid on this vehicle. They stated that they paid the tax and tags one (1) month prior to when it was actually due and then the accident occurred.

Dori Brink, Kingsland

Mrs. Brink stated that she is also in the Citizen's Academy and believes the program is a great opportunity. She explained that during the Public Safety presentation they were made aware of the plight of the jail. She understands the position of the citizens and the overburden of the jail, but the safety of the employees must be considered, as well as the inmates are a concern. She stated that she took a tour of the jail and if not for the safety of the inmates; something needs to be done for the safety of the employees. She explained that three (3) to four (4) years ago a study was conducted and there was no outcome. She stated that with no action there is no progress and a decision needs to be made.

Walt Natzic, St. Marys

Mr. Natzic congratulated the Commissioners for the Master Agreement and the Coastal Incentive Grant. He explained that the originally it was started in 2006 to develop the Coastal Greenway. He explained that the Coastal Incentive aligns with the current projects and it is a challenge to go after grants such as this. He urged that citizen participation is important and he would like to see new project developments with sidewalks to connect communities.

Jodi Gregory

Mrs. Gregory stated that she understands that there are hard economic times but in comparison other agencies around us are giving raises to their employees and Camden County has not. She stated that a 2.5% increase was promised but never followed through with and the Board should look at a performance based system for salary increases.

Zip Amerine, Kingsland

Mr. Amerine stated that he has been an employee with Camden County for eight (8) years. He explained that the problem started with the Committees is not enough feedback. He stated that he worked with the City of Kingsland before coming to work for the County and he understands that the cost of healthcare is rising, but there has been a failure to see the problem ahead of the time. He stated that it is a problem on Administrations part not employees part.

Donald Pace

Mr. Pace stated that he was told during the County Administrator's one-on-one that the increase in health care costs put Camden County in line with surrounding cities that pay more. He asked if this was a problem before then why it was not foreseen.

Ellen Evans

Mrs. Evans stated that she has an issue with a ticket she received by Animal Control a month ago. She explained that because she cannot afford to pay the ticket she received probation and has to go back before the court on November 17, 2009. She stated that if she cannot afford to pay this ticket she may be sent to jail. She stated this is the reason the jail is overcrowded because there are no payment options for tickets people cannot afford to pay.

## **Regular Agenda**

1. Consideration of Jail Project Options.

Commissioner Keene made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to table this item.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

2. Approval of Tax Release Applications.

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

***The motion carried unanimously.***

3. Temporary Closing of Harriett's Bluff Road for Church Event.

Vice-Chair Zell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Keene to approve the Temporary Closing of Harriett's Bluff Road for Church Event.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

4. Employee Health Benefits & Premium Proposal

Commissioner Keene made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to approve the Employee Health Benefit Proposal as presented by Support Services Director Staci Bowick.

**So Voted:**

Chair Rainer - Yea

Vice-Chair Zell - Yea

Commissioner Keene - Yea

Commissioner Sears - Nay

Commissioner Berry - Yea

***The motion carried 4-1.***

5. Consideration of Requests for Ad Valorem Tax Refunds.

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Keene to approve the request for Ad Valorem Tax Refunds as presented.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

6. Consideration of Master Agreement with the PATH Foundation to Build Trails.

Vice-Chair Zell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Keene to approve the Master Agreement with the PATH Foundation to Build Trails.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

7. Request for Consent to apply for Coastal Incentive Grant.

Vice-Chair Zell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Keene to approve the request for Consent to apply for Coastal Incentive Grant.

***The motion carried unanimously.***

## **Reports**

- Calendar -October / November

Diana Smith read the calendars for October & November.

- County Administrator's Report

County Administrator Steve Howard reported the following:

- He reported that the Grand Opening for the Dover Bluff Fire Station 19 was held on Sunday, November 1, 2009 at 3:00 PM and it was a huge success.

### **Additional Public Comments:**

Terry Landreth

Mr. Landreth stated that he is glad to be working with the PATH Foundation on such a worthy project and it is made up of a great group of people.

Amy Melton, Kingsland

Mrs. Melton stated that she is a County employee and she thought she could speak before the agenda item. She asked the Board what is the purpose of the Health Insurance Committee.

Chair Rainer stated that public comments do not require dialog between the speaker and the Board.

Mrs. Melton went on to explain that as a Health Insurance Committee member what was proposed was to discuss proposed changes with respective departments. She stated that she understands that health care is a large cost, but County employees are living paycheck to paycheck. She stated that the prescription cost is a large increase.

Jeremy Wright

Mr. Wright stated that he is a County employee and he would like the Board to consider not balancing the budget on the backs of the employees. He explained that eighty dollars (\$80.00) every two (2) weeks for an employee who makes ten dollars (\$10.00) and hour is the average. He explained that employees didn't get raises but kept benefits and the committee voted for a ten percent (10%) increase.

Dori Brink

Mrs. Brink stated that she challenges each Commissioner to go to the jail and really look at the entire facility.

### **Adjournment:**

Commissioner Keene made a motion, seconded by Chair Rainer to adjourn the November 3, 2009 meeting. The vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:18PM.

Respectfully submitted,



David L. Rainer, Chair



Kathryn A. Bishop, Acting County Clerk