

**CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2002, 6:00 P.M.
WOODBINE, GEORGIA
REGULAR MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING TO ADVERTISE MILLAGE
RATE FOR FY 03**

A regular meeting of the Camden County Board of Commissioners held on Tuesday, September 17, 2002, 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; Commissioners Kenneth G. Hase; and Preston Rhodes; County Attorney O. Brent Green; County Administrator Barrett T. King and . (Mr. Becker stepped down from his District #2 Commission Seat to run for a City of Kingsland Council Seat.)

Chairman Berry called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Rhodes delivered the invocation.

Chairman Berry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The roll call indicated all Commissioners present.

Mr. Berry announced that Mr. Becker qualified for the City Council of Kingsland and under the Georgia Constitution a person cannot qualify for an office and serve in an office, therefore, Mr. Becker has stepped down from his District #2 Commission Seat.

PUBLIC HEARING: Millage Rate Tax Year 2002

Mr. Berry convened the Public Hearing regarding the Tax Year 2002 Millage Rate at 6:02 p.m. There were no comments from the public.

Mr. Berry closed the Public Hearing at 6:04 p.m.

PRESENTATION: No Presentations

AGENDA AMENDMENTS:

Motion by Mr. Rhodes, seconded by Mr. Hase, and voted unanimously to amend the agenda as follows:

- Item B., Old Business, Set Tax Millage Rate
- Executive Session, Administrator's Evaluation.

WORK SESSION:

Georgia Forestry Commission: Annual Report for Camden County

Chief Ranger Danny Maddox started by thanking the Board for their continued support during Calendar Year 2002. He then briefed the Board on the following:

- County Unity Personnel;
- Unit Equipment;
- Forest Protection;
- Rural Fire Defense;
- Information and Education Activities;
- Reforestation; and
- Landowner Services Provided by Commission Forester.

Ranger Maddox introduced Management Forester John Crain. Mr. Crain stated he worked out of Waycross, Ga and was available to give forestry and forestry management advice to landowners. He also said he would be available to help landowners with timber management.

Chief Danny Daniels thanked the Georgia Forestry Commission for their outstanding job with the Urban Interface Risk Assessment and for their help with the county CAPE program.

Mr. Berry recommended appointing the winner of the general election, on November 7, 2002, to fill the vacant District #2 Commission Seat. He also stated he had contacted both Mr. E. B. Herrin and Ms. Katherine Nisi-Zell and asked them to get familiar with the current budget, as they will be setting the Millage rate the same evening one of them assumes the vacant seat. .

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Sandy Feller asked if there would be a town hall meeting, in the near future, to discuss the Durango closing. Mr. Berry advised Mr. Feller, he was going to invite the Durango management to discuss their closure in a public meeting within the next two weeks. Mr. Berry further stated that if Durango was not willing to discuss the closure, the Board would have the meeting without them being present.

Ms. Audrey Proctor reminded the Board that a Canadian company was interested in purchasing the Gilman Company when it was sold to Durango. She then asked the Board to contact the Canadian company to see if they were willing to come back and purchase the mill.

1. Approval of Minutes for September 3, 2002:

Motion by Mr. Rhodes, seconded by Mr. Hase, and voted unanimously to approve the minutes for September 3, 2002.

2. Reports:

Mr. King reviewed the Board Calendar for October 2002.

Mr. Rhodes advised the Board that the next RDC meeting will be held October 9, 2002 and requested that the RDC board meetings be included on the calendar.

Status of Appointments:

Mr. King advised the Board of the vacancy on the Forestry Board.

3. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Second reading of Ordinance to Amend the County Code to establish membership and terms of office for the Planning Commission

Motioned by Mr. Hase, seconded by Mr. Rhodes, and voted unanimously to waive the second reading of the ordinance to adopt, as presented, the County Code to establish membership and terms of office for the Planning Commission.

b. Set Tax Millage Rate

Mr. King made a presentation on how various Millage rates will affect the county's budget/cash flow during FY 03 and 04. Mr. King's data showed that if the Board passes a 14.77 Millage, as advertised, the county will be in debt by December 2002.

A general discussion, with varying points of view, ensued.

Motioned by Mr. Hase, seconded by Mr. Rainer, and voted to set the Millage rate at 14.77, as advertised.

So Voted 2 – 2, Motion Failed

Mr. Berry – Nay
Mr. Rhodes – Nay
Mr. Hase – Yea
Mr. Rainer – Yea

Motioned by Mr. Rhodes, seconded by Mr. Berry, and voted to advertise the Millage rate at 18.69.

So Voted 2 – 2, Motioned Failed

Mr. Berry – Yea
Mr. Rhodes – Yea
Mr. Hase – Nay
Mr. Rainer – Nay

A general discussion, with varying points of view, ensued with Mr. Rainer suggesting a compromise of 17 mills. Mr. Berry called for a general recess.

Mr. Berry reconvened the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

Motioned by Mr. Rainer, seconded by Mr. Hase, and voted unanimously to re-advertise the Millage rate at 17 mills.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Forestry Board Nominations

Motioned by Mr. Rhodes, seconded by Mr. Hase, and voted unanimously to provide the following names to the Georgia Forestry Board: (In order of Board Priority)

- Mr. John McCarthy
- Mr. John V. Phillipoff

b. Appeal of Planning Commission Business

Motioned by Mr. Hase, seconded by Mr. Rhodes, and voted unanimously to uphold the Planning Board's decision to refuse Mr. Gary Johns' variance.

c. Planning Commission Business

Motioned by Mr. Hase, seconded by Mr. Rainer, and voted unanimously to approve the following:

- Rezoning from A-F to A-R of 3 acres located on Vacuna Road for Ms. McErlain, Caren. The property is identified as Parcel 24 on Zoning/Tax Map 82.
- Rezoning from A-f to R-1 of 42.79 Acres located on Dover Bluff Road for Bluff Properties, Inc. The property is identified as a portion of Parcel 12 on Zoning/Tax Map 126.
- Special use permit for the outdoor display and sales of manufactured homes. The property is located at 482 Kenneth Gay Drive and is identified as a portion of Parcel 2 on Zoning/Tax Map 108.

d. Publication of Bids and Official acceptance for performance of property appraisal services

Motioned by Mr. Rhodes, seconded by Mr. Hase, and voted unanimously to reaffirm Norman and Associates as the company awarded the bid.

e. Road Department: Acceptance of Right-of-Way Deeds for Escott Road

Motioned by Mr. Rainer, seconded by Mr. Rhodes, and voted unanimously to approve the following Right-of-Ways:

- Ms. Patricia Peeples Hazouri, Parcel V-1, Escott Road
- Ms. Patricia Peeples Hazouri, Parcel Q-1, Escott Road
- Mr. Robert Hazouri and Ms. Patricia Peeples Hazouri, Parcels W-1 and W-2, Escott Road
- Ms. Patricia Peeples Hazouri, Parcel v-2, Escott Road
- Mr. Mikell R. Peeples, Parcel P-1, Escott Road
- Mr. Mikell R. Peeples, Parcel U-2, Escott Road
- Mr. Mikell R. Peeples, Parcel N-1, Escott Road
- Mr. Mikell R. Peeples, Parcel R-1, Escott Road
- Mr. William B. Peeples, Parcel BB, Escott Road
- Mr. William B. Peeples, Parcel S-1, Escott Road

f. Authorization to transfer sick-time between non-covered employees

Motioned by Mr. Hase, seconded by Mr. Rainer, and voted unanimously to deny the request to authorize the transfer of sick-time between non-covered employees.

g. SPLOST List Review

The Board decided to table this issue until January 2003, to enable the two upcoming Commissioners to have input.

h. Executive Session to Discuss Personnel Matters, Mr. King's Evaluation (7:50 p.m.) (To include elected officials and Mr. King only)

Motioned by Mr. Rhodes, seconded by Mr. Hase, and voted unanimously that this Board now enter 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 Mr. King's evaluation.

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 confirms that the actions of the Board in Closed Session were as required by law and approved by the County Attorney.

i. Reconvene: (8:13 p.m.)

Motioned by Mr. Rhodes, seconded by Mr. Hase, and voted unanimously to reconvene the meeting.

Chairman Berry signed the affidavit as required by O.C.G.A. Sec. 50-14-4(b). The original copy of the affidavit is on file in the County Clerks office, and a copy is attached to these minutes.

Chairman Berry announced that no action is necessary as a result of the executive session.

j. Recess: (8:13 p.m.)

Motion by Mr. Becker, seconded by Mr. Rhodes and voted unanimously to recess the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen L. Berry
Chairman

Bill Shanahan
Assistant County Administrator