

**CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
TUESDAY JUNE 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2003, 6:00 P.M.  
WOODBINE, GEORGIA**

A regular meeting of the Camden County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room at the Courthouse in Woodbine, Georgia.

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

Chairman David L. Rainer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.  
Commissioner Preston Rhodes delivered the Invocation  
Chairman Rainer led the Pledge of Allegiance  
The roll call indicated all Commissioners were present

**AGENDA AMENDMENTS**

Add Item m. Resolution Condemnation that needs to be revised  
Add Item n. Library Board Appointment  
Add Item o. Adjourn

**Motion to Amend Agenda**

Motion made by Commissioner Rhodes, seconded by Commissioner Feller and voted unanimously to add two items to the agenda.

**The motion carried 5-0**

**Motion to Adopt the Amended Agenda**

Motion made by Commissioner Feller, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes and voted unanimously to adopt the amended agenda

**The motion carried 5-0**

**PRESENTATION:**

George Scott, with the Citizen Advisory Committee addressed the Board of Commissioners and gave them a summary on the county's 2004 Budget. Mr. Scott stated the areas of focus are Health Care, Employee Benefits, Roads & Bridges, Solid Waste, Curbside Collection, Financial Support, Computer Support and Purchasing. Mr. Scott said he wanted to put into perspective as to where a lot the growth has been in some of the departments such as General Government, Public Safety, Public Works in total spending back in 1992 total spending of 8 million dollars, 1998 15 million and 2003 the best estimate was 19.3 million dollars so in that 11 year period a spending of 142 % in the last five years spending was up 28%. For the year 2004 General Government and Public Safety represents  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the budget. The biggest areas of growth are Administrative Support, Tax Assessors, Superior Court and EMS. Comparing the 2002 budget to the

2004 budget, the 2004 budget is about 3.7 million above the 2002 budget. The largest spending areas are Employee Health almost 1 million dollars, Administrative Support 317,000 EMS 452, 000 and Superior Court. Mr. Scott's main area of focus was on Health Care cost. Mr. Scott said the county needs to look at ways to keep the health care cost down for example if the employees spouse has insurance then Mr. Scott made a suggestion that the spouse could be dropped from the county's health insurance plan and this could save the county money.

- Agnus Tillerson of St. Marys Georgia addressed the Commission about the proposed budget. Ms. Tillerson said she opposes any increase in the county budget. She had many concerns about the budget. Ms. Tillerson wanted to know why the 4 million dollars from the 02 budget had been carried over to the 04 budget. Ms. Tillerson wanted to know who pays for the Employee Health Fair that is held every year, and does the county employees get to take a day off or is this day off taken from county leave and Ms. Tillerson said if the Health Fair is open to the public then why not have the Health Fair on a Saturday so that all citizens can attend. Ms. Tillerson questioned the amount of money to be spent on county roads
- Denise Taylor addressed the Commission about the 70,000.00 dollars that would be spent on a soccer field to be built in the south end of the county. Ms Taylor wanted to know why not use some of that money and build a soccer field at the north end of the county. Ms. Taylor said the children at the North end of the county have no way of being transported to the South end to play soccer. Commissioner Rhodes said the new soccer center was not built verses the north or the south end of the county. The property of 13.2 acres was donated to the county to build the soccer center and the county would use SPLOST funds to build the soccer center.
- Adam Branden of Kingsland Georgia and an employee with Camden Fire Rescue addressed the Commission about the Health Benefit plan the county offers. Mr. Branden said besides enjoying his work with Camden Fire Rescue, the Health Benefit Plan Camden County offers to its employees is one of the main reasons why he has not left the area for other employment.
- Hal Wright of St. Marys Georgia addressed the Commission about the increase in taxes and stated that the Tax Assessors have a lot to do with the increase in taxes because the Tax Assessors control the tax digest.

#### **Approval of Minutes: June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2003 Regular Commission Meeting**

Motion made by Commissioner Rhodes, seconded by Commissioner Feller and voted unanimously to approve the June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2003 minutes.

**The motion carried 5-0**

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **a 1. Resolution to Amend the 2003 Budget**

Motion made by Commissioner Feller, seconded by Commissioner Herrin and voted 4 to 1

**The motion carried**

**Commissioner Rainer-Yea**  
**Commissioner Herrin-Yea**  
**Commissioner Rhodes-Yea**  
**Commissioner Feller-Yea**  
**Commissioner Berry-Nay**

**a 2. Resolution to Adopt the 2004 Budget**

**Motion to table the adoption of the budget**

Motion made by Commissioner Berry, seconded by Commissioner Feller

**The motion died**

**Motion to adopt the 2004 budget**

Motion made by Commissioner Rhodes, seconded by Commissioner Herrin

**The motion carried 3 to 2**

**Commissioner Rainer-Yea**  
**Commissioner Herrin-Yea**  
**Commissioner Rhodes-Yea**  
**Commissioner Berry-Nay**  
**Commissioner Feller-Nay**

**b. Appointment Gateway Community Service Board**

Appointment tabled until another meeting due to lack of nomination

**c. Hotel/Motel Tax**

Motion made by Commissioner Berry, seconded by Commissioner Feller and voted unanimously to accept the contract with the St. Marys Tourism Authority with the county's \$ 20,000.00 to be spent on advertising according to Georgia Law

**The motion carried**

**d. Tax Digest Update**

Tax Assessor Doug Miles addressed the Commission on the Tax Digest. Mr. Miles said he has mailed out 11,000 assessment notices. The deadline to appeal is June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2003.

**e. Greenspace Land Purchase**

County Attorney addressed the Commission and stated he is working on the contract for the purchase of 26.3 acres that was chosen as greenspace property. The timeline to spend the grant money for greenspace is June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2003 and the governor has granted an extension.

Motion to accept the Greenspace Land Purchase

Motion made by Commissioner Feller, seconded by Commissioner Herrin and voted unanimously to accept the purchase as long as Mr. Warren grants a sixty or eighty foot right-of-way

**The motion carried 5-0**

**f. Environmental Indemnity Agreement (C&D) Site**

Motion made by Commissioner Rhodes, seconded by Commissioner Herrin and voted unanimously to accept the agreement.

**The motion carried 5-0**

**g. Cornell Corrections D Ray James Prison Agreement**

Motion made by Commissioner Rhodes, seconded by Commissioner Herrin and voted unanimously to accept the agreement.

**The motion carried 5-0**

**h. Resolutions**

**1. SR 40 Widening Project**

Motion made by Commissioner Rhodes, seconded by Commissioner Herrin and voted unanimously to accept the resolution

**The motion carried 5-0**

**2. I-95/Horsestamp Church Road Interchange**

Motion made by Commissioner Rhodes, seconded by Commissioner Herrin and voted unanimously to accept the resolution

**The motion carried 5-0**

**i. Road Department Business**

**1. Approval of Bid Escott Road**

Motion made by Commissioner Rhodes, seconded by Commissioner Herrin and voted unanimously to approve Plant Improvement Company Inc. DBA Seaboard as the low bidder for the Escott Road Improvement Project.

**The motion carried 5-0**

**2. Approval of P & A Engineering Inc. for Stormwater Monitoring on Escott Road**

Motion made by Commissioner Rhodes, seconded by Commissioner Herrin and voted unanimously to approve P & A Engineering Inc. for stormwater monitoring on Escott Rd.

**The motion carried 5-0**

**3. Acceptance of right-of-way deed to Flossie Lane from Alvin Glover**

Motion by Commissioner Rhodes, seconded by Commissioner Herrin and voted

**4 to 1**

**The motion carried**

**Commissioner Rainer-Yea**

**Commissioner Herrin-Yea**

**Commissioner Rhodes-Yea**

**Commissioner Berry-Yea**

**Commissioner Feller-Nay**

**j. Planning Commission Business**

Motion made by Commissioner Rhodes, seconded by Commissioner Herrin and voted

**4 to 1**

**The motion carried**

**Commissioner Rainer-Yea**

**Commissioner Herrin-Yea**

**Commissioner Berry-Yea**

**Commissioner Rhodes-Yea**

**Commissioner Feller-Nay**

**k. Tax Release Application**

Motion made by Commissioner Herrin, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes and voted unanimously to approve the tax release applications

**The motion carried 5-0**

**l. Approval of Bid for Voice & Data Wiring for the New Courthouse**

Motion made by Commissioner Herrin, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes and voted unanimously to approve Network Service Consultants Inc. as the low bidder to do the voice and data wiring for the new courthouse

**The motion carried 5-0**

**m. Condemnation Resolution**

Motion made by Commissioner Feller, seconded by Commissioner Herrin and voted unanimously to approve the condemnation resolution

**The motion carried 5-0**

**n. Library Board Appointment to fill vacant seat**

Motion made by Commissioner Berry, seconded by Commissioner Herrin and voted unanimously to appoint Wendy Steele to fill the vacancy on the library board of trustees.

**The motion carried 5-0**

**o. Adjourn**

Motion made by Commissioner Feller, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes and voted unanimously to adjourn

Respectfully Submitted

David L. Rainer  
Chairman

Constance E. Smith  
Clerk