

**CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2005 6:00 PM  
WOODBINE, GEORGIA**

**A regular meeting of the Camden County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, February 1, 2005, 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.**

**PRESENTATION:**

Resolution – Mrs. Mary B. Smart

Commissioner Preston Rhodes presented Mrs. Mary B. Smart with a plaque commemorating her 101<sup>st</sup> birthday. Commissioner Rhodes presented the Resolution to Mrs. Smart expressing his admiration of her, her faith, and the example she has set to all those she encounters. Chairman Rainer stated that, “Words can’t describe what it means to have participated in the events of Camden County from the time of Theodore Roosevelt to the present, and for you to be a living part of that, we honor and praise you.”

**WORK SESSION:**

**A. Colerain Road – Four Lanes (Sanford Feller)**

Mr. Feller expressed his concerns regarding evacuation routes in Camden County. He stated that he felt it was necessary to make Colerain Road a four lane thoroughfare to lessen the gridlock during evacuations and make it an effective escape route. He stated that the county already has enough clearance on the bulk of the road, but we would need some condemnation in the St. Marys area. Mr. Feller stated that after speaking to Mayor Hase that she indicated she would cooperate to expedite this matter.

Finance Director Mike Fender stated that until the county knows whether or not DOT will participate or if there is participation from Washington, if the county were to go out and borrow the \$32,000,000.00 it would take to four

lane Colerain, it would be approximately \$2,500,000.00 per year pay back over 20 years.

Commissioner Feller asked that after speaking with the representatives in Atlanta and Washington, that the Board have another workshop to look at this project from a financial standpoint.

Commissioner Berry asked Commissioner Feller what he actually wanted paved on Colerain. He asked Mr. Feller if he wanted to four lane the entire length of Colerain including putting in a new bridge across I-95.

Commissioner Feller stated that he would like all of Colerain made into four lanes.

Chairman Rainer asked how much the County had left in SPLOST.

Mike Fender stated that there is approximately 2.5 million left.

Commissioner Berry stated that a problem he would have is that once 32 million dollars was spent to four lane Colerain to get to Highway 40, then Highway 40 is only a two lane road. He stated that he thought making Highway 40 four lanes first would be the best thing to do and then look at the arteries feeding into Highway 40. He stated that he is concerned about feeding all that traffic into a two lane road.

Chairman Rainer stated that the Board needs to come to some type of agreement establishing the priorities before going to DOT or anyone else. He stated that before the Board asks for any funding, that specific plans should be established to present. He stated he too is concerned about funneling four lanes into a two lane road. He stated that this would only get people a portion of the way through Camden County.

Vice-Chairman Herrin stated that he is for the project. He stated that the purpose of making Colerain four lanes does not have to be for an escape route. He stated that Colerain Road receives heavy traffic as it is. He stated that there are areas that should be four lanes. He also stated that there should be a workshop with the City of Kingsland and the City of St. Marys because the portions of Colerain that belong to them are their obligation.

Chairman Rainer stated that he felt that the County should do this in phases, dealing with the heaviest traveled portion of it first.

County Manager Charles Akridge was instructed to meet with the Mayors and begin formulating a plan and/or a proposal exploring all avenues that may be available.

B. Paving Priority List (Vice-Chairman E. B. Herrin)

Vice-Chairman Herrin stated that normally around the first of each year the commissioner go over the road priority list and determine if it should be modified. He stated he would like the commissioner to look over the current list to see if there were any that they thought should be added, deleted or moved on the priority list. He stated that he would like to add CMG Road to the priority list. He asked the commissioners to come back at the next meeting to discuss and adopt a new priority list at that time.

C. Substandard Housing/Nuisance Abatement (Chairman David Rainer)

Chairman Rainer stated that he asked County Manager Charles Akridge to begin looking at the Substandard Housing/Nuisance Abatement issue and to propose some changes in the Ordinance.

County Manager Charles Akridge stated that he and County Attorney Brent Green looked over the existing Ordinance and they determined that they would change the definition of nuisance to conform to the proposed Curbside Collection Ordinance definition of nuisance. He stated they are looking at the substandard housing issue within the Nuisance Abatement Ordinance to decide if a separate substandard housing ordinance is necessary.

Commissioner Feller stated that there may be grant funds available for substandard housing issues and asked Mr. Akridge to look into these possible funds.

D. Discussion of Legal Organ (Preston Rhodes)

Commissioner Rhodes stated that at the last meeting there was discussion regarding the criteria of the legal organ. He then deferred to Charles Akridge to explain the criteria.

County Manager Charles Akridge stated that the criteria for a legal organ as stated in the Georgia Official Code 9-13-142 . Requirements for official organ of publication; designation where no journal or newspaper qualifies; how official organ changed; notice to Secretary of State subsection (c) states: Any selection or change in the official organ of any county shall be made upon the concurrent action of the judge of the probate court, the sheriff, and the clerk of the superior court of the county or a majority of the officers. No change in the official legal organ shall be effective without the publication for four weeks of notice of the decision to make a change in the newspaper in which legal advertisements have previously been published. All changes in the official legal organ shall be made effective January 1 unless a change has to be made where there is no other qualified newspaper. He stated that this is not an issue for the Board's consideration.

**AGENDA AMENDMENTS:**

Chairman David Rainer proposed the following:

To add New Business Item 13K under 13C and to make 13C become 13C(1) and 13K to become 13C(2);

To add the following New Business Items:

- 13J. Approval of a borrow pit lease between Camden County Board of Commissioners and Marie Woodard;
- 13K. K-Mart Corporation Bankruptcy – Consideration of Settlement Offer;
- 13L. Award RFP Contract Proposal:
  - 1. Tomberlin Painting - \$23,700.00 – Painting
  - 2. Better Built Cabinets - \$26,148.00 – Cabinetry
  - 3. Camden Carpet & Paint - \$49,013.21 - Carpet

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Feller to accept the agenda amendments as detailed. The motion was unanimous to accept the agenda amendments.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA:**

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

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin to approve the minutes of January 18, 2005. The vote was unanimous to approve the minutes of January 18, 2005.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**REPORTS:**

**A. Calendar**

The February/March 2005 calendar was read.

**B. County Manager's Report**

County Manager Charles Akridge stated that at the request of Commissioner Rhodes he has looked at initiating a text amendment to the subdivision regulations which would require developers who pave road in subdivisions, whether public or private, to meet the county standard of six inches of asphalt as well as other design standards. He stated that he would initiate the text amendment with the Planning Commission if it meets with the Board's approval.

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to authorize the County Manager to proceed in initiating a text amendment to the subdivision regulations, seconded by Commissioner Feller.

**So voted:**

**Chairman Rainer – yea**  
**Vice-Chairman Herrin – nay**  
**Commissioner Rhodes – yea**  
**Commissioner Berry – yea**  
**Commissioner Feller – yea**

**The motion carried.**

Mr. Akridge stated that he received a check from Sanctuary Cove/Blue Green Gulf for \$250,000.00 which is the balance of their payments for the construction of the fire station at Dover Bluff bringing the total to \$500,000.00.

He stated that he, Chairman Rainer and Vice-Chairman Herrin will be meeting with Harold Linnenkohl who is the Georgia State Department of Transportation Commissioner and they would be seeking funding for roads in Camden County.

Mr. Akridge stated that the Emergency Management Ordinance has been sent to the cities for their consideration. He stated that the Emergency Management Ordinance should be adopted sometime before April.

He stated that a check has been received from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency in the amount of \$226,472.33 for reimbursement and payment for the work done due to the hurricanes.

Vice-Chairman Herrin stated that the county can give Road Superintendent Mercy Thompson credit for this reimbursement as she has kept such detailed records that it appears that Camden County will receive in excess of \$1,000,000.00 in reimbursement.

Mr. Akridge asked the Board for authorization for the Camden County Sheriff's Office to apply for an Office of Domestic Preparedness Grant. He stated this grant would put computers in the patrol cars and that there is no county match.

Vice-Chairman Herrin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes to authorize the Camden County Sheriff's Office to apply for an Office of Domestic Preparedness Grant to put computers in the patrol cars. The motion was unanimous to authorize the Camden County Sheriff's Office to apply for an Office of Domestic Preparedness Grant.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Finally, Mr. Akridge stated that if the residents in the unincorporated areas of Camden County will be receiving a curbside collection sticker in the mail. He asked that those residents who receive the sticker please put it on their garbage can to ensure that service is not interrupted. He stated that this is an ongoing effort to identify those residents who are currently in our database who are being billed for the curbside collection service and those who have not been set up in the system. The deadline for placement of the stickers onto the garbage receptacles is February 15, 2005.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Susan Highsmith:

Ms. Highsmith addressed the Board regarding the proposed fire station on Dover Bluff. She stated that she is in opposition of the fire station being placed at the location currently designated by the County. She stated that this area is zoned R-1 Single Family which is the most restrictive. She stated that she felt an area closer to I-95 would be more appropriate and would provide a more centralized access to residents in this area as well as to I-95. Ms. Highsmith presented a petition signed by residents of Dover Bluff Road who are in opposition of the current placement for the fire station. She stated to the Board that she is in favor of having the fire station in this area, but she is completely opposed to its current proposed placement.

Ron Lewis:

Mr. Lewis addressed the Board and thanked them and Mercy Thompson for adding Maiden Creek as a No Wake Zone and supplying the signs indicating same. Mr. Lewis also expressed his opposition to the proposed fire station location on Dover Bluff Road. He asked that the Board consider finding another location for the fire station because of the noise level in a residential area.

Dr. Dale Shaw:

Dr. Shaw addressed the Board and thanked them for putting the legal organ issue on the agenda and stated he now knows what he needs to do as his next move.

Bernard Ripley:

Mr. Ripley addressed the Board regarding the Springhill issue regarding determination of ownership of these roads. He asked the Board to please try to find out this information as soon as possible as there are places that are worsening and there is an area on Springhill Circle that is caving in.

This concluded Public Comments.

**PRESENTATION:**

GSAR Announcement – Chief Danny Daniels

Chief Danny Daniels stated that on January 24, 2005, the Georgia Emergency Management Agency notified him that Camden County Fire and Rescue had been chosen as a host department for the GSAR vehicle and equipment that is now available. He also provided a new release which he provided to the media, from the Georgia Office of Homeland Security regarding Camden County Fire and Rescue being a host for Heavy Search and Rescue Capabilities. He stated that it states that through a \$9 million dollars in funding from the Office of Domestic Preparedness, Camden County will be a part of three Georgia Search and Rescue (GSAR) teams. He stated that the other teams are GSAR Metro and GSAR Central. Camden County is considered in the GSAR Coastal team. He stated that the goal is to have a four hour response capability anywhere in the State of Georgia. Chief Daniels stated that the team will receive approximately 400 hours of training. He stated that Camden County Fire Rescue will receive three (3) \$65,000.00 structural collapse classes for a total of \$195,000.00. Additionally, Camden County will get 50% of the \$334,000.00 for GSAR general training which equates to an additional \$167,000.00 of free training. He stated that the total training dollars at no cost to Camden County is \$362,000.00.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Consideration of appointment of Edwin J. Durr to the Planning Commission to represent District 3 of Camden County.**

Commissioner Berry made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Feller to appoint Edwin J. Durr to the Planning Commission to represent District 3 of Camden County. The vote was unanimous to appoint Edwin J. Durr to the Planning Commission to represent District 3 of Camden County.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**B. Consideration of appointment of Denise R. Taylor to the Planning Commission to represent District 4 of Camden County.**

Commissioner Feller made a motion to appoint Denise R. Taylor to the Planning Commission to represent District 4 of Camden County.

**The motion died for a lack of a second.**

**C. (a) 2004 Budget Amendment for Shared Assets**

Vice-Chairman Herrin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes to approve the 2004 Budget Amendment for Shared Assets. The motion was unanimous to approve the 2004 Budget Amendment for Shared Assets.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**(b) Approval of Mid-Year Budget Adjustment for 2004-2005 for Constitutional Officers COLA.**

Vice-Chairman Herrin made a motion, seconded by Chairman Rainer to approve the Mid-Year Budget Adjustment for 2004-2005 for Constitutional Officers COLA and the vote was unanimous to approve the Mid-Year Budget Adjustment for 2004-2005 for Constitutional Officers COLA.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**D. Consideration of Tax Release Application of Robert A. Brazell, Digest Year 2004, Bill No. 002207.**

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Chairman Rainer to approve the tax release application of Robert A. Brazell. The vote was unanimous to approve the tax release application of Robert A. Brazell, Digest Year 2004, Bill No. 002207

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**E. Consideration of Turner Road Right-of-Way Condemnation.**

Chairman Rainer made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin to request that the owner of Turner Road either donate 60 feet of right-of-way to the county, accept \$15,000.00 for the Turner Road right-of-way or have the right-of-way condemned.

**So Voted 4-1:**

**Chairman Rainer – yea**

**Vice-Chairman Herrin – yea**

**Commissioner Rhodes – yea**

**Commissioner Berry – yea**

**Commissioner Feller – nay**

**F. Consideration of Increasing Reinspection Fees:**

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Chairman Rainer to increase the reinspection fees from \$20.00 to \$50.00. The vote was unanimous to increase the reinspection fees from \$20.00 to \$50.00.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**G. Harriett’s Bluff Road Sewer Improvements – Approval for Kingsland to Perform Work within Harriett’s Bluff Right-of-Way.**

Vice-Chairman Herrin made a motion, seconded by Chairman Rainer to allow Kingsland to Perform Work within Harriett’s Bluff Right-of-Way. The vote was unanimous to allow Kingsland to Perform Work within Harriett’s Bluff Right-of-Way.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**H. Consideration to Reschedule Tuesday, February 15, 2005 Board of Commissioners Meeting to Thursday, February 17, 2005.**

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin to reschedule the Tuesday, February 15, 2005 Board of Commissioners Meeting to Thursday, February 17, 2005. The vote was unanimous to reschedule the Tuesday, February 15, 2005 Board of Commissioners Meeting to Thursday, February 17, 2005.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**I. Consideration to Appoint Mary Keating to the Library Board of Trustees.**

Commissioner Feller made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Berry to appoint Mary Keating to the Library Board of Trustees. The motion was unanimous to appoint Mary Keating to the Library Board of Trustees.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**J. Approval of a borrow pit lease between Camden County Board of Commissioners and Marie Woodard.**

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to approve a borrow pit lease between Camden County Board of Commissioners and Marie Woodard, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin. The motion was unanimous to approve a borrow pit lease between Camden County Board of Commissioners and Marie Woodard.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**K. K-Mart Corporation Bankruptcy – Consideration of Settlement Offer**

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Chairman Rainer to accept the settlement offer regarding the K-Mart Corporation Bankruptcy.

**So vote 4-1:**

**Chairman Rainer – yea**  
**Vice-Chairman Herrin – yea**  
**Commissioner Rhodes – yea**  
**Commissioner Berry – yea**  
**Commissioner Feller – nay**

**L. Award RFP Contract Proposals:**

- 1. Tomberlin Painting - \$23,700.00 – Painting**
- 2. Better Built Cabinets - \$26,148.00 – Cabinetry**
- 3. Camden Carpet & Paint - \$49,013.21 – Carpet**

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Berry to award the RFP Contract Proposals to Toberlin Painting - \$23,700.00 – Painting, Better Built Cabinets - \$26,148.00 – Cabinetry, and Camden Paint & Carpet - \$49,013.21 – Carpet.

**So vote 4-1:**

**Chairman Rainer – yea**  
**Vice-Chairman Herrin – yea**  
**Commissioner Rhodes – yea**  
**Commissioner Berry – yea**  
**Commissioner Feller – nay**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion made by Commissioner Feller, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes to adjourn the February 1, 2005 meeting. The vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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David L. Rainer, Chairman

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Diana Smith, Executive Assistant/Clerk