

**CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2005 6:00 PM
WOODBINE, GEORGIA**

A regular meeting of the Camden County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, August 2, 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; 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 the following agenda amendments:

- Add Item 12I. Consideration to approve the FY 2006 Local Assistance Road Program (LARP) for forwarding to the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT)

Commissioner Feller made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin to make the change proposed by Chairman Rainer to the agenda.

The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA:

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

The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS:

- Doreen K. Myers – Proclamation for Academic Achievement

Doreen K. Myers of the Camden County Sheriff's Office was presented with a Proclamation for academic achievement. Deputy Myers graduated from the Peace

Officers Standards and Training Basic Law Enforcement Court with the highest academic score in your class.

- Mark Kevan – St. Marys Railroad Proposal (with possible action to be placed under New Business)

Mark Kevan introduced Mike Newsome to make the presentation to the Board. Mr. Newsome addressed the Board about a portion of railroad property from seals to Colesburg and parallel to Highway 17, that is 4.8 miles long and 100 feet wide. Mr. Newsome stated that the St. Marys Railroad Company would be willing to turn the property over to the county, which could use it for “rails for trails” in exchange for the county to abate the approximately \$109,000 in taxes owed as well as the next three years of property taxes estimated at \$84,000.00, totaling approximately \$193,000.00. Mr. Newsome stated that the property is 96.83 acres. Mr. Newsome stated that they calculated the value of this property at \$2,340 per acre which would total a value of more than \$200,000.00.

The Board was in a consensus that they did not believe the property to be worth \$193,000.00 as it was only a 100 foot strip of property and not a roadway. It was not their belief that a 100 foot strip would value at over \$2,000 per acre. The Board agreed that Chairman Rainer could meet with Mr. Newsome to see if they could compare this piece of property with similar acquired property and its value.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin to approve the regular meeting minutes of July 19, 2005

The vote was unanimous to approve the regular meeting minutes of July 19, 2005.

REPORTS:

A. Calendar

The August/September 2005 calendar was read.

B. County Manager’s Report:

Diana Smith reminded the Board of the ACCG Fall Policy Conference scheduled for September and asked any members interested in attending to let her know as soon as possible as the registration deadline was coming up soon.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Bob Becker

Mr. Becker addressed the Board and stated that he does not believe that the Board should approve the at-will employment policy for county employees. Mr. Becker stated that this does not allow the employees to have any say so and that if comments were made that someone did not like they could be fired. He also stated that there would be no legal ramifications and the county could lose good employees.

Commissioner Berry stated that he does not have the authority to fire anyone. Right now that responsibility lies with the Human Resources Director until a County Manager is hired and it would still take three votes by the commission before a person would be terminated. He stated that one board member would not be able to fire an employee.

Walt Natzick

Mr. Natzick addressed the Board and stated that he is associated with the Downtown Development Authority. He stated that they are planning a presentation by Pathway Systems for St. Marys regarding signage for the city and invited the County to join them at the presentation to find out if the county would be interested in using Pathway Systems to provide signage for the county.

Paul Smith

Paul Smith, Regional Planning Director for RDC, asked the Board to allow him to give a presentation at a commissioners meeting regarding the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan. He also offered to assist Chairman Rainer in getting information on the value of the trail easement spoken of during the presentation.

Chairman Rainer stated that he would like Mr. Smith to assist the Board in that regard.

THIS CONCLUDED PUBLIC COMMENTS

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion of Adoption of RFP for Master Plan

Vice-Chairman Herrin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes to Adopt the RFP for the Master Plan which the cities of St. Marys, Kingsland and Woodbine have already adopted.

The vote was unanimous to approve the RFP for the Master Plan.

B. Acceptance of Revised List of Roadways for the Speed Ordinance (DOT).

Commissioner Feller made a motion, seconded by Chairman Rainer to accept the Revised List of Roadways for the Speed Ordinance provided by DOT.

The vote was unanimous accept the Revised List of Roadways for the Speed Ordinance.

C. Consideration of Tax Release Applications.

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin to approve the following tax release applications:

- Edgar Cottle Estate, Digest Year 1996, Bill No. 3708, \$8.97;
- Edgar Cottle Estate, Digest Year 1997, Bill No. 750, \$10.03;
- A-1 Septic Tank Service c/o David F. Brant, Digest Year 2002, Bill No. 10, \$658.00;
- A-1 Septic Tank Service c/o David F. Brant, Digest Year 2001, Bill No. 12, \$663.00;
- A-1 Septic Tank Service c/o David F. Brant, Digest Year 2000, Bill No. 12, \$597.40;
- Rustic Charm, Digest Year 2002, Bill No. 16855, \$103.97;
- Open MRI of Camden, Inc., Digest Year 2004, Bill No. 14365, \$6,400.68;
- John Q. and Sylvia A. Adams, Digest Year 2004, Bill No. 55, \$1,117.22;
- Dawn M. Eggelston, Digest Year 2004, Bill No. 5865, \$386.42;
- Dawn M. Eggelston, Digest Year 2003, Bill No. 5570, \$416.71

The vote was unanimous to approve the aforementioned tax release applications.

D. Consideration of Budget Adjustments.

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin to approve the budget adjustments for FY2004-2005.

The vote was unanimous to approve the FY 2004-2005 budget adjustments

E. Consideration of surplus vehicles for auction.

Commissioner Feller made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes to approve the surplus vehicles for auction.

The vote was unanimous to advertise approve the surplus vehicles for auction.

F. Consideration of Approval of Contract for Medical Director.

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin to approve the Medical Director Contract.

The vote was unanimous to approve the Medical Director Contract.

G. Consideration of Changes to Personnel Policy – At-Will Employment.

Vice-Chairman Herrin asked for a consensus from the Board to allow Penny Woodard, Human Resources Director to advertise the consideration of At-Will employment to the employees for their input.

The Board reached a consensus to advertise the possible policy change for At-Will Employment to the county employees.

H. Discussion of Setting Millage - Advertisement.

Chairman Rainer stated he needed a consensus from the Board to allow Mike Fender to advertise the setting of the millage rate at 12.30.

The Board reached a consensus to advertise the setting of the millage at 12.30.

I. Consideration to approve the FY 2006 Local Assistance Road Program (LARP) for forwarding to the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT).

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin to approve the FY 2006 LARP for forwarding to GDOT.

The vote was unanimous to approve the FY 2006 LARP List for forwarding to GDOT.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Commissioner Rhodes, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin to adjourn the August 2, 2005 meeting. The vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting 6:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Rainer, Chairman

Diana Smith, Executive Assistant/Clerk