

**CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 15TH, 2003, 6:00 P.M.
WOODBINE, GEORGIA**

A regular meeting of the Camden County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, April 15th, 2003, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room at the Courthouse in Woodbine, Georgia

Present: Commissioner Stephen L. Berry, Commissioner Sanford S. Feller, Commissioner E. B. Herrin, Jr., Commissioner David L. Rainer, Commissioner Preston Rhodes, County Attorney O. Brent Green and Interim County Administrator Penny Woodard.

Commissioner Rainer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
Reverend Michael Johnson delivered the invocation
Commissioner Rainer led the Pledge of Allegiance
The roll call indicated all Commissioners were present.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS:

Motion by Mr. Feller to add Purchasing and Re-organization to the agenda

Motion denied

Motion by Mr. Rainer to delete item g (Request for transfer of \$4,000 from contingency) from the agenda, seconded by Mr. Rhodes

Motion by Mr. Rhodes, seconded by Mr. Herrin and voted unanimously to adopt the agenda

PUBLIC HEARING: None

PRESENTATION: None

WORK SESSION: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Mr. George Scott approached the board about the status of the Citizens Advisory Committee on the Budget. Mr. Scott stated that the committee is working on the Road Department, Employee Benefits, and will begin working on Curbside/Solid Waste next week. Commissioner Herrin told Mr. Scott that he understood the committee to only review budgetary information and he did not see it necessary to review some of the other areas. Commissioner Rainer agreed with Commissioner Herrin regarding the committee. Commissioner Rainer stated the resolution only allows the committee to review budgetary information and the only contact should be Mrs. Woodard, Interim County Administrator. Commissioner Berry stated that he felt the committee would need to review the policy in order to be effective in their process.

- Mr. Robert Becker of Kingsland, Georgia, addressed Commissioner Feller only, and stated he wanted to know what was going on. He further stated he read the paper and it appears that the commissioners are violating the Sunshine Law regarding executive session. He also stated that four individuals that are doing their jobs are looking to be terminated and that staff implemented reorganization prior to the board meeting.
- Lannie Brant, Solid Waste Director, approached the board on a much lighter note to challenge everyone to be a part of Greater American Clean-Up. The Keep Camden Clean is being hosted with the City of Kingsland on April 26th, 2003 at Howard Peoples Park in Kingsland, Georgia. Mr. Brant stated that Mayor Kenneth Smith would participate and that he had a host of vendors. The clean-up will begin at 9:00 am and end at 2:00 pm with a cook-out to follow.

Approval of Minutes for April 1st, 2003 Regular Commission Meeting

Motion by Mr. Feller, seconded by Mr. Rhodes, and voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the Regular April 1st, 2003 Commissioner meeting, as amended by the Clerk.

1. Reports:

Mrs. Woodard reviewed the April and May calendars. Also, gave the status of appointment for the Georgia Forestry Board. Mrs. Woodard stated that Mr. Burwell Russell term expires on June 30th, 2003 and the board is supposed to provide two (2) nominations to the Georgia Forestry. She also stated that Mr. Russell would like to continue serving. Mrs. Woodard also stated that she and the staff had met in regards to the budget. She said her and the staff would be prepared to give budget recommendations on April 28th, 2003. The Commissioners agreed to have a budget work session May 1st, 2003 at the County Annex at 5:30 p.m. Commissioners would only be reviewing the recommendations and would get with the Department Heads at a later date to discuss individual department budget items.

2. Old Business: None

3. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Georgia Forestry Board nomination

Motion by Mr. Rhodes, seconded by Mr. Herrin, and voted unanimously to re-appoint Mr. Burwell Russell to the Georgia Forestry Board.

b. Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Woodbine on Elections

Motion by Mr. Rhodes, seconded by Mr. Herrin, and voted unanimously to approve Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Woodbine.

c. Tax Refunds

Mr. Green requested to have all tax refunds tabled until the May 6th, 2003 Commission meeting. Motion by Mr. Rainer, seconded by Mr. Rhodes, and voted unanimously to table the tax refunds.

d. Bid, Seaboard Construction for Dover Bluff Road Re-construction Project

Motion by Mr. Rhodes, seconded by Mr. Herrin, and voted unanimously to award Seaboard Construction to re-construct Dover Bluff Road.

e. Acceptance of Right-of-Way for Ferrow Crossing Road

Motion by Mr. Rhodes, seconded by Mr. Herrin, and so voted to accept the Quit claim deed to Ferrow Crossing Road from Oscar P. Middleton. This deed consists of 2.12 acres, and was in the past maintained by the County.

So Voted 4-1

Mr. Berry – yea
Mr. Feller – nay
Mr. Herrin – yea
Mr. Rainer – yea
Mr. Rhodes – yea

The motion carried.

Acceptance of Right-of-Way for Bradham Road

Motion by Mr. Rhodes, seconded by Mr. Herrin, and so voted to accept the Quit claim deed to Bradham Road from Lavonne Bradham. This deed consist of 1.04 acres, and was in the past maintained by the County.

So Voted 4-1

Mr. Berry – yea
Mr. Feller – nay
Mr. Herrin – yea
Mr. Rainer – yea
Mr. Rhodes – yea

The motion carried.

f. Acceptance of Property Lease Agreement with the City of Woodbine

Motion by Mr. Rhodes, seconded by Herrin, and so voted to accept the property lease agreement with the City of Woodbine-Donald Mitchell Public Safety Building.

So Voted 3 -2

Mr. Berry – nay
Mr. Feller – nay
Mr. Herrin – yea
Mr. Rainer – yea

Mr. Rhodes – yea

The motion carried.

h. Adjourn into Executive Session to discuss, Personnel

Motion by Mr. Rhodes, seconded by Mr. Herrin. Commissioner Steve Berry and Commissioner Feller was opposed but after much discussion , so voted 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 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 Commissioner’s Meeting Room that this Board is back in session.

That upon coming back into open session that this body ratify the consensus taken in 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 the actions of the Board in closed session were as required by law and approved by the County Attorney.

So Voted 3-2

Mr. Berry – Nay

Mr. Feller- Nay

Mr. Herrin – yea

Mr. Rainer – yea

Mr. Rhodes – yea

The motion carried.

4. Reconvene:

Motion to rescind executive session by Mr. Rhodes, seconded by Mr. Herrin, voted unanimously to reconvene. Mr. Green introduced Mr. Adam Poppell, the attorney for Mr. & Mrs. Etheridge. Mr. Green stated that a temporary agreement has been worked out. Mr. Etheridge will be reinstated as the Planning and Zoning Director and Mrs. Etheridge will go to the 4-H which we have discussed before, she will go to that position with her current salary less the clerks pay which is \$5,800. Mr. Green stated that we would provide the information to Mr. Berry to see what statements there are because Mr. Berry is not up to speed on the information. Mr. Poppell would be provided the statements. The Etheridges will be reinstated with their pay. Mr. Adam Poppell stated that he just doing his job and this is nothing against the commission, but, he would like to caution the commission that Mrs. Etheridge considers the actions taken against her to be adverse and disciplinary in nature and they would seek compensation in remedy.

Mr. Green requested the board to approve the temporary agreement. Mr. Berry stated that the discussion to transfer Mrs. Etheridge was prior to this meeting. Mr. Berry stated that we don't have anyone for Mrs. Etheridge to be a secretary too; therefore he suggested having Mrs. Etheridge go to the 4-H program with her same salary until such time an Administrator can be hired. Mrs. Etheridge would lose the clerks supplement.

Mr. Feller stated that former Assistant County Administrator Bill Shanahan stated that Mr. Feller should take care of Denise because they are after her. Staff members are out to get her.

Motion to return Mr. Frank Etheridge to the Planning & Building Department as Zoning Director and transfer Mrs. Denise Etheridge to the 4-H Program Assistant with base salary minus the clerk supplement. Motion made by Commissioner Steve Berry and seconded by Mr. Rainer, and voted unanimously.

Motion amended by Mr. Berry to accept Mr. Green's recommendation and to discontinue any further investigation concerning Mr. & Mrs. Etheridge, seconded by Mr. Feller, and voted unanimously.

Motion by Mr. Herrin seconded by Mr. Rhodes, to allow the Interim County Administrator the authority to hire and fire without consulting the commission, and voted unanimously.

Ms. Constance (Connie) Smith stated that she does not receive any extra pay for temporarily performing the duties as clerk and she does not wish to receive any extra pay.

5. Adjournment:

Motion by Mr. Rhodes, seconded by Mr. Herrin, and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Rainer
Chairman

Clerk