

**CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2002, 5:00 P.M.  
WOODBINE, GEORGIA  
REGULAR MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING FOR SPEED LIMIT CHANGE  
FOR CLARKS BLUFF ROAD**

A regular meeting of the Camden County Board of Commissioners held on Tuesday, August 6, 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; Robert G. Becker; and Preston Rhodes; County Attorney O. Brent Green; County Administrator Barrett T. King and Assistant County Administrator Bill Shanahan.

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 the Board had received notification, from the ISO, of receiving a County-wide ISO rating of four (4) due to the success of the CAPE Program. Mr. Berry stated that as of August 1, 2002, any resident within 1,000 ft. of a dry hydrant had an ISO rating of four (4) and was entitled to an immediate insurance reduction. In addition, everyone else not within a 1,000 of a fire hydrant, but within five miles of a fire station, will have their ISO rating reduced to four (4) December 1, 2002. Mr. Berry recommended that residents contact their insurance companies and request they implement the four (4) rating immediately, rather than waiting until December 1, 2002.

**PUBLIC HEARING: (6:05 P.M.)**

Mr. Berry convened the Public Hearing regarding a proposed speed limit reduction for the whole of Clarks Bluff Road.

The proposed speed limit reduction (45 MPH to 35 MPH) of the whole of Clarks Bluff Road was put before the public. A general discussion ensued, with varying points of view as to the whether this reduction was practical. The public and Board discussed the following items: law (to include enforcement), safety, noise, sidewalks, incidents, and being proactive.

Mr. Berry stated the Board would be voting on this issue during the meeting and concluded the public hearing. (6:30 P.M.)

**PRESENTATION:** No Presentations

**AGENDA AMENDMENTS:**

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

- New Business, Item m, Tax Release Applications
- New Business, Item n, Purchase of Modular Office Space.
- New Business, Item o, Interest and Penalty Trigen-Biopower Inc. 2001 Taxes

**WORK SESSION:**

***Humane Shelter Agreement Terms of Contract:***

Mr. Green started the discussion by stating there was not a new agreement at this time and stating he would like to discuss the following:

- The possibility of the Humane Shelter conducting an audit, due to the county paying over 50% of their Humane Shelter's budget.
- The possibility of extending the termination of service for non-payment from 30 days to 90 days.
- The possibility of extending the 30-day notice of intent to cancel the contract to 90 days.

Mr. King advised the Board that the Humane Shelter is considered a Blended Component Unit due to the high percentage of their budget paid by the County. Based on this, the County Auditor will need to see all of their books or the County will be criticized during the next audit.

Ms. Julie Cooper, Humane Society President, stated the Humane Society did not oppose an audit if the county was willing to pay for it, as they do not have the funds. Ms. Cooper also stated that the Humane Society could not change the nonpayment from 30 to 90 days, as they could not afford to operate without the county funds. Ms. Cooper identified Mr. Ken Kriner, CPA, as the CPA for the Humane Society and informed the Board he would answer any questions they had. Mr. Kriner stated he was more than willing to present the Humane Society's Books to our auditor.

A general discussion of the Humane Society's budget ensued with Ms. Cooper and Mr. Kriner describing the budget process in detail. They informed the Board that if the amount of funds provided to the Society was reduced, they would have no option but to reduce the amount of animals they accepted from the County or close down. Ms. Cooper stated the number of animals they receive from the County has dramatically increased forcing them to increase costs. Ms. Cooper said without county funds, they absolutely could not survive. However, refuses to allow the county to take over the running of the facility, stating that as long as the County pays its bill they will not go out of business.

***Budget Workshop:***

Mr. King presented an overview of the Camden County FY 03 proposed budget to include the General Fund, Curbside Collection, Solid Waste Fund, Special 1% (#4) Improvements Fund, Unincorporated Tax District Fund, Millage Factors, Proposed Millage Rate, and a Revenue Shortage. A general discussion ensued with varying points of view on both the total amount of the budget and how to fund it. The following issues were discussed:

- Increasing Millage Rate;
- Reducing Services; (Public Safety and Roads)
- Reducing Employees and/or Equipment;
- Long Term Budget Planning; (\$1,000,000 next Fiscal Year)
- Reducing Budget; (Implementing new budget hearings)
- Reducing the fund balance; (Contingency)
- Hiring Freeze (Cannot fill vacant positions without the consent of the Board.)
- Medical Expenses;
- Tax Collection; and
- Tax Digest Increase.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mr. Sanford Feller stated if the Board had followed his advice and appointed a citizen advisory committee for the budget, they would not be at the point of indecision that they are now. Mr. Feller wanted to know why the Board could not reduce the amount of money budgeted to the Constitutional Officers. He also stated he was opposed to the SPLOST signs, Fire Station #12 renovation, old Court House renovation, Woodbine School renovation, and paying \$10,000,000 for the Landfill (including interest). Mr. Feller concluded by stating that he felt the Board was not honest or sincere with their SPLOST efforts.

Ms. Lisa Boyett wanted to know how the Board planned to continue with the CAPE Program and operate the new stations if staff was reduced. She stated that staff has already given so much of themselves for the county (CAPE, Reduction of Employees, Merit Pay, Cola, and County Days) and if you keep taking, how do you expect to keep employees. Ms. Boyett also said she would rather pay a tax increase over two years, than all at once at the end of the two years. Ms. Boyett finished by requesting the Board to please think of the employees, who are a part of the community, when making their decisions.

Mr. Mark Crews stated the fire department had been challenged by the Board to reduce the ISO ratings for the county. The fire department, as a whole, stepped up to the plate and accomplished the tasking. The staff actually did better than was requested and in return, they lost their Cola. Now, if you reduce our services, we will lose the ISO rating. All the cost, both money and man-hours, will be for nothing. Mr. Crews finished by asking the Board to please leave in place what they have worked for.

Mr. Barry King stated that the 16.5 mills represent approximately \$68 annually for a \$100,000 house. He then gave an overview of the Millage rate since 1997, which is as follows:

<i>Millage Rate</i>	
<i>Date</i>	<i>Millage</i>
<i>1997</i>	17.16
<i>1998</i>	16.96
<i>1999</i>	13.87
<i>2000</i>	13.82
<i>2001</i>	14.77

Mr. King informed the Board that in the unincorporated district, in 2001, the Millage went from 14.67 to 17.99 with the purpose of funding the CAPE Program and PSA cost. He also requested that if the Board decides to dip into the fund balance, that they change the Board policy of keeping three months of available operating funds. Mr. King advised the Board that in order to present a budget, he needs consistency in their decisions.

Elaine Porski wanted to know if the Board had considered catastrophic insurance.

**1. Approval of Minutes for July 23, 2002:**

Motion by Mr. Becker, seconded by Mr. Hase, and voted unanimously to approve the minutes for July 23, 2002.

**2. Reports:**

Mr. King reviewed the Board Calendar for August and September.

Status of Appointments:

Mr. King reminded the Board of the following appointments:

- Coastal Workforce Investment Board ( Two Nominations)

**3. OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. Humane Society Shelter Agreement

Motioned by Mr. Becker, seconded by Mr. Rainer, and voted unanimously to approve the agreement between the Humane Society Shelter and Camden County, dated 08/06/02 with the following amendment: Change sentence in Paragraph 7 k) starting: “A 30-day notice of intent” to read, “A 90-day notice of intent to cancel the contract may be given and this contract may then be cancelled by either the Humane Society or the Entity, at their option.

**4. NEW BUSINESS:**

**a. Local Option Sales Tax Distribution Agreement**

Motioned by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Rhodes, and voted unanimously to approve the Local Option Sales Tax Distribution Agreement between Camden County and the City of St. Marys. The agreement includes a proposed 50/50 L.O.S.T. distribution formula between the county and municipalities for the next three years. This also approves the creation of a committee to evaluate the formula.

**b. Authorization to Advertise Budget and 5-Year History of Tax Levy**

Motioned by Mr. Hase, seconded by Mr. Becker, and voted to advertise the budget as presented with the contingency that the Board goes back into the budgeting process with the goal of reducing the overall expenditure by \$2,000,000. Motion to question debate brought forward by Mr. Becker.

Motioned by Mr. Becker, seconded by Mr. Rhodes, and voted to question the above debate. The motion failed.

**So Voted 3 – 2 in the Negative**

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

Motioned by Mr. Hase, seconded by Mr. Becker, and voted to advertise the budget as presented with the contingency that the Board goes back into the budgeting process with the goal of reducing the overall expenditure by \$2,000,000. The motion failed.

**So Voted 4 – 1 in the Negative**

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

Motioned by Mr. Rainer, seconded by Mr. Becker, and voted to advertise the budget with the same rate of Millage (14.77) and use the contingency in the fund balance to balance the budget as set. The motion failed.

**So Voted 4 – 1 in the Negative**

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

Motioned by Mr. Rhodes, seconded by Mr. Berry, and voted to advertise the budget as presented. The motion failed.

**So Voted 3 – 2 in the Negative**

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

Motioned by Mr. Rainer, seconded by Mr. Becker, and voted to advertise the budget with a one-mill tax increase (15.77) and use \$570,000 from the fund balance. The motion failed.

**So Voted 4 – 1 in the Negative**

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

Motioned by Mr. Rhodes, seconded by Mr. Berry, and voted to advertise the proposed budget with the tax increase of 1.77 mills as presented. The motion failed.

**So Voted 3 – 2 in the Negative**

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

Motioned by Mr. Hase, seconded by Mr. Becker, and voted to advertise the budget as presented with the contingency that the Board goes back into the budgeting process with the goal of reducing the overall expenditure by 5%. The motion failed.

**So Voted 4 – 1 in the Negative**

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

c. Motioned by Mr. Becker, seconded by Mr. Hase, and voted to table the Authorization to Advertise Budget and 5-Year History of Tax Levy until the August 21, 2002 Commissioners Meeting.

**So Voted 3 – 2**

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

**d. Return to Work Policy**

Motioned by Mr. Hase, seconded by Mr. Becker, and voted unanimously to approve the return to work policy as written by the Human Resources Director.

**e. Road Department:**

Motioned by Mr. Rainer, seconded by Mr. Becker, and voted unanimously to accept the following actions:

- Right-of-Way deeds in the name of Howard A. Horne located on Temple Church Road. (Privett and Associates survey drawing No. b-2-1343-6-02, recorded in the Clerk of Courts Office.)
- Right-of-Way deeds in the name of Larry and Susan Clark located on Escott Road. (Map: 83, Parcel Number: 42-J, Acres .09, District 1606 GMD)
- Right-of-Way deeds in the name of Larry and Susan Clark located on Escott Road. (Map: 83, Parcel Number: 42-J, Acres .01, District 1606 GMD)
- Accept the offer made by Mrs. Esta Navara for \$1,200.00 in return for her portion of the Escott Road Right-of-Way.

Motioned by Mr. Rhodes, seconded by Mr. Becker, and voted unanimously to authorize the expenditure of the survey conditioned on the Board receiving a declaration of intent from all property owners along the right-of-way for Chaney Road.

**f. Planning and Zoning Business**

Motioned by Mr. Rhodes, seconded by Mr. Becker, and voted unanimously to approve the following actions:

- Rezone from A-F (Agriculture-Forestry) to A-R (Agriculture-Residential) of 1.75 acres located at the intersection of Vacunna Road and Pond Lake. The property is identified as a portion of Parcel 30 on Zoning/Tax Map 70.
- Rezone from A-F (Agriculture-Forestry) to A-R (Agriculture-Residential) of 200 acres +/- located on Laurel Island and Laurel Bluff. The property is identified as a portion of Parcel 2 on Zoning/Tax Map 133
- Final plat approval for Misty Harbor, Phase V. Thirty-one (31) lots identified as a portion of Parcel 25 on Zoning/Tax Map 118.
- Permission to construct a 330-foot self-support communication tower south of Waverly. With the following stipulations:
  - No flashing strobe lights at night;
  - Negotiate with the County for a location on the tower; and
  - Submit new building plans that meet the 120 mph wind requirement.

The property is identified as a portion of Parcel 1A1 on Zoning/Tax Map 62.

**g. Woodbine Animal Control Agreement**

Motioned by Mr. Becker, seconded by Mr. Rainer, and voted unanimously to approve the Animal Control Agreement between Camden County and the City of Woodbine.

**h. Proclamation honoring Capt. Walter H. Yourstone**

Motioned by Mr. Becker, seconded by Mr. Rhodes, and voted unanimously to name Captain Walter H. Yourstone as an honorary lifelong citizen of Camden County.

**i. Acceptance of Bid for \$58,395 from Emery Winslow Scale Company for new scales for Camden County Landfill.**

Motion by Mr. Rhodes, seconded by Mr. Becker, and voted unanimously to approve the purchase Industrial Landfill site scales at a cost of \$58,395.00.

**j. Forgiveness of county's portion of taxes due on property purchased by Camden County at Dutch Mill**

Motioned by Mr. Rhodes, seconded by Mr. Rainer, and voted unanimously to approve to forgive the unpaid balances on the following properties owned by Camden County:

- Parcel One – Cool Enterprises 1998 bill #3712, Balance Due: \$9,594.97
- Parcel Two – Jessee A. & Barbara Eason 2001 bill #5591, Balance Due: \$1,057.00

**k. Appointments**

Motion by Mr. Rhodes, seconded by Mr. Becker, and voted unanimously to reappoint Dr. Bryan Warren to the Georgia Department of Human Resources Division of Mental Health/Development Disabilities/Addictive Diseases Board.

Motion by Mr. Rhodes, seconded by Mr. Becker, and voted unanimously to reappoint Ms. Virginia Proctor, Mr. David Rainer, and Ms Lynda Nugent to the Library Board.

**l. Resolution to establish speed limit on Clark Bluffs Road**

Motion by Mr. Rainer, seconded by Mr. Hase, and voted unanimously to reduce the speed limit on Clark Bluffs Road, from the City of Kingsland to 100 yards past the caution light, from 45 MPH to 35 MPH.

**m. Reschedule regular meeting of August 20, 2002, to Wednesday, August 21, 2002**

Motioned by Mr. Rhodes, seconded by Mr. Becker, and voted unanimously to approve moving the August 20, 2002 Commissioners Meeting to August 21, 2002.

**n. Purchase of Modular Office Space**

Motioned by Mr. Rainer, seconded by Mr. Rhodes, and voted unanimously to approve the tax release applications as provided by the Tax Assessors' Office.

**o. Interest and Penalty Trigen-Biopower Inc. 2001 Taxes**

Motion by Mr. Becker, seconded by Mr. Rainer and voted to approve the Tax Commissioner recommendation to collect \$4,839.78 from Trigen-Biopower Inc. 2001 Taxes. Mr. Hase abstained from the vote.

**p. Recess: (9:35 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