

**CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 2004 6:00 PM
WOODBINE, GEORGIA**

A regular meeting of the Camden County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, June 15, 2004, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room 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; and County Attorney Brent Green. County Manager Charles Akridge was not present.

Chairman Rainer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioner Rhodes delivered the invocation.

Chairman Rainer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The roll call indicated all Commissioners were present.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS:

Commissioner Feller made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes and voted unanimously to amend the agenda by adding the following items: Work Session: Request from Judge Amanda Williams regarding Drug Court; Item 12P: Personnel – Approval of Accountant Position; Item 12Q: Tax Release Applications; Item 12R: Discussion of Oak Grove Acres II Subdivision; Item 12S: Request from Judge Amanda Williams regarding Drug Court; and Executive Session: Add Personnel to the Executive Session.

The motion carried unanimously.

WORK SESSION: Request of Judge Amanda Williams regarding Drug Court

Chairman Rainer advised the Board of Commissioners received a letter from Superior Court Judge Amanda Williams requesting an additional \$5,000.00 for the Drug Court. Commissioner Berry advised funding for Drug Court was derived from the collection of fines, and the additional \$5,000.00 Judge Williams was requesting was in the Budget.

PUBLIC HEARING:

A. Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2004/2005

Chairman Rainer opened the public hearing for Fiscal Year 2004/2005.

County Manager Charles Akridge stated a memorandum from ACCG advised that a FY 2005 COLA for Constitutional Officers had been approved. This COLA has been factored into the County FY 2004/2005 Budget. Additionally, staff reviewed the salaries and benefits of each department and after such review was able to reduce the Budget by \$13,445.00.

Chairman Rainer invited comments from the public, but none being offered, he closed the Public Hearing.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA:

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

The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Feller and voted unanimously to approve the June 1, 2004, regular meeting minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

A. Calendar

The June/July 2004 calendar was read.

B. County Manager's Report

Mr. Akridge reported the following:

- A Public Hearing scheduled for the next County Commissioners meeting for Text Amendments to the Subdivision Regulations regarding Trust Indentures for private water systems.
- The next Community Action Group Meeting is Tuesday, June 22, 2004, at 8:30 a.m., at the St. Marys Police Department.
- The monthly budget report indicates revenues are at 93.6% and expenditures are at 82%.

Harvey Amerson advised the final drawings on the Records Retention Facility are expected this week and a December 31, 2004, completion date is projected.

Mr. Akridge announced he received a letter from Probate Judge Martin Gillette acknowledging and commending Cindy Daniels and Harvey Amerson for their hard work and efforts in connection with the recent move into the new Courthouse.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rich Gamble addressed Commissioner Feller regarding information he recently requested, and Commissioner Feller advised him that he should receive a response from the County Attorney soon.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Budget Adjustments for Fiscal Year 2003-2004

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin and voted unanimously to adopt the Resolutions to amend the Fiscal Year 2003 – 2004 Budget, which by this reference are incorporated into these minutes.

The motion carried unanimously.

B. Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2004-2005 Budget

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion and seconded by Commissioner Herrin to adopt the Resolution to Adopt a County Budget for Camden County, Georgia, which by this reference is incorporated into these minutes.

Chairman Rainer, Vice-Chairman Herrin and Commissioner Rhodes expressed their appreciation for the cooperation among the Board of Commissioners, the staff, and the Constitutional Officers in preparing this Budget.

Although Commissioner Berry commended the Board of Commissioners for being able to roll back the millage rate and give the growth in the digest back to the taxpayers, which he would encourage the cities and School Board to do as well, he stated he could not vote in favor of this budget because no progress had been made to cure the 1.4 million dollar deficit.

In responding to Commissioner Berry's comments, Chairman Rainer stated this Board had made greater efforts to save money and increase the Fund Balance than had been done in previous years.

So voted, 3 to 2

Chairman Rainer – Yea

Vice-Chairman – Yea

Commissioner Rhodes – Yea

Commissioner Berry – Nay

Commissioner Feller – Nay

The motion carried.

C. Appointment of Rev. Rick Douylliez to the Camden County Department of Family and Children Services

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Feller and voted unanimously to re-appoint Reverend Rick Douylliez to the Camden County Department of Family and Children Services Board.

The motion carried unanimously.

D. Appointment of Stephen Berry, Lynda Nugent and Wendy Steele to the Camden County Public Library Board of Trustees

Vice-Chairman Herrin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes and voted unanimously to re-appoint Stephen Berry, Lynda Nugent and Wendy Steele to the Camden County Public Library Board of Trustees.

The motion carried unanimously.

E. Grant permission to Atlanta Gas Light Company to install a new gas main from Highway 17 along Dover Bluff Road to the Sanctuary Cove development

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin and voted unanimously to grant permission to Atlanta Gas Light Company to install a new gas main within the north side right-of-way of Dover Bluff Road from Highway 17 to Sanctuary Cove at St. Andrews Sound.

The motion carried unanimously.

F. Conveyance of Wingate Road to the original owners of Newton, Brown & Casey

Road Department Supervisor Larry Lampe advised the County no longer needs Wingate Road to support County operations and recommends conveying Wingate Road back to the original owners of Newton, Brown & Casey, Inc., in exchange for 6.4 acres in right-of-ways on Oakwell Road.

Vice-Chairman Herrin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Feller and voted unanimously to convey Wingate Road to Newton, Brown & Casey, Inc., in exchange for 6.4 acres in right-of-ways on Oakwell Road.

The motion carried unanimously.

G. Road Department Request to purchase a Caterpillar 140H Motor Grader

Mr. Lampe requested the Commissioners consider exercising the “buy back” option on the 140H Motor Grader currently owned by the County for a new Caterpillar 140H Motor Grader. Mr. Lampe explained the cost of the new Motor Grader would be \$148,485.00, less the buy back price of \$93,500.00 leaving a difference of \$54,985.00. The Road Department budget has a savings of \$30,000.00 in this year’s budget that could be applied to the difference and the remaining balance could be financed with the equipment loan approved during the June 1, 2004, Commissioners’ meeting. Mr. Lampe advised the Commissioners the benefit of exercising the buy back option would be upgrading to a new piece of equipment that would be covered under a five (5) year warranty.

Vice-Chairman Herrin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes and voted unanimously to exercise the buy back option and approve the purchase of the Caterpillar 140H Motor Grader for the Road Department.

The motion carried unanimously.

H. Application of Rebecca Sullivan for an Alcoholic Beverage Distribution and Sale License at the Waverly Minit Mart, 24295 Highway 17

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin and voted unanimously to approve application of Rebecca Sullivan for an Alcoholic Beverage Distribution and Sale License at the Waverly Minit Mart, 24295 Highway 17.

The motion carried unanimously.

I. Request from Elizabeth Kopp for reimbursement of property tax penalties and interest

No action taken.

J. Request from Jimmy Patel for reimbursement of property tax penalties and interest

No action taken.

K. Proposal of C.C. Higginbotham, Jr., to exchange real property

Commissioner Feller made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes and voted unanimously authorize the County Attorney, Brent Green, to proceed with the necessary actions to convey .40 acre right-of-way held by Camden County on Dover Bluff to C.C. Higginbotham, Jr., in exchange for a .60 acre right-of-way held by Mr. Higginbotham on Chaney Road.

The motion carried unanimously.

L. Application of Privett & Associates, Inc., as agent for Billy Gene Hollingsworth for Final Plat approval of Holly Haven

Commissioner Feller made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes and voted unanimously to table Agenda Items 12L and 12M.

The motion carried unanimously.

M. Application of Rodney James, Ocean Breeze Development, LLC, for Final Plat approval of Ocean Breeze – Phase I

Action taken under Agenda Item 12L.

N. Application of John J. Carter, Deerwood Village @ The Bluff, Inc., for Final Plat approval of Deerwood Village @ The Bluff – Replat

Vice-Chairman Herrin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes and voted unanimously to approve the application of John J. Carter, Deerwood Village @ The Bluff, Inc., for Final Plat approval of Deerwood Village @ The Bluff – Replat.

The motion carried unanimously.

O. Reschedule the July 2004 Commissioners' meetings for July 13, 2004

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Feller and voted unanimously to reschedule the July 6 and July 20, 2004, Commissioners' meetings for July 13, 2004, in the courtroom of the historic Courthouse.

The motion carried unanimously.

P. Personnel – Approval of Accountant Position

Vice-Chairman Herrin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes and voted unanimously to hire Staci Bowick for the Accountant position.

The motion carried unanimously.

Q. Tax Release Applications

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Feller and voted unanimously to approve the following tax release applications: C.C. Higginbotham for Digest Year 2002 and 2003; and Barty Howard for Digest Year 2001 and 2002.

The motion carried unanimously.

R. Discussion of Oak Grove Acres II Subdivision

Mr. Akridge advised on June 26, 1996, the Planning Commission recommended approval of rezoning 123 acres from A-F to A-R and the County Commissioners upheld that decision. The matter came back before the Commissioners on April 30, 1997, and was approved at that time. However, the County never accepted the roads. Mr. Akridge recommended the developer bring the road plans up to the County's current engineering standards and subsequently accept the roads.

S. Request from Judge Amanda Williams regarding Drug Court

Commissioner Feller made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Berry and voted unanimously to approve the request of Judge Amanda Williams dated June 3, 2004, and increase the Drug Court funding by \$5,000.00.

The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Litigation and Personnel

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Feller, and voted unanimously that this Board enter into closed session as allowed by O.C.G.A. § 50-15-4 at 6:46 p.m., and pursuant to the advice by the County Attorney, for the purpose of discussing litigation and 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. § 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 Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Feller and unanimously voted to reconvene the meeting at 8:04 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 and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Rainer
Chairman

Jodi Gregory
Executive Assistant/Clerk