

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

A Public Hearing for setting of the millage rate, followed by a recessed meeting of the Camden County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, October 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 Attorney O. Brent Green; and Assistant County Administrator Nancy C. Weisensee.

Chairman Berry convened the public hearing at 6:00 p.m.

Mike Fender, Finance Director, showed a video regarding property taxes.

Vernon Copeland of Dover Bluff Road stated that he did not see anything in the video that justifies tax increase. Need to work on needs versus wants. Mr. Copeland thinks the county should not be involved in recreation.

Carol Lewis of St. Marys stated that she had heavy increase in the assessment of her property, and she questions the equality of assessments throughout the county.

John Mounsey stated that the Commissioners were supposed to decrease the taxes by one mill. What happened to 1.5 mil decrease for recreation? Need to look at budget again and see if rate can be cut.

Marilyn Horn stated that PSA fees are not equal for all residents. Does not understand the need for tax increase.

Jorene Lavender of White Oak stated that there are many houses in the north end that will not qualify for insurance premium decrease because they do not live within the five-mile radius.

Keith Dixon of Kingsland wanted to know what is the total budget for FY2002. The City residents are getting a three-mil increase and that is not fair.

Susie Mounsey stated that the 1.5 mils for recreation are not just for the Recreation Center.

Chairman Berry concluded the public hearing at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Berry called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Nancy Weisensee delivered the invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Berry.

The roll call indicated all Commissioners present.

PRESENTATIONS:

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER:

Mr. Melvin Ribbon of the Road Department was selected as Employee of the Quarter. Chairman Berry presented a certificate and check to Mr. Ribbon and congratulated him on a job well done for the county.

C.A.P.E. Update:

Danny Daniels presented a report and slides regarding the status of the Camden Area Protection Envelope (CAPE) program. Mr. Daniels urged the Commissioners to stand

fast on the budget to meet the current world situation. There will be an ISO inspection in January 2002, and the results will be available in July/August 2002.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS:

Motion by Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commissioner Hase, and voted unanimously to add 4l. Resolution – Workers Compensation for Elected and Appointed Officials; and 4m. Proclamation for Retired Educators Day.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Tom Buchanan, Horseshoe Cove Subdivision resident, stated that he was very concerned during the recent telephone outage that it was not possible to contact 911 in Camden County. This is serious for people who are ill, and the county needs to correct this. Mr. Buchanan stated that the county EMS does a great job for the county residents.

Sanford Feller stated that the Commissioners voted some time ago to get past-due audits from the PSA. Mike Fender stated that the audits are current now; he has 1999 audit.

Vernon Copeland stated that over a year ago he offered a dry hydrant site on his property, but he has not heard anything from the county regarding his offer.

1. Approval of minutes:

Motion by Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commissioners Rhodes, and voted unanimously to approve the minutes for September 12, 18, 26, and October 4, 2001.

2. Reports:

Nancy Weisensee reviewed the status of appointments and the October and November calendars with the Board.

Motion by Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commissioner Hase, and voted unanimously to add 4n. Coastal Georgia Greenway Steering Committee appointment; and 4o. Coastal Workforce Services Board appointment to the agenda.

3. OLD BUSINESS:

No Old Business.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Planning Commission Business and acceptance of bond for Misty Harbor Subdivision improvements:

Motion by Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commissioner Rainer, and voted unanimously to approve the recommendations of the Planning Commission and to accept the bond for improvements at Misty Harbor Subdivision.

Planning Commission Business:

Ruhamah Baptist Church – a variance from the maximum square footage allowed for a sign. The property is located at 14680 Highway 40 West, parcel 1, zoning/tax map 70. (Approved)

Waldene Lassiter as agent for Eloise B. Thompson – a rezoning from AF to R-1, 0.76 acres on Mush Bluff Road, parcel 69 on zoning/tax map 132-A. The request is to permit the construction of a group home facility for mildly retarded adults; no more than four adults in a home-like atmosphere. (Approved with the stipulation that the application is not sent to the Board of Commissioners until a letter is on file stating that water service would be provided.)

Suzanne Monnat/Aleene Shiver – final plat approval for Monnet Manor, a two-lot subdivision in the A-F zone on Old Red Bluff road, parcel 12, zoning/tax map 75.
(Tabled)

Waverly Farms replat – a replat dividing lot number 1, a 98 acre tract, into 3 lots, located on Horse Stamp Church Road and identified as parcels 4 and 4-B, zoning/tax map 74.
(Approved with the following conditions: a. the plat be revised to clearly delineate the lot lines; b. the rezoning application is filed; c. the applicant will apply for a variance, if needed, for the construction of a driveway for tract 1-B and said driveway will be built on the western portion of the property.)

b. Contract for the Woodbine School cafeteria:

Motion by Commissioner Rainer, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes, and voted unanimously to contract with the Old School Renovation Committee and for County Attorney to prepare addendum to include the cafeteria, and authorize Chairman Berry to sign the contract.

c. Set tax millage rate:

Motion by Commissioner Rainer to roll back one and one-half mils on general operating budget and 1 mil on fire district for the unincorporated area.

Motion died for lack of a second.

Motion by Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commissioner Hase, and voted unanimously to reopen the budget and look for further cuts and set the millage rate at a meeting to be held on Thursday, October 18, 2001, at 5:30 p.m.

After general discussion, Chairman Berry called a recess.

Chairman Berry reconvened the meeting 8:15 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commissioner Rainer, and voted unanimously to rescind the motion to reopen the budget and look for further cuts and set the millage rate at a meeting to be held on Thursday, October 18, 2001, at 5:30 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commissioner Rainer, to set the millage rate at 13.77 general operating budget, and 2.22 fire district for the unincorporated area.

Chairman Berry asked for a show of hands vote.

Commissioners Rainer and Becker voted yes.

Commissioner Hase and Rhodes voted no.

Chairman Berry voted no.

Motion defeated 3 – 2

Motion by Commissioner Hase, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes, to set the millage rate as stated in the Resolution to Adopt a County Millage Rate for Camden County, 14.77 mils for general operating budget for the County, and 3.22 mils for the Unincorporated Fire District; 14.95 mils for Camden County School Board; and .25 mils for the general State budget.

Chairman Berry asked for a show of hands vote:

Commissioners Hase and Rhodes voted yes.

Commissioners Becker and Rainer voted no.

Chairman Berry voted yes.

Motion carried 3 – 2.

A Resolution to Adopt a County Millage Rate
For Camden County, Georgia

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, CAMDEN COUNTY, GEORGIA, that the County hereby adopt the millage rates based on one dollar (\$1.00) of the taxable property of Camden County which appears on the Tax Digest for the year 2001 and on all property in said County that is subject to taxation, but is not returned for taxes and is not on the Tax Digest as provided by law, the same being levied and the same shall be collected by the Tax Commissioner for the following purposes:

1. 14.77 mils for the general operating budget for the County.
2. 3.22 mils for the Unincorporated Fire District.

In accordance with the Camden County School Board, the following millage was adopted at the November 9, 2000, meeting.

1. 14.95 mils for the maintenance and operations budget.

In accordance with the State of Georgia, the following millage rate has been set.

1. .25 mils for the general State budget.

Making in aggregate the sum of 33.19 mils on one dollar (\$1.00) on all taxable property in said County, for County, School, and State purposes.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Camden County Board of Commissioners does hereby adopt, resolve, and enact the foregoing millage rates for Camden County, Georgia.

Adopted this 16th day of October 2001.

d. Acceptance of offer from McArthur for right of way on Vacuna Road:

Motion by Commissioner Rainer, seconded by Commissioner Becker, and voted unanimously to accept the offer for the County to pay \$3,500.00 to William A. McArthur for property and fence replacement on Vacuna Road.

e. Acceptance of letter of agreement for Historic Survey:

Motion by Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes, and voted unanimously to accept the letter of agreement from Tracy M. Dean, MHP, in the amount of \$6,875.00 to survey approximately 300 historical resources in the unincorporated areas of Camden County.

f. Demonstration gardens and community garden:

Motion by Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes, and voted unanimously to allow the Master Gardeners' Club to construct demonstration gardens and a community garden on County property at the Ralph Bunche High School area in Woodbine in conjunction with the Camden County Facilities Management Director.

g. Proposal for Civic Center study:

Motion by Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commissioner Hase, and voted unanimously to cancel consideration of doing a civic center study at this time.

h. Acceptance of \$13,000 grant for Juvenile Court:

Motion by Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commissioner Hase, and voted unanimously to accept the \$13,000 grant from the Council of Juvenile Court Judges of Georgia to be used for Juvenile Court Services.

i. Tax release requests:

The Tax Assessor presented 18 tax credit requests.

Motion by Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commissioner Hase, and voted unanimously to approve the tax credit requests as presented by the Tax Assessor.

(A copy of the list of tax release applications is attached to these minutes.)

j. Acceptance of borrow pit lease from Jeff Daniels:

Motion by Commissioner Rhodes, seconded by Commissioner Becker, and voted unanimously to accept the borrow pit lease from Jeff Daniels for borrow pit off of Lampadoshia Road.

k. Comprehensive Transportation Plan:

Jordan, Jones, and Goulding, who perform engineering services for the County, offered to develop the County's Comprehensive Transportation Plan. The cost of \$139,935 would be paid from SPLOST.

Motion by Commissioner Hase, seconded by Commissioner Becker, and voted unanimously to postpone the decision on this matter.

l. Resolution – Workers Compensation for Elected and Appointed Officials:

Motion by Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commissioner Hase, and voted unanimously to approve the Resolution to include elected and appointed officials in the County's Workers Compensation policy.

RESOLUTION TO ADD PERSONNEL
TO THE CURRENT WORKERS COMPENSATION
PROGRAM/INSURANCE POLICY

WHEREAS, the Camden County Board of Commissioners by resolution established a program and an insurance policy for the compensation of county employees injured while performing their lawful duties as county employees. Said program is hereinafter called Workers Compensation, and

WHEREAS, the Camden County Board of Commissioners is responsible for the funding and the providing of services for certain county elected and appointed officials, and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned county elected and appointed officials are required to be included in the Workers Compensation program, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Camden County Board of Commissioners does hereby include the elected constitutional officers and other appointed officials of the Camden County government in the Camden County Workers Compensation Program/Insurance Policy.

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

m. Proclamation for Retired Educators Day, November 11, 2001:

Motion by Commissioner Rainer, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes, and voted unanimously to approve the Proclamation for Retired Educators Day on November 11, 2001.

PROCLAMATION

RETIRED EDUCATORS DAY

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Georgia has proclaimed the day of Sunday, November 11, 2001, to be known as Georgia Retired Educators Day; and

WHEREAS, there are more than 43,000 retired educators in Georgia, 15,000 of whom are members of the Georgia Retired American Association (GREAA); and

WHEREAS, the retired educators of Georgia and particularly those affiliated with the Georgia Retired Educators Association and Local Units of Retired Educators Associations return to the state, without compensation, hundreds of thousands of hours of vital community service; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that a day be set aside for citizens to express their thanks and appreciation for the outstanding service provided by the retired educators of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, local churches will recognize the lasting contributions made and being made by retired educators in this community; now

THEREFORE, the Camden County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim the day of November 11, 2001, as

“GEORGIA RETIRED EDUCATORS DAY”

and calls upon the citizens of this community to observe that day in an appropriate manner honoring the retired educators in our midst.

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

n. Coastal Georgia Greenway Steering Committee appointment:

Motion by Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commissioner Hase, and voted unanimously to appoint Frank Etheridge to the Coastal Georgia Greenway Steering Committee to replace Ken Talbert.

o. Coastal Workforce Services Board appointment:

Motion by Commissioner Becker, seconded by Commissioner Hase, and voted unanimously to nominate Mark Kevan to the Coastal Workforce Services Board as a private sector representative for a term of three years.

o. Adjournment: (8:55 o'clock p.m.)

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

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen L. Berry
Chairman

Nancy C. Weisensee
Assistant County Administrator