

**CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
TUESDAY JULY 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2003 6:00 P.M.  
WOODBINE, GEORGIA**

**A regular meeting of the Camden County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday July 15<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 Sanford S. Feller, Commissioner Stephen L. Berry, Commissioner Preston Rhodes, County Manager Charles D. Akridge and County Attorney Brent Green**

**Chairman Rainer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.  
Reverend Tommy Sikes delivered the Invocation  
Chairman Rainer led the Pledge of Allegiance  
The roll call indicated all Commissioners were Present**

**AGENDA AMENDMENTS**

**Chairman Rainer proposed to add County Managers' Report under Reports**  
Motion made Commissioner Feller, seconded by Commissioner Herrin and voted unanimously to amend the agenda

**Motion to adopt the amended agenda**

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

**PRESENTATION:**

Mr. Jim Heath with Coastal Georgia Transportation addressed the Board and stated that Coastal Georgia Transportation, is a non emergency, non profit transportation provider for Camden County. Mr. Heath said he wanted to offer a proposal to the Commissioners for the Georgia Department of Transportation 5311 Grant, a private grant with community participation. Coastal Georgia Transportation can be funded through the 5311 grant, through private grants, public support and non profit organizations. The 5311 grant can only be given to counties and cities. 90 % of the start up cost is paid through the 5311 grant. The State of Georgia pays 90 % and 10 % comes from local matches. The local matches could be Camden County government or it can come from other agencies. Mr. Heath said there are two methods that the operation of transportation can be done through. One, it can be county supported, county ran, the county initiates the grant by applying for the grant and every five years they get new equipment or every 100 miles on their equipment. The second method can be a third party operator such as Coastal Georgia Transportation. Mr. Heath said the total unfunded for the program for the 1<sup>st</sup> year is \$12,250.00, which would be paid by Camden County. Commissioner Berry asked who pays the shortfall and Mr. Charlie Strickland said ultimately the county would pay the shortfall. Commissioner Rainer asked can the program be terminated if there are shortfalls. The county could withdraw from the program within 60 days but would lose the 10% match that was given toward the program. Commissioner Feller suggested to the Board that a sub-committee be made up of two Commission Board members who could meet with the Coastal Transportation representatives privately to explore all the different

avenues of the program Coastal Transportation was offering to the Commission. Mr. Jim Heath said the timetable for the Commission to decide whether or not they wanted to participate in the program is by October 2003. Mr. Heath said as far as the funding part of the program that would be July 2004. Ms. Celenda Perry who works with Family Connection addressed the board and stated that the County Commission could write the contract so that the County Commission would not be liable for paying any amount of money towards any shortfall. The Commissioners suggested that Coastal Transportation find out if they could get the \$12,250.00 startup from other sources such as private agencies and then report back to the Commission.

#### **TAX DIGEST UPDATE:**

Tax Appraiser Doug Miles addressed the Commission about the digest update. Mr. Miles said the Tax Assessors office has submitted the Tax Digest to the Tax Commissioners office. It was 40 % of the digest for real and personal property for this year of 828 million, 981 thousand dollars. Mr. Miles said there is one small issue the Assessors office is currently working on to rectify a small inconsistency between the Tax Assessors numbers and the Digest Providers' numbers. Mr. Miles said there is a 1 million dollar difference. Commissioner Berry asked Mr. Miles if that is what is holding up the Tax Commissioner's certification. Mr. Miles said no. He said he has worked with the Tax Assessors office since 1986 and the Assessors figures and the Tax Commissioners figures have never matched. Mr. Miles said he has heard that the Tax Commissioner will not certify the Digest. He said that the software technician for the state is working to resolve the problem. The Commission decided to have Mr. Miles come back before the Board either the second meeting in August or the first meeting in September of 2003 to discuss the digest.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- George Scott addressed the Commission about changing the agenda format so the citizens who attend the meetings could address the Commission during the meetings and after the meetings. Commissioner Rainer said he would be opposed to have public comments made during a meeting. Commissioner Berry said that the City of St. Marys has two sessions on their agenda where the public can address the council at the beginning of the meeting and at the end of the meeting. Commissioner Feller said he thought the St. Marys format would work for the County Commission but that he did agree with Commissioner Rainer that he would not want public comments being made during the Commission meeting. Commissioner Herrin said the agenda format works well the way it is now. Mr. Herrin said he would not want the meeting interrupted in the middle of a meeting by public comments and he does not want public comments made at the end of the meeting. Commissioner Rhodes said he likes the agenda format the way it is now with public comments being made only before the meeting starts. Commissioner Berry asked the County Manager Mr. Akridge to address the agenda format at the next meeting.

- Diane McCoy addressed the Commission about the agenda format and suggested a five minute time limit for the citizens to speak. Ms. McCoy also stated two public comment sessions at the meeting would be nice because this is the only way for the citizens to address the board other than writing a letter to the editor.

- Jim Keating addressed the Commission and asked how many volunteer Rescue Workers would be covered under the resolution that was passed at the July 8, 2003

meeting. The Commission said that there was not any limit set on how many. Mr. Keating asked what the cost would be for these volunteer workers to fall under the resolution concerning workers compensation. Commissioner Feller asked the County Manager to look into the matter from an insurance point of view. Mr. Keating asked the Commission how much money was in the contingency fund. The Commission said \$300,000.00. Mr. Keating also asked if there was an expenditure report for review. The County Manager said everything the county does is for public review and financial reports are done each month that shows expenditures and every line item.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2003**

Motion made by Commissioner Rhodes, seconded by Commissioner Feller and voted unanimously to approve the minutes of July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2003.

**REPORTS:**

The July/August 2003 calendar was read  
Board Appointment under New Business

**County Managers Reports:**

Mr. Akridge announced to the board that the county would be having a surplus property sale on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2003 at 9:00 a.m. to be held at the Solid Waste Department. The auction would be held due to the fact the Facility Management office needed to be cleaned out in order to become our records retention center and to gain extra revenue on items that the Commission has already declared surplus.

Mr. Akridge then asked EMS Director Chief Daniels to address the Commission with an important announcement. Chief Daniels said on Thursday July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2003 Senator Zell Miller and Saxby Chambliss' office had called his office to announce the Camden County Fire Rescue Volunteer Fire Program had been awarded a 42 thousand dollar direct federal assistance grant to enhance fire protection in Camden County. Camden was 1 of 131 departments' nationwide to be chosen in this round of grants. 672 other departments have already received their grant awards. Fire Rescue applied for this grant through the US Fire Administration, which is a division of FEMA, for fire turnout gear, wildland protective gear communications equipment, computer equipment and fire training aids. The original application was to supplement the restructured Camden County Volunteer Fire Program. Camden Fire Rescue has applied for an additional 136 thousand dollar grant. The second grant will hopefully be awarded prior to the September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2003 deadline.

**OLD BUSINESS: NONE**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Motion to Appoint Mr. Henry Williams Sr. to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

Motion made by Commissioner Feller, seconded by Commissioner Herrin and voted unanimously to reappoint Mr. Henry Williams to serve another three year term.

**Discussion: Flea Hill Water System billing (\$22.00 month)**

Mr. Akridge addressed the Commission about the mandate to operate the Flea Hill Water System and because it is a service to the residents of the Flea Hill Community the county will begin billing those residents effective immediately with the Boards approval. The

bills will be sent out quarterly the first bill will be for half of the month of service the residents have already received with that amount to be set at \$33.00 and \$22.00 each month there after.

**Discussion: US Geological Well Monitoring Proposal**

Mr. Akridge addressed the Commission about the wells that have already been installed at the Waverly Fire Station for well monitoring for measuring water quantity and water quality. Mr. Akridge said new subdivisions are being built with a minimum of 250 homes at Dover Bluff and Harrietts Bluff. The money to install the wells was approved last year and the county has never paid any money for the installation of the wells, the money is in the budget to pay for the service. US Geological Services is asking for \$5,700 as a shared cost to monitor the ground water. Mr. Clarke said two of the three wells have been installed. Mr. Clarke said the well monitoring would be done in two phases \$8,500 for the installation of the wells and \$5,700 for testing the water in the wells on a yearly basis. If the county decides not have the wells tested the wells would be capped off and abandoned. Chairman Rainer asked the County Manager to study the feasibility for having the wells tested and bring a recommendation before the board at the next meeting of the Board of Commissioners. All Commissioners agreed.

**Road Department Business:**

Acceptance of right-of-way deed to Turkey Run Road from Lois B. Chaney (0.53 acres)  
Motion made by Commissioner Rhodes, seconded by Commissioner Herrin and

**Voted 4 to 1**

Commissioner Rainer – Yea  
Commissioner Herrin – Yea  
Commissioner Berry – Yea  
Commissioner Rhodes – Yea  
Commissioner Feller – Nay

**The motion carried**

Acceptance of right-of-way deed to Turkey Run Road from Joseph Chaney (1.49 acres)  
Motion made by Commissioner Rhodes, seconded by Commissioner Herrin and

**Voted 4 to 1**

Commissioner Rainer – Yea  
Commissioner Herrin – Yea  
Commissioner Berry – Yea  
Commissioner Rhodes – Yea  
Commissioner Feller – Nay

**The motion carried**

**Planning Commission Business:**

Application for a special use/ Mr. Jeffery Dirks

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

Application for a special use/ Mr. Neil Jacobson

Motion made by Commissioner Feller, seconded by Commissioner Herrin and voted unanimously to accept the application

Rezoning Review/ Joyce M. West

Motion made by Commissioner Rhodes, seconded by Commissioner Herrin and voted unanimously to accept the rezoning review request

Final Plat Approval/ Honey Creed Cove/ Mr. Bill Nutting

Motion made by Commissioner Rhodes, seconded by Commissioner Herrin and

**Voted 4 to 1**

Commissioner Rainer – Yea

Commissioner Herrin – Yea

Commissioner Berry – Yea

Commissioner Rhodes – Yea

Commissioner Feller – Nay

**The motion carried**

Final Plat Approval/ Shelly & David Parker

Motion made by Commissioner Rhodes, seconded by Commissioner Herrin and voted unanimously to approve the final plat

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

Respectfully Submitted

David L. Rainer  
Chairman

Constance E. Smith  
Clerk