

CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2001, 6:00 P.M.
WOODBINE, GEORGIA

A recessed meeting of the Camden County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, January 16, 2001, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room at the Courthouse in Woodbine, Georgia.

Present: Chairman Stephen L. Berry, Vice Chairman David L. Rainer, Commissioner Preston Rhodes, Commissioner Robert G. Becker, Commissioner Kenneth G. Hase, County Administrator Barrett T. King, and Assistant County Administrator Nancy C. Weisensee. (County Attorney O. Brent Green was absent.)

Chairman Berry called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
Nancy Weisensee delivered the Invocation.
Chairman Berry led the Pledge of Allegiance.
The Roll Call indicated all Commissioners present.

Work Session:

1. Mr. Eric Nease, Jordan, Jones, and Goulding, gave a presentation regarding the proposed water and wastewater system for Harrietts Bluff.

After general discussion of the proposed water system, Chairman Berry requested that the Board add a second item to the work session entitled Fire Proposal for Camden County.

Motion by Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commissioner Hase, and voted unanimously to add the Fire Proposal for Camden County to the work session.

2. Fire Proposal for Camden County:

Barry King, County Administrator, presented a proposal entitled Camden Area Protective Envelope (CAPE). Mr. King stated that this plan was developed by Camden Fire-Rescue and projects a reduction of the ISO within five road miles of any county fire station to a base ISO 5 by January 1, 2003.

After general discussion, Commissioner Becker made a motion to add the fire proposal to the regular agenda. The motion died for lack of a second.

The Commissioners agreed to add the fire proposal to the February 6th meeting agenda.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS:

Commissioner Becker requested to add District 2 Planning Commission appointment to the agenda.

Motion by Commissioner Rainer, seconded by Commissioner Becker, and voted unanimously to add Item 4 (o) District 2 Planning Commission appointment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Sanford Feller addressed the Board regarding salary legislation for the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Feller stated that he hopes this legislation does not give the Commissioners any more than they already have given themselves. Mr. Feller also stated that he wants to see the county drop the Local Option Sales Tax and the Special Local Option Sales Tax.

1. Approval of minutes for January 2, 2001:

Chairman Berry stated that he would like the minutes to reflect that he did vote in favor of the selection of Steve Berry for Chairman. The amended wording in the minutes would be as follows:

“Commissioners Rainer, Hase, Rhodes, and Berry voted in favor.”

Motion by Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes, and voted unanimously to approve the minutes for January 2, 2001, as amended.

2. Reports:

FY 2000 Audit Report - Barry King stated that the FY2000 audit was a very good report. Commissioner Hase stated that this was the best audit report he had ever seen. Chairman Berry commended staff and stated that this audit was the best yet.

Mid-year Financials FY2001 – Mike Fender, Finance Director, stated that the county’s mid-year financial situation is looking good, and any areas that are a little more than 50% can be explained because of recent large purchases, etc.

Board Calendar – The Commissioners reviewed the meeting calendar with the Clerk.

3. Old Business:

a. Appointments:

Library Board – Motion by Commissioner Hase, seconded by Commissioner Becker, and voted unanimously to reappoint Virginia Proctor and Lynda Nugent for two-year terms; to appoint Tommy Gregory for a two-year term; and to appoint Michael Wooden to fill the unexpired term of William Roraback which expires on June 30, 2001.

Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center Board – Motion by Commissioner Rainer, seconded by Commissioner Hase and voted unanimously to reappoint Craig Root to the Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center Board of Directors as the non-public representative for a two-year term.

Camden Advisory Committee for Coastal Georgia Community College – Motion by Commissioner Rainer, seconded by Commissioner Becker, and voted unanimously to appoint Commissioner Hase to serve on the Camden Advisory Committee for the Coastal Georgia Community College.

4. New Business:

a. Planning Commission Business:

Frank Etheridge, Planning and Building Director, reported to the Board that the Planning Commission business did not contain any controversial matters. Mr. Etheridge stated that he had a discussion with the Park Services Commission, and they have offered to arrange a tour of Cumberland Island for the Commissioners to witness the development that is taking place on the Island. The Commissioners agreed for Mr. Etheridge to plan the tour for some time in March or April.

Motion by Commissioner Hase, seconded by Commissioner Rainer, and voted unanimously to approve the recommendations of the Planning Commission as follows:

Old Business:

Sweeny, Fred – proposed amendment to the Official Code of Camden County to allow certain types of livestock on residential property located in rural areas.
(Application tabled)

Bluff Properties, Inc. – final plat approval for a re-subdivision of lots 1, 2 and 3 at Hickory Bluff Retreat, map 125, a portion of parcel 4.
(Tabled)

New Business:

Day, C. Grayson – rezone from A-F to A-R, 6 acres +/- located in the southeast quadrant of the intersection of Highway 17 and Scrubby Bluff Road, map 95 a portion of parcel 36.

(Approved with the stipulation that it include the area in the northeast quadrant as requested by Mr. Etheridge.)

b. Settlers' Bluff water concurrence:

Barry King, County Administrator, stated that Settlers' Bluff Subdivision does not meet the county's requirement for a 6" water line. They have a 3" water line and will have a back up well. Also, this subdivision is located in an area that is not projected to be served by a county or city utility authority in the foreseeable future. Mr. King recommended that the Board authorize a waiver for this subdivision.

Motion by Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes, and voted unanimously to approve, and authorize the Chairman to sign, the Certificate of Concurrence for the Settlers' Bluff Subdivision's Community Water System as recommended.

(A signed copy of the Certificate of Concurrence is on file in the County Administrator's Office and the Planning and Building Department.)

c. Private Community Water System at Satilla Plantation:

Barry King, County Administrator, stated that water lines for the Satilla Plantation Subdivision are located in County right-of-way and should be moved because of the liability. Diane Sapp, a representative for the developer of Satilla Plantation stated that the developer received approval from the E.P.D. to install the water lines in county right-of-way. Ms. Sapp stated that the County should have let them know the lines could not be installed in County right-of-way at the time the lines were installed. Mr. Etheridge stated that the Planning and Building Department records do not indicate any notification that the lines would be installed in County right-of-way.

Motion by Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commissioner Rainer, and voted unanimously to table this matter until February 6th meeting in order to obtain information regarding the cost to move the lines out of the right-of-way.

d. Appointments to Camden County Board of Health:

There are two vacancies on the Board of Health – LuAnn Johnson has expressed a desire to be reappointed to the Board of Health, and Esther Zylstra has resigned.

Motion by Commissioner Rainer, seconded by Commissioner Becker, and voted unanimously to reappoint LuAnn Johnson to the Camden County Board of Health for a three-year term.

Motion by Commissioner Rhodes, seconded by Commissioner Becker, and voted unanimously to table the appointment for Esther Zylstra's replacement until the second meeting in February, to be voted on at the first meeting in March 2001.

e. Appointment to the Regional Conservation and Development Council:

The Board was notified that a replacement for Jim Proctor was needed on the R C & D Council. Commissioner Becker recommended Mr. Dwight McCollough to serve on the Council.

Motion by Commissioner Rhodes, seconded by Commissioner Rainer, and voted unanimously to table the appointment for Jim Proctor's replacement until the second meeting in February, to be voted on at the first meeting in March 2001.

f. Nominations for the Camden County Forestry Board:

Notification was received from the Georgia Forestry Commission regarding two vacancies on the Camden County Forestry Board. Mr. Ward McCarthy passed away, and Mr. Joe Dan Proctor is too ill to serve on the Board.

Motion by Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes, and voted unanimously to submit Burwell Russell, Jr. as one of the nominees to fill a vacant position on the Forestry Board with the stipulation that Mr. Russell resign from the Planning Commission.

Motion by Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes, and voted unanimously to approve four nominees for the two vacancies on the Forestry Board at the second meeting in February, to be voted on at the first meeting in March 2001.

g. Appointment to St. Marys River Management Committee:

Mr. Robert Merck's term on the St. Marys River Management Committee has expired. Mr. Merck has expressed a desire to be reappointed.

Motion by Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commissioner Rainer, and voted unanimously to reappoint Mr. Robert Merck to the St. Marys River Management Committee for a three-year term.

h. Resolution to Support READI:

Mr. Ray Snow, Georgia Department of Industry, Trade, and Tourism, addressed the Board regarding READI (Regional Economic Advancement and Development Initiative) and requested the Board to adopt the Resolution to Support READI.

Motion by Commissioner Rainer, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes, and voted unanimously to adopt the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
REGIONAL ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

1.

WHEREAS, the Regional Economic Advancement and Development Initiative, hereinafter referred to as "READI", has been designed to evaluate, improve, and upgrade the regions in Georgia for business development, job creation, and successful regional economic development, and evaluation of said regions will be performed by examining critical components to becoming prepared for economic development, and

2.

WHEREAS, READI consists of thirteen criteria that will guide communities in their efforts for economic growth, and

3.

WHEREAS, the seventh criteria within READI provides as follows: 90% of the counties in the region are to pass a resolution stating that the cities and counties are actively seeking to optimize planned economic development, and this resolution must be passed by the county commission and the municipal governing authority or the majority of municipal governing authorities where there is more than one, and

4.

WHEREAS, the Camden County Board of Commissioners, located within State Service Delivery Region #12, desires to pass this resolution affirming its support and agreement with the goals set forth in the said criteria referenced above in paragraph 3,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a majority of the members of the Camden County Board of Commissioners has cast their vote in favor of said resolution affirming the Board's support of said criteria on this 16th day of January 2001.

i. Resolution Endorsing Minimum Salary Legislation for Commissioners:

Motion by Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes to adopt the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION
MINIMUM COMPENSATION FOR COMMISSIONERS
CAMDEN COUNTY

WHEREAS, virtually all of Georgia's county officials benefit from minimum compensation statutes enacted by the General Assembly including sheriffs, probate judges, clerks of court, tax commissioners, magistrates, and sole commissioners; and

WHEREAS, such minimum compensation statutes are tailored to address size of counties by population, provide cost of living adjustments equal to the COLA approved by the General Assembly for state employees; and, to reward experience, provide longevity increases in compensation for officials that are reelected to office; and

WHEREAS, members of county boards of commissioners are the notable exception to the foregoing; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this oversight, commissioner compensation is woefully low in some counties; and

WHEREAS, equity calls for treating all county elected officials similarly and fairly when it comes to compensation; and

WHEREAS, fairness among county elected officials relative to compensation would erase one of the sources of friction between county commissioners and other county elected officials; and

WHEREAS, a statewide minimum salary statute would relieve the burden on members of the General Assembly of enacting local legislation to increase commissioners' salaries; and

WHEREAS, the county commissioners of this State, acting through the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG), have proposed legislation that would rectify the current inequity by establishing a compensation system which parallels the system in place for sheriffs, probate judges, clerks of court, tax commissioners and magistrates; and

WHEREAS, this proposal has been endorsed by the County Officers Association of Georgia which represents sheriffs, probate judges, clerks of court, and tax commissioners; and

WHEREAS, even if enacted, compensation of many county commissioners would not increase since many commissioners are already being paid at a level greater than what the proposed statewide minimum compensation legislation calls for.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the governing authority of Camden County hereby endorses and urges the members of the General Assembly to enact legislation that would:

1. Establish a minimum salary for part-time commissioners at 20% of sheriffs' minimum base salary; and, establish a minimum salary for part-time board chairmen at 10% more than the other part-time board members.
2. Establish a minimum salary for full-time board chairmen, sole commissioners, and CEOs at 10% more than the sheriffs' minimum base salary.
3. Provide for a "longevity" increase in the base salary of 5% at the end of each four-year term of office and COLA adjustments equal to what the sheriffs, probate judges, clerks of court, tax commissioners, and magistrates receive.
4. Authorize a supplement of 20% to all commissioners who successfully complete the voluntary commissioner training certification program offered by the Carl Vinson Institute of Government.

Adopted in legal assembly this 16th day of January 2001.

Commissioners Becker, Rhodes, and Rainer voted yes.
Commissioner Hase voted no.

Approved 3 – 1

j. Resolution Authorizing Use of Facsimile Signatures:

Motion by Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commissioner Hase, and voted unanimously to approve the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING USE OF FACSIMILE SIGNATURES

RESOLVED that the SOUTHEASTERN BANK be, and it hereby is, authorized and directed to honor as genuine and authorized instruments of this corporation, any and all checks, drafts and/or other orders for the payment of money drawn in the name of this corporation and signed with the facsimile signature(s) of any of the following:

Cynthia Daniels
Barrett T. King
Charles R. Finger

FURTHER RESOLVED that this corporation is authorized to and hereby does assume full responsibility for any and all payments made by said SOUTHEASTERN BANK in reliance upon the facsimile signature of any person or persons named in the foregoing resolution and agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the said SOUTHEASTERN BANK against any and all loss, cost, damage, or expense suffered or incurred by said SOUTHEASTERN BANK arising out of the misuse or unlawful or unauthorized use by any person of such facsimile signature.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Finance Director of this corporation be and he hereby is authorized and directed to deliver to the said SOUTHEASTERN BANK specimens of the facsimile signatures of the persons above named.

Approved in legal assembly this 16th day of January 2001.

k. St. Marys request for easement:

The City of St. Marys has requested a perpetual easement that conveys easements for water and sewer purposes to the City across certain lands owned by the County and located within the right-of-way of St. Marys Road Extension in the vicinity of the intersection of St. Marys Road Extension and Georgia Highway 40.

Motion by Commissioner Hase, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes, and voted unanimously to approve the Perpetual Easement to the City of St. Marys for water and sewer purposes at the intersection of St. Marys Road Extension and Georgia Highway 40 and to authorize the Chairman to sign said easement.

(A copy of the recorded easement will be on file in the County Administrator's Office.)

l. Woodbine request for property donation to support Habitat for Humanity:

Sandy Rayson, Woodbine City Administrator, addressed the Board and requested that the Commissioners donate four county-owned lots in Woodbine to be used as locations for Habitat for Humanity homes. The City of Woodbine and Habitat for Humanity are partnering on this project. The City of Woodbine has been authorized \$125,000 in C.H.I.P. grant funds that can be used for this type of program.

Motion by Commissioner Rainer, seconded by Commissioner Becker, and voted unanimously to table this request until the meeting on February 6, 2001.

m. County Administrator's evaluation (moved to Executive Session)

n. Establish committee to determine capital needs for future SPLOST:

Chairman Berry stated that the Board would like to have the SPLOST list completed by the end of this year. In order to do this, a committee should be established at this time.

Motion by Commissioner Hase, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes, and voted unanimously to appoint Commissioner Hase and Commissioner Rainer to serve on the Committee to Determine Capital Needs for Future SPLOST.

o. District 2 Planning Commission appointment:

Commissioner Becker stated that the current appointee from District 2, Burwell Russell, Jr., has indicated that he would like to serve on the Camden County Forestry Board. Commissioner Becker stated that he would like to have Jerome Guinn appointed to the Planning Commission contingent upon Burwell Russell, Jr.'s resignation.

Motion by Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commissioner Hase, and voted unanimously to appoint Jerome Guinn to the Planning Commission contingent upon Burwell Russell Jr.'s resignation from the Planning Commission.

5. Adjourn into Executive Session to discuss personnel. (Pending litigation deleted because of the absence of County Attorney Green.) 8:20 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commissioner Hase, and voted unanimously that this Board now enters into closed session as allowed by O.C.G.A. Sec. 50-15-4 and pursuant to advice by the County Attorney, for the purpose of discussing personnel.

That upon the conclusion of the discussion or deliberation in the closed session portion of the meeting that this body enter back into open session, open to the public, at which point an announcement will be made in the Commissioners' Meeting Room that this Board is back in session. That upon coming back into open session this body ratify the consensus taken in the closed session; and that this body in open session adopt a resolution authorizing and directing the chairman to execute an affidavit in compliance with O.C.G.A. Sec. 50-14-4, and that this body confirm that the actions of the Board in closed session were as required by law and approved by the County Attorney.

(An executed copy of the affidavit is attached to these minutes.)

Chairman Berry reconvened the meeting at 8:40 p.m. and announced that the County Administrator's evaluation was discussed.

The Board of Commissioners agreed to schedule future evaluations of the County Administrator for the first meeting in August of each year.

Adjournment: (8:43 p.m.)

Motion by Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes, and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Berry
Chairman

Nancy C. Weisensee
Assistant County Administrator/Clerk