

**CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2004 6:00 PM  
WOODBINE, GEORGIA**

**A regular meeting of the Camden County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, November 16, 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 Rhodes delivered the invocation.**

**Chairman Rainer led the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**The roll call indicated all Commissioners were present.**

**AGENDA AMENDMENTS:**

Chairman Rainer proposed adding the following amendments to the agenda:

Move Proclamation for Retired Educator's Day from Item 11-K to Item 9 as a Presentation of the Proclamation.

Add the following agenda items:

- M. Approval of Indigent Defense Contract
- N. Authorization to declare Katie Lane an emergency road repair
- O. Cancellation of December 21, 2004 Board of Commissioners Meeting
- P. Authorization of funding to purchase five (5) Genesis II model radar system units for the Sheriff's Office.

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

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA:**

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

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the minutes of October 19, 2004, Commissioner Feller seconded the motion and it was voted unanimously to approve the minutes of October 19, 2004.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**REPORTS:**

**A. Calendar**

The November/December 2004 calendar was read.

**B. County Manager's Report**

County Manager Charles Akridge stated that with the sodding at Fire Station 12 done, this SPLOST project is now complete.

Mr. Akridge stated that the budget report through October with the standard of allocation being 33.33%, the County across the board is at 30.1%, so we are 2.2% under budget through October.

Mr. Akridge reported that he received correspondence from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency that Mark Crews has been approved as Director of the Emergency Management Agency.

Finally, Mr. Akridge reminded the Board that Express Scripts will have their Grand Opening on November 17, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. and Governor Perdue will be in attendance at the Grand Opening.

**PRESENTATION:**

Preston Rhodes made a motion seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin to approve the Retired Educators Proclamation. The vote was unanimous to approve the Proclamation for Retired Educators Day.

**The vote carried unanimously.**

Chairman Rainer presented the Proclamation for Retired Educator's Day to Ms. Anne Williams.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Glennie Jackson:

Mr. Jackson approached the Board and expressed his concerns over the development in Spring Bluff and other parts of North Camden. Mr. Jackson is concerned that the older citizens will be forced out due to rising taxes because of the high priced subdivisions that are scheduled to be built in this area. Mr. Jackson expressed to the Board that there needs to be a way to protect those citizens who have lived in this community most all their lives so that they are not forced to leave their homes because they can no longer afford to live in them. Mr. Jackson asked the Board to see if the Scarlett Bill that was implemented on St. Simons would help.

Commissioner Berry stated that the Scarlett Bill freezes the homestead property tax at the value that it is unless you improve the property. He stated that it would likewise apply to the people moving into the county. Mr. Berry stated that they cannot just freeze the homestead taxes for existing residents. They would have to freeze taxes for everyone. Commissioner Berry stated that he looked at the Scarlett Bill and that it freezes the homestead taxes. The burden then passes to the non-homestead people and the commercial people. Mr. Berry stated that after speaking with people from Glynn County that the bill has not really worked for them. He stated that Georgia law does not allow the County to freeze certain people and not others, that everyone's homestead would be frozen. Commissioner Berry told Mr. Jackson that it would take a radical change in Georgia law and changed by the Georgia Constitution and Georgia Legislature because the law of Georgia does not allow you to do anything except effect the homestead exemption on the law and that is what the Scarlett Bill does. He advised Mr. Jackson to speak to Cecily Hill and see about making some changes. He also stated that with the Scarlett Bill if you make any improvements or sell the property, the taxes increase.

Commissioner Feller told Mr. Jackson that he would pass it along to Senator Chapman for his review as well.

Chairman Rainer stated that he also looked at the bill and it does not allow you to pick and choose whose homestead taxes are set, but that you would have to do it across the board. Chairman Rainer also expressed to Mr. Jackson that speaking with Cecily Hill and Senator Chapman would be the best place to start to try to change the law.

Steven Joseph:

Mr. Joseph spoke on behalf of Post 511 of the American Legion to ask the Board to approve the alcohol license that they are in the process of applying for.

County Manager Charles Akridge stated that it was not on the agenda because of outstanding tax issues. It has been deferred to December 7, 2004.

Walter Helms:

Mr. Helms expressed his concerns about the development across from Rising Daughter Baptist Church. He stated that the developer has 210 acres with 395 houses on the development. Mr. Helms stated that the developer said that EPD, Corps of Engineers and DNR allows him to put his blacktop roads in with no drainage to stop 200 acres of fertilized lawn, pesticides, herbicides from running into the marsh and river. Mr. Helms asked the Commissioners to implement limitations or stipulations for him when he puts his blacktop road down to put curbs, drains, etc. for drainage. He stated that the developer would be pumping to the lift station and then across the road beside the church. He stated that it would be going through his waste treatment plant. Mr. Helms told the Board that the developer also told him that the waste treatment plant will be uncovered, that the solid waste would be in an open tank.

The Board told Mr. Helms that this development (Riverplace) is due to be heard before the Planning Commissioner on 11/17/04 and that anyone who has concerns about this development should make certain they attend the meeting and express their concerns to the Planning Commission.

Member of Rising Daughter Baptist Church:

Gentleman expressed his concerns about Riverplace development. He stated that it is his understanding that a waste treatment plant would be placed 1500 feet from the church. He feels that this is very degrading to have a waste treatment plant 1500 feet from the church.

This concluded the Public Comments.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Approval of Natural Disaster Policy**

Commissioner Feller made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin to approve the Natural Disaster Policy.

Commissioner Berry expressed his concern that the policy was far too generous for those employees who are called into work that are not public safety personnel to be paid 2 ½ times their salary. He also disapproved of those employees who are on vacation during the emergency being paid the disaster pay and the vacation time during the disaster being credited back to the vacation time.

Vice-Chairman Herrin stated that FEMA would reimburse the County for any overtime that the employees worked during the disaster.

County Manager Charles Akridge stated that the policy does account for tracking the hours for FEMA reimbursement.

Commissioner Berry stated that he did not disagree that the County would possibly be reimbursed for the overtime, but that reimbursement is a political decision that is made each time it comes up and we may or may not get all of our money back, but that we should not make our policies based on the fact that someone is going to pay us back. He stated that the Board needed to make their policies based on what is reasonable and practical. He felt that it was too generous to pay 2 ½ times a person's salary that is called out. Commissioner Berry stated that he did think some compensation should be made but that 2 ½ times is too much.

Chairman Rainer stated that he agreed with the policy because in the time of the disaster, everyone would be paid if the county officer were closed. He stated that if you bring someone in at less than that rate, they are working unfairly for their wage and everyone else who is off is getting their full pay. Chairman Rainer stated that it was not 2 ½ times, but 1 ½ times plus their salary.

Commissioner Feller stated that in an emergency we want to let people stay home because we do not want them on the road and the only reason the County would bring in people such as those in the road department is because we have to otherwise we would just as soon want them home.

**So voted 4-1**

**Chairman Rainer – yea**

**Vice-Chairman Herrin – yea**

**Commissioner Rhodes – yea**

**Commissioner Berry – nay**

**Commissioner Feller – yea**

**The motion carried.**

**B. First Reading of an Ordinance to Amend Section 70-6, No Wake Zone Specified, of the Official Code of Camden County, Georgia to Include Maiden Creek**

County Manager Charles Akridge asked for a motion to waive the first reading of this ordinance.

Commissioner Feller made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes to waive the first reading of this ordinance. The vote was unanimous to waive the first reading of an

Ordinance to Amend Section 70-6, No Wake Zone Specified, of the Official Code of Camden County, Georgia to include Maiden Creek.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**C. Approval of Tax Release Applications**

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin to Approve the Tax Release Applications for:

- Unisite, Inc for Digest Year 2003
- Satilla Farms for Digest Year 2003
- Hewlett Packard Company for Digest Year 2004
- Curtis R. Beck for Digest Year 2000
- Curtis R. Beck for Digest Year 2001
- Curtis R. Beck for Digest Year 2002
- Curtis R. Beck for Digest Year 2003
- Curtis R. Beck for Digest Year 2004
- Russell W. & Lynette Smith for Digest Year 2004
- William P. Davis, Jr. for Digest Year 2004
- William P. Davis, Jr. for Digest Year 2003
- Claudell Swanson for Digest Year 2004
- Portia O'Berry for Digest Year 2004
- Daniel Proctor for Digest Year 2004
- Daniel Proctor for Digest Year 2003
- Daniel Proctor for Digest Year 2002
- Daniel Proctor for Digest Year 2001
- Daniel Proctor for Digest Year 2000
- Benjamin Sessoms for Digest Year 2004
- Benjamin Sessoms for Digest Year 2003
- Benjamin Sessoms for Digest Year 2002
- Benjamin Sessoms for Digest Year 2001
- Benjamin Sessoms for Digest Year 2000
- Morris A. & Leslie Freeman for Digest Year 2004
- Richard A. Scott for Digest Year 2004
- Richard A. Scott for Digest Year 2003
- Christopher Earnest for Digest Year 2004
- Christopher Earnest for Digest Year 2003
- Christopher Earnest for Digest Year 2002
- Christopher Earnest for Digest Year 2001
- Christopher Earnest for Digest Year 2000
- Christopher Earnest for Digest Year 1999
- Christopher Earnest for Digest Year 1998
- Jay C. Hodge for Digest Year 1998
- Jay C. Hodge for Digest Year 1999

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- Jay C. Hodge for Digest Year 2001
- Jay C. Hodge for Digest Year 2002
- Jay C. Hodge for Digest Year 2003
- Jay C. Hodge for Digest Year 2004

The vote was unanimous to approve all tax applications.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

- D. Owens, Calvin (#R-018-04) A rezoning from Agriculture-Forestry (A-F) to Residential-1 (R-1) of 21 acres (+/-) located on Dover Bluff Road. The property is identified as parcel 27 on zoning/tax map 111.**

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve the rezoning for Calvin Owens from A-F to R-1 of 21 acres (+/-) located on Dover Bluff Road, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin. The vote was unanimous to approve the rezoning from A-F to R-1 of 21 acres (+/-) located on Dover Bluff Road.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

- E. Crawford, Thomas M. & Deborah A. (#R-027-04) A rezoning from Residential-2 (R-2) to Agriculture-Forestry (A-F) of 18 acres located at the intersection of Highway 110 and Haynor Road. The property is identified as parcel 43 on zoning/tax map 61.**

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Feller to approve a rezoning for Thomas M. and Deborah A. Crawford from R-2 to A-F of 18 acres located at the intersection of Highway 100 and Haynor Road.

Commissioner Berry asked what type of livestock would be on the property.

Ms. Crawford stated that they just wanted a few animals, such as pigs, goats and horses for their grandchildren.

Commissioner Berry asked how many they were planning on having and asked Ms. Crawford if the Board put a limit on the number of livestock allowed to be on the property if she would object.

Ms. Crawford stated that she did not think so, that she was not going to have a large number of animals in the property.

Commissioner Berry expressed his concern over rezoning this property without setting limitations on the number of livestock on the property that anyone owning the property could put as many animals on the property that they wanted. He stated that he understands that the current owners wish to just have animals on the property for their

grandchildren, but should the property change hands that the new owners could bring a pig farm onto the property.

Vice-Chairman Herrin asked if the property was located on Haynor Road or 110 and the size of the property.

Ms. Crawford stated that the property is on 110 and Haynor Road and that the property is 18 acres of land.

Commissioner Berry stated that he was trying to think ahead that should Ms. Crawford decide to sell the 18 acres, someone could buy the land and put 5000 pigs on the property.

**So voted 4-1**

**Chairman Rainer – yea**

**Vice-Chairman Herrin – yea**

**Commissioner Rhodes – yea**

**Commissioner Berry – nay**

**Commissioner Feller – yea**

**The motion carried.**

- F. Griffin, Michael B. (#028-04) A rezoning from Agriculture-Forestry (A-F) to Agriculture-Residential (A-R) of 13.8 acres located at the intersection of Sadie Jackson Road and Old Post Road. The property is identified as parcel 16 on zoning/tax map 40.**

Commissioner Feller made a motion seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin to approve the zoning for Michael B. Griffin from A-F to A-R of 13.8 acres located at the intersection of Sadie Jackson Road and Old Post Road. The vote was unanimous to rezone the property from A-F to A-R of 13.8 acres located at the intersection of Sadie Jackson Road and Old Post Road

**The motion carried unanimously.**

- G. Boyd, Robin (#SU-005-04) Applicant is applying for a Major Home Occupation License/Special Use Permit to operate a day care facility from her home at 229 Mallard Pointe Drive. The property is identified as parcel 86 on zoning/tax map 45A.**

Vice-Chairman Herrin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes to approve Robin Boyd's Major Home Occupation License/Special Use Permit to operate a day care facility from her home at 229 Mallard Pointe Drive.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**H. Request by Helen Taylor for Homestead Exemption.**

Vice-Chairman Herrin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes to approve Helen Taylor's Homestead Exemption request. The vote was unanimous to approve Helen Taylor's Homestead Exemption request.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**I. Approval to waive the 2004 County taxes for property purchased by the City of Woodbine for a nature area. Map Number W19 06 008B**

Commissioner Feller made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin to waive the 2004 County taxes for property purchased by the City of Woodbine for a nature area. The vote was unanimous to waive the 2004 County taxes for property purchased by the City of Woodbine for a nature area.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**J. Refund of proceeds from sale of foreclosed real estate by Tax Commissioner in excess of taxes – Christopher property.**

Commissioner Feller made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes to refund the proceeds from the sale of foreclosed real estate by Tax Commissioner in excess of taxes – Christopher Property. The vote was unanimous to refund the proceeds from the sale of foreclosed real estate by Tax Commissioner in excess of taxes – Christopher Property.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**K. Proclamation – Retired Educator's Day**

Moved to Presentation on the Agenda.

**L. Consideration of additional aerial photography funding**

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Feller to approve the additional \$11,500.00 for aerial photography funding. The motion was unanimous to approve the additional aerial photography funding.

**The motion was unanimous.**

**M. Approval of Indigent Defense Contract.**

Attorney Brent Green stated that on page 4 of the contract it states “the parties agree that the employment of additional personnel employed by the Public Defender’s Office pursuant to this section may be terminated by the Public Defender’s Office. The County does not pay for the cost of those personnel in advance. Attorney Green stated that it was his opinion that they are talking about their outside the state funded employees. He believes that they are going to promote the County later on to fund some additional Public Defenders so you have a county paid Public Defender.

Commissioner Berry stated that he read it to mean that if they employ more Public Defenders than the state requires that if the Board does not give him the money up front where he does not have the money to make the payroll, he gets rid of those employees.

Attorney Green stated that he thinks that Grayson Lane should have to survive on the money that he is receiving.

Commissioner Berry stated that he agrees and that he thought that he had four funded by the State and five funded by the counties in the judicial circuit. He stated that if the County does not give him all the money in one check so he has the money to make the payroll, he is going to get rid of the additional employees that the state is not paying for.

Attorney Green stated that on page 5 the contract is for January 1 – December 31 year and the County has a different budgeting year.

Attorney Green then stated on page 9 it states, “the Public Defender’s Office shall submit a monthly expenditure report containing all charges incurred during the proceeding month on or before the 5<sup>th</sup> day of each month.” Mr. Green stated that it also says that the County will pay it within 15 days of the receipt of the monthly expenditure. Attorney Green stated that he was under the belief that the County was to fund into a pool what bills he was supposed to pay his overhead.

Commissioner Berry stated that he agreed with Attorney Green and that he remembered Mr. Lane saying that.

Attorney Green stated that he thought the County was going to budget “x” number of dollars on our percentage.

Commissioner Berry stated that he would rather give him what the County has allocated doing for the year and then it is his problem.

Attorney Green stated that he wanted to get some clarification before approving this contract. He asked the Board to tentatively pass the contract with him getting clarification and if he has any problems he would tell him it could not be approved before November 19, 2004.

Vice-Chairman Herrin stated that he believed that Mr. Lane should draw up the contract as it was agreed.

Chairman Rainer told Attorney Green to have Mr. Lane draw up a new contract and the Board will look at it on December 7, 2004 at the next Board of Commissioners Meeting.

**N. Authorization to declare Katie Lane an emergency road repair**

Commissioner Feller made a motion, seconded by Chairman Rainer to declare Katie Lane an emergency road repair. The motion was unanimous to declare Katie Lane an emergency road repair.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**O. Cancellation of December 21, 2004 Board of Commissioner Meeting**

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Feller to cancel the December 21, 2004 Board of Commissioners Meeting. The vote was unanimous to cancel the December 21, 2004 Board of Commissioner Meeting.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**P. Authorization of funding to purchase five (5) Genesis II model radar system units for the Sheriff's Office**

Commissioner Feller made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin to purchase five (5) Genesis II model radar system units for the Sheriff's Office. The vote was unanimous to purchase five (5) Genesis II model radar system units for the Sheriff's Office.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion made by Commissioner Feller, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin to adjourn the November 16, 2004 meeting. The vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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David L. Rainer  
Chairman

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Diana Smith  
Executive Assistant/Clerk