

**CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2004 6:00 PM
WOODBINE, GEORGIA**

A regular meeting of the Camden County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, August 17, 2004, at 6:00 p.m. in the Courtroom of the Historic Camden County Courthouse, Woodbine, Georgia.

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

Chairman 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:

Chairman Rainer proposed that Item E be changed to a public hearing to give anyone a chance to have a comment on the designation of Pinewood Avenue as pedestrian only and to put this on the agenda between #7 and #8.

Chairman Rainer also proposed amending the agenda to add Item N under New Business which would be approval of the L.A.R.P. list. It was also proposed to add an Executive Session regarding litigation.

Commissioner Feller made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes and voted unanimously to amend the agenda.

The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA:

Commissioner Feller made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin and voted unanimously to adopt the agenda as amended.

The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to correct the spelling of Ralph Bunche, Commissioner Feller seconded the motion and it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes as amended.

The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING

Designation of Pinewood Avenue as Pedestrian Only

Commissioner Feller asked if we needed to advertise this as a public hearing and Chairman Rainer expressed that he did not believe that was necessary.

County Manager Charles Akridge stated that residents of Pinewood Avenue were notified by letter of this matter being on the agenda.

A member of the audience stated that he had not been notified.

Vice-Chairman Herrin then stated that if people had not been notified officially that we should revise this and give everyone notice by putting this matter in the paper.

Chairman Rainer then asked Attorney Brent Green for his opinion regarding this matter and Attorney Green stated that he felt advertising the public hearing in the paper would be the proper way to do this.

Chairman Rainer stated that we would advertise this matter in the paper so there is no question and anyone who would like to speak on this matter may do so.

REPORTS:

A. Calendar

The August/September 2004 calendar was read.

B. County Manager's Report

County Manager Charles Akridge, stated that he had become aware by members of the development community and Environmental Health Director, Stuart Stevens of and upcoming proposed regulation proposed by the Georgia Department of Human Resources Division of Public Health which may be a burden on the development community regarding septic tanks. Mr. Akridge stated that he and Dr. Stevens have called forth a meeting on Friday, August 20th at 11:00 at the Kingsland Annex to discuss this proposed regulation. Mr. Akridge stated that local government had not been notified of the regulation and it is forthcoming starting September 1, 2004. Mr. Akridge then introduced Dr. Stevens to explain this proposed regulation.

Dr. Stuart Stevens invited the members of the Board as well as the media to the meeting on August 20th. Dr. Stevens stated that the basics are that in Camden County most of the septic systems, nearly 90%, the drain fills are above ground because the water tables are so high and soils are so poor. There has to be two feet of separation between the permanent water table and the bottom of the drain fill. In the current State Regulations that are operated by DHR there is a reference to the On-Site Sewage Management Manual which contains regulations, procedures and policies on how drain fills are installed statewide. In Section H, which deals with fills like we have on the coast, it states that when you have a fill site a soil classifier must submit a statement to the Board of Health certifying that the in place fill and the filled site meet the requirements of the manual. Dr. Stevens explained that this was something he had been doing but that it is now required that a soil scientist perform this task. This will require the hiring of a soil scientist to go to the site to do an evaluation, then Dr. Stevens and his staff would go to the site to evaluate the wetlands, wells, etc., and then the soil scientist would go back to the site to certify the fill. This will add time and cost to the process. We have invited to the meeting set up for August 20th all the septic contractors, the soil scientists and various developers who do work in the county.

County Manager Charles Akridge stated that they have also asked our legislators to attend this meeting.

Mr. Akridge stated that the EMA Directors will have a meeting on Friday, August 20th at 1:00 p.m. at the St. Marys Police Department on Point Peter Road to discuss our recent Emergency Management System.

Mr. Akridge stated that the Camden County Board of Commissioners will have a special called meeting on Monday, August 30th at 5:00 p.m. in Woodbine to discuss indigent defense, which is a new state law effective this year, and a new Public Defender, Grayson Lane will be here to discuss this program.

Lastly, Mr. Akridge informed the Board that there will be a discussion regarding public health issues and Georgia's Public Health System, sponsored by the Division of Public Health and the Georgia Health Policy Center, on August 31st at the Golden Isles Chamber of Commerce from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Wallace Prince addressed the Board regarding the Pinewood Avenue situation. Mr. Prince asked about the Road Closed to Thru Traffic signs and whether or not a meeting was held regarding putting up these signs.

Chairman Rainer stated that the Road Department made the decision to put up the signs.

Vice-Chairman Herrin stated that when there is a safety issue the Road Department is able to make decisions on their own without getting permission from the Board.

Chairman Rainer told Mr. Prince that he could address the Board but that this was not a question and answer session because there will be a public hearing on this matter.

PRESENTATION

A. Hurricane Awareness & Protocol – Assistant Fire Chief/Deputy EMA Director Mark Crews.

Assistant Fire Chief/Deputy EMA Director Mark Crews addressed the Board and explained that when first asked to prepare this presentation, it was prior to the storm over the weekend. Mark Crews explained that it was the EMA Director's job to make sure all the plans coordinate and work together. They are more of a resource director, making certain that everyone has what they need and making sure all the plans of all the municipalities, county and public works are working together and are coordinated. It is the responsibility for everyone to have their own SOPs. The EMA refers to a Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP). The LEOP that we have now is dated September, 1999. The LEOP assigns responsibility and then it is up to each department to formulate their own SOP to formulate how these responsibilities will be achieved. The EMA will come into effect if one of the municipalities' resources is overwhelmed. The EMA will provide resources to help the municipality. A LEOP is required by law; a hurricane plan is not required. Camden County does not have a hurricane plan. Mr. Crews met with the department heads on Wednesday morning regarding Hurricane Charley. They reviewed and OPCON that GEMA put together and agreed to use this plan. The next morning Mr. Crews met with the Chairmen and Mayors of each city and presented this information regarding the storm and all agreed to use the OPCON from GEMA. Mr. Crews stated that they are now working on a tailor-made plan specifically for Camden County.

The Board told Mr. Crews to please make them aware of anything that he made need to prepare the Operations Plan for Camden County.

Chairman Rainer commended Mr. Crews and everyone involved prior to the storm on their efforts and preparations.

Commissioner Feller asked about using the schools for shelters in Camden County.

Mr. Crews stated that they contacted the Red Cross, the schools and DFAS regarding shelters. Camden County has shelters that are Red Cross approved for after the event. We do not have shelters in Camden County that are approved for people during the storm. There is another Code and guideline that has to be met in order to have shelters for use during a storm. Mr. Crews stated that they have already begun the process with the Red Cross and the School Board to have shelters approved for during the storm.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Adoption of 2004 Millage Rate

Chairman Rainer stated that the County would be adopting their millage and that the school system is in the process and will have theirs in when they have finished their process. The proposal is to reduce the millage 12.5 mils. That rolls it back even further than required. It would be the lowest tax dollar request since 2001 of a little over \$12,000,000.00. It is a reduction beyond that required of \$568,021.00. The Resolution calls for 12.5 mils for the general operating budget, .88 mils for the Incorporated Service District, .10 mils for the Unincorporated Service District and .25 mils for the general State budget.

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Chairman Rainer.

So voted 4-1

Chairman Rainer – yea

Vice-Chairman Herrin – yea

Commissioner Rhodes – yea

Commissioner Berry – yea

Commissioner Feller - nay

The motion carried.

B. Adoption of the Proposed Transportation Plan.

County Manager Charles Akridge stated that there had been advertisements in the paper regarding the public hearings and that each city had been notified. We received no comments from the cities and we had a public hearing at the last Commissioners Meeting and there were no comments. It is recommended that we adopt the Transportation Plan.

Vice-Chairman Herrin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes.

Commissioner Feller asked by adopting this plan, what are we doing? County Manager Charles Akridge stated that we would be adopting a Transportation Plan so when DOT asks if there are plans for paving or resurfacing of a road, we are able to say, Yes, it is in our Transportation Plan. It shows that we are planning ahead for the future. Commissioner Feller stated that he is concerned with the rapid growth that Camden County is facing that costs would skyrocket. County Manager Charles Akridge stated that this plan can be amended.

Commissioner Feller stated that he was concerned about encroachment and Chairman Rainer stated that this was worthy of consideration.

The vote was unanimous to adopt the Transportation Plan.

The motion carried unanimously.

C. Reschedule September 21, 2004 Board of Commissioners Meeting to September 22, 2004.

County Manager Charles Akridge explained that the rescheduling of the September 21st meeting would be to accommodate the Department of Community Affairs Quality Growth Team who will be in Camden County so the Board could attend a dinner at the Satilla River Waterfront Park.

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to reschedule the September 21st Board of Commissioners Meeting to September 22nd, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin. The vote was unanimous to reschedule the September 21, 2004 Board of Commissioners Meeting to September 22nd.

The motion carried unanimously.

D. Tax Release – Durango Landfill

Commissioner Feller made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Berry. The vote was unanimous for the tax release regarding the Durango landfill.

The motion carried unanimously.

E. Designation of Pinewood Avenue as Pedestrian Only

County Manager Charles Akridge stated that a public hearing on this subject would be heard on September 22nd after advertised at least fifteen (15) days prior to that meeting.

F. Approval of Tax Release Applications for:

- **Juanita J. Henderson**
- **C. Lovell, Jr.**
- **Peter Holquist c/o Peter Miller**
- **White Sands, LLC**
- **Wesley Glenn Ministries, Inc. and**
- **James Bardsley, Jr.**

Vice-Chairman Herrin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes. The vote was unanimous to approve the Tax Release Applications for Juanita J. Henderson, C. Lovell, Jr., Peter Holquist c/o Peter Miller, White Sands, LLC, Wesley Glenn Ministries, Inc., and James Bardsley, Jr.

The motion carried unanimously.

G. Approval of Building Service Worker position for new courthouse

County Manager Charles Akridge stated that during the budget process it was decided to have a building worker in the new courthouse at all times during the day. It was believed it could be done with one person, but it has come to our attention that it cannot be done with just one person. It is being asked to add one building service worker and the funds for the salary be transferred from the Road Department.

Vice-Chairman Herrin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes.

Discussion was made by Commissioner Feller regarding the cost of a contract with a service company compared to the employ of two building service workers. Charles Akridge stated that the service company would have charged approximately \$45,000.00 - \$50,000.00 for someone to come out once a day for approximately two hours, whereas having two employees would cost approximately the same amount, but they would be there from 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Harvey Amerson stated that this would also include buffing the floors which, the service company would not do in the contract.

The motion carried unanimously.

H. Proclamation – Fire Fighter Appreciation Week from September 3rd – September 6th, 2004

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin. The vote was unanimous to proclaim September 3rd – September 6th Fire Fighter Appreciation Week.

The motion carried unanimously.

I. Chris Amos, P.E. / JV Entity, LLC (#R-017-04) A rezoning from Agriculture-Residential (A-R) and Commercial-Interchange (C-I) to Residential-1 (R-1) of 361.87 acres located in the NW quadrant of I-95 and Dover Bluff Road. The property is shown on zoning/tax maps 110 and 111 but is identified as a portion of parcel 10 on zoning/tax map 125.

J. Ashcraft, Ronald (R-019-04) A rezoning from Agriculture-Forestry (A-F) to Agriculture-Residential (A-R) of 1.5 acres located on Providence Church Road. The property is identified as parcel 23 on zoning/tax map 63..

- K. Stover, Jospheh T. / Privett, Bennett & Associates, Inc. (S-029-04 F) Final plat approval for Sheffield Plantation Phase IV, 4 lots on 11.97 acres. The property is identified as a portion of parcel 5 on zoning/tax map 82..**

- L. Amendment to Appendix B-Zoning Ordinance, Sec. 504 A, R-2 Multifamily Residential District to add the following under permitted uses: Manufactured Homes as described in Sec. 302(31) of the Camden County Zoning Ordinance.**

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve agenda items I, J, K and L, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin.

Commissioner Feller asked if the developer was aware of the new policy regarding the Trust Indenture. County Manager Charles Akridge stated that they were fully aware of the Trust Indenture. Commissioner Feller asked if they had made provisions for an alternate Trustee. Mr. Akridge asked Robbie Cheek if he had done so and Mr. Cheek stated that it was part of the permit process. Mr. Akridge stated that if the EPD allows the Trust Indenture to go forward we do not have any say in that matter. Commissioner Feller stated that the reason we passed that was very clear, that we make known to the developer and EPD that we would not be a Trustee insofar as the private water supply is concerned and we are ignoring it. Mr. Akridge stated that he has not notified EPD personally and Commissioner Berry explained that we will not sign the Trust Indenture, that Robbie Cheek will find someone to sign it per the EPD Regulations and we will not sign it per our policy.

So voted 4-0
Chairman Rainer – yea
Vice-Chairman Herrin – yea
Commissioner Rhodes – yea
Commissioner Berry – yea
Commissioner Feller - abstained

The motion carried.

M. Declaration of Surplus Property

Vice-Chairman Herrin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes. The vote was unanimous for the declaration of surplus property.

The motion carried unanimously

N. Approval of L.A.R.P. List

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin. The vote was unanimous to approve the L.A.R.P. List.

The motion carried unanimously.
EXECUTIVE SESSION – Litigation

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin, and voted unanimously that this Board enter into closed session as allowed by O.C.G.A. § 50-15-4 at 6:52 p.m., and pursuant to the advice by the County Attorney, for the purpose of discussing litigation.

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 Courtroom of the Historic Courthouse 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. § 50-15-4, and that this body confirm the acts of the Board in closed session were as required by law and approved by the County Attorney.

RECONVENE:

Commissioner Feller made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes. The vote was unanimous to reconvene the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Chairman Rainer signed the affidavit as required by O.C.G.A. § 50-15-4(b). The original copy of the affidavit immediately follows these minutes and a copy is on file in the Executive Assistant's office.

No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Commissioner Feller, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes. The vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Rainer
Chairman

Diana Smith
Executive Assistant/Clerk