

CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
CALLED MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2001, 6:00 P.M.  
WOODBINE, GEORGIA

A Called Meeting of the Camden County Board of Commissioners was held on Wednesday, September 26, 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. (County Administrator Barrett T. King, absent, on duty with Army Reserves.)

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.

Commissioners signed the Waiver of Notice of Called Meeting.

### **WORK SESSION**

#### **Discussion with Library Board:**

Chairman Berry read a list of recommendations for the Library Board to consider. Chairman Berry stated that the Board of Commissioners needs a contract with the Library Board and for the Library Board to determine what is needed in the contract. At present, the County takes care of payroll and benefits, and this service should be included in the contract if the Library Board wishes the County to continue providing this service. The Library Board should adopt a personnel policy and have a system for annual evaluations of staff and management.

Chairman Berry recommended that Cindy madden be give a hearing, and the Library Board should determine how that process will work.

Commissioner Rainer stated that he agrees with the Chairman's recommendations. The Library Board is authorized by law to control the Library. The Library Board should meet as soon as possible to determine how they will proceed.

Commissioner Hase stated that there should be a written policy regarding the use of comp time, and a policy relative to the waiver of fines.

Commissioner Becker stated that we have clarified that the Library Board is an independent agency, and we need to have a contract. The County is just the funding agency.

Commissioner Rhodes stated that there has been a problem because of lack of understanding of the roles of the County and the Library Board. Now everyone is in a better position to understand and move ahead to get past the problems of the past. Commissioner Rhodes stated that grievance guidelines are needed as well as a contract with the County.

The Board of Commissioners confirmed that the Library Manager reports to the Library Board. The Library Board needs to give guidance to the Library Manager.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Recommendations to the Library Board:**

Motion by Commissioner Hase, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes, and voted unanimously that the followings recommendations be adopted:

1. Library funds need a full and proper accounting (with records capable of a detailed audit)
2. Time cards should be respected, rules put in place governing their use and employees held accountable for their implementation.
3. State mandated statistical information should be recorded as accurately as possible, within reason, and employees held accountable for a failure to do so.
4. Library Board needs a full and complete understanding of its statutory role.
5. The relationship between the County and the Library Board needs to be defined by contract.
6. A personnel policy is adopted by the Library Board that is tailored to its needs and conforms to the statutory requirements.
7. Senior staff be counseled and aided in developing effective managing abilities.
8. A policy is created relative to fine waivers.
9. A comp time policy be implemented that conforms to Federal law and does not allow its taking by the hour.

Motion by Commissioner Rainer, seconded by Commissioner Becker, and voted unanimously to adopt the following collateral recommendations:

1. Cindy Madden be given due process on her appeal grievance under the Library Board's newly adopted personnel policy.
2. County policy is amended to provide that all employees may be provided a copy of their personnel policy free of charge upon separation from County employment. It is recommended that the Library Board have a similar provision in their personnel policy.
3. Use of comp time by County employees be better defined. It is recommended that the Library Board do the same in their personnel policy.

### **2. Resolution regarding the St. Marys Airport:**

Commissioner Hase read the Resolution regarding the St. Marys Airport.

Motion by Commissioner Rhodes, seconded by Commissioner Hase, and voted unanimously to approve the following resolution:

#### **RESOLUTION SUPPORTING REOPENING AND/OR RELOCATING ST. MARYS AIRPORT**

WHEREAS, airspace above and around the St. Marys airport was restricted following the September 11<sup>th</sup> massacre "until further notice" due to the airport's proximity to Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base, and that airspace remains restricted, effectively closing St. Marys airport to operations; and

WHEREAS St. Marys airport is one of only two airports in the nation that remains closed as a result of the September 11<sup>th</sup> massacre (the other being in Washington, D.C.), and the Department of the Navy desires and intends to have airspace above and around St. Marys airport permanently restricted, effectively permanently closing the airport; and

WHEREAS critical items at the Submarine Base are stored in bunkers capable of withstanding small aircraft impact, and as stated in the Navy's own risk assessment, the Federal Aviation Administration's opinion is that, "no useful purpose" is served by limiting flight over nuclear strategic areas; and

WHEREAS airports are powerful tools for economic development supported by the State of Georgia, and St. Marys airport generates tax revenue, business opportunity, local services, and development potential for the area; and

WHEREAS Camden County had (until the restriction of airspace) a thriving and growing airport located in St. Marys, employing two full time employees and several part time employees with the potential to employ more, and the City of St. Marys Airport Authority has recently entered into a twenty-five year lease with a new fixed base operator (FBO) to provide aviation services resulting in a 400% increase in airport business; and

WHEREAS significant recent investment has been made to the airport, including hanger expansion and runway repaving at considerable expense to the State of Georgia and the FBO, and dire and immediate economic consequences are being experienced by the FBO due to the airspace restrictions, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Camden County Commissioners support resumption of unrestricted operations of the St. Marys airport, and if the airport cannot resume operations for legitimate security reasons, that the Federal Government sponsor and finance the relocation of the airport to another location in Camden County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if relocation is necessary, limited operations from St. Marys airport be allowed to continue until the effective transfer of operations can be completed, and that the Federal Government compensate all parties, both governmental and private, for losses incurred in this restriction of use, and effective taking of property, without due process including loss of tax revenue, loss of capital investment, and loss of business revenue.

Adopted in legal assembly this 26<sup>th</sup> day of September 2001.

Commissioner Becker stated that he would like to go on record that he agrees the St. Marys Airport should be compensated, but he can understand the Navy's concerns. The Airport is only 30 seconds away from the nuclear weapons facility, and a small plane could have explosives on board. There is no way to provide security.

### **3. Adjournment: (6:45 p.m.)**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen L. Berry  
Chairman

Nancy C. Weisensee  
Assistant County Administrator