

**CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2005 6:00 PM
WOODBINE, GEORGIA**

A regular meeting of the Camden County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, October 18, 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 Preston Rhodes delivered the invocation.

Chairman Rainer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The roll call indicated all Commissioners were present.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS:

Chairman indicated that there were no amendments to the agenda.

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Feller to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 4, 2005 and the Special Called Meeting of October 11, 2005.

The vote was unanimous to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 4, 2005 and the Special Called Meeting of October 11, 2005.

PRESENTATIONS:

- **Proclamation – Road Department**

Chairman Rainer presented a Proclamation to the Camden County Road Department for their dedication and efforts during the hurricanes of 2004 as well as Tropical Storm Tammy that swept through Camden County.

➤ **Ron Howard – Aerial Photography**

Ron Howard addressed the Board and explained how the aerial photography is and will continue to be a great asset to Camden County. He also addressed the Board regarding the growth in Camden County including, parcel counts, house sales, reassessments, appeals, and building permits. He also expressed to the Board that with this growth it will soon be necessary to acquire another assessors in the Tax Assessors Office.

➤ **Paul Smith, RDC – Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan**

Mr. Smith addressed the Board regarding the proposed bicycle/pedestrian plan. Mr. Smith stated that this plan would include sidewalk and shared use path projects for safe routes to school, additional sidewalk and shared use projects and additional shoulder projects. He explained that potential funding for each project could include, 1. Safe Routes to School (SR2S) – new set-aside in the federal Surface Transportation Program approved by Congress, 2. the Transportation Enhancement (TE) – program administered by Georgia Department of Transportation, 3. SPLOST – Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax and 4. GDOT – state and federal highway funds administered by GDOT. Mr. Smith stated that when new housing developments are proposed, the developers can be asked to provide sidewalks/bicycle paths to local schools if applicable.

REPORTS:

A. Calendar

The October/November 2005 calendar was read.

B. County Manager's Report:

Chairman Rainer stated that he wished to address the mosquito program currently plaguing Camden County. He stated that the Board and Mosquito Control are fully aware of the mosquito problem and everything possible is being done in an attempt to get them under control. He stated that the current storms in the area and standing water have not helped the situation, but that the Mosquito Control Department is working double shifts and the City of Kingsland has also volunteered their services in a jointed effort during this time.

Chairman Rainer then gave the floor to Fire & Rescue Chief Dennis Gailey.

Chief Gailey addressed the Board and stated that he wished to acknowledge two members of Camden County Fire & Rescue for their heroic efforts in Mississippi after Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Gulf. Chief Gailey stated that he received a letter from

Mark Arnold, Chief of Operations of Hall County Fire & Rescue which expressed his sincere gratitude to Greg Hogan and Scott Heglund for all of their hard work and dedication during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Mr. Arnold expressed in his letter that their professionalism and compassion was a true reflection of Camden County Fire & Rescue and Camden County itself.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Edwin Durr

Mr. Durr addressed the Board and stated that he is a member of the Planning & Zoning Commission. He stated that he was upset by the termination of Robin Zatkovich at Planning & Building. He stated that he was not questioned about her performance and asked the Board to reconsider her dismissal.

Bill Johnson

Mr. Johnson approached the Board and stated that he opposes the issuance of liquor licenses. He stated that according to statistics provided by M.A.D.D, drunk driving is the nation's most committed violent crime. He asked the Board that if liquor licenses are to be issued, that servers be required to go through training to prevent patron intoxication and impaired driving. He stated that the more outlets that sell alcoholic beverages the greater the risk of alcohol abuse which will result in an increase in alcohol related deaths. He asked the Board to consider a comprehensive community based program in education and public awareness. He asked for the Board to establish a local treatment center for any and all alcohol abusers and require repeat offenders who are arrested on a 2nd offense for driving under the influence to attend, at their own cost, this treatment.

Kenneth Taylor

Mr. Taylor approached the Board and said that he watched the news regarding Commissioner Feller's website and that they were backing Mr. Feller and standing behind him and did not want him to resign.

Jack Sutton

Mr. Sutton addressed the Board regarding Senator Chapman's Town Hall Meeting. He stated that he supports the proposed bill by Senator Chapman to freeze property taxes because the time is coming that long standing people of the county will no longer be able to afford to pay the increasing property taxes due to new development and reappraisals.

Chairman Rainer and Commissioner Berry both stated that this is definitely a matter for consideration, but that neither of them had received a copy of the bill to review. They both said that it should be a matter for the citizens of Camden County to decide by vote.

OLD BUSINESS

None

Chairman Rainer called for a recess at 6:50 p.m. and reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

A. 3rd Censure of Commissioner Sanford Feller – Inappropriate Conduct

Commissioner Berry stated that he reconsidered his motion to censure Commissioner Feller. He stated that the reason he asked for this item to be placed on the agenda was because the parents of a middle school student contacted him about pornography that was accessed from Commissioner Feller's web blog. The parents thought that Commissioner Feller's website was a site approved by the Board of Commissioners and were quite upset that their child was able to access pornography from this site. Commissioner Berry stated that he was thankful that Commissioner Feller made the effort to remove the link to this website and did not want to ask for his resignation or a censure for this action as Commissioner Feller insists that he did not know the material was on his website. Commissioner Berry stated that whether or not he knew it was there did not matter because it was on his site and it was easily accessible. Commissioner Berry stated that he wanted Commissioner Feller to do three things: 1) tell the people that this is not an official site – that it is his site – and it is his content only, 2) to promise the people that he will moderate his site closer and to check the links on his site to know where they go so this does not happen again and 3) look the people in the eye and say he is sorry that this happened and that it will not happen again. He asked Mr. Feller for some accountability for this occurrence.

Vice-Chairman Herrin stated that he was appalled by what he found when he was shown the link from Commissioner Feller's website that led to pornography. He stated that as easy as it was to access this link, he found it hard to believe that Commissioner Feller had no accountability for knowing what was on his site especially because he advertises weekly in the local paper asking people to visit this web blog.

Chairman Rainer stated that although he did not go onto the site personally he heard what was on it. He stated that he did not think it was an unreasonable request for Commissioner Feller to tell the people the three things that Commissioner Berry requested.

Commissioner Rhodes stated that he did not visit the website but heard of the material that was linked to Commissioner Feller's website. He stated that Commissioner Feller owed it to the citizens of Camden County to explain this situation and to do the three things asked by Commissioner Berry.

Commissioner Feller stated that he did not know about the link to pornography until Monday and after finding out, made the appropriate contacts to have it removed. He stated that after setting up his web blog in January he has not gone back on it because he

did not feel that there was any reason to do so. He stated that he has asked two service providers to do research to find out who placed the pornography on the blog. He stated he also filed a complaint with the FBI online. Commissioner Feller stated he then called his Blog Master and asked him to look at the blog to see what all is there and gave he then gave Commissioner Feller specific instructions on what to do so this link was not on his site. He stated that he is terribly sorry if anyone was upset by it. He stated that in the 10 months the site has been up he has not received a complaint about it until now. Commissioner Berry then went into the three requests of Commissioner Berry and stated that Camdenganeews is his blog site and he is responsible for it. He stated that he will without question monitor the site completely and have the web master place an automatic monitoring of the site. Third Commissioner Feller apologized for not looking at what he considered a dead issue, which was his profile.

Commissioner Berry thanked Commissioner Feller for doing the three things asked of him.

B. Consideration of Bid for Fire Station #14.

Vice-Chairman Herrin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes to accept the only bid turned in by A&M Builders & Erectors, Inc. in the amount of \$269,646.00 for fire station #14.

The vote was unanimous.

C. Consideration of Tax Release Application.

Vice-Chairman Herrin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes to approve the Tax Release Application for Signature Spa Services by Denise in the amount of \$109.31 for Digest Year 2004.

The vote was unanimous.

D. Consideration of Application by Jay Thomas Hulslander for a Retail Sale of Malt Beverages and Wine License for the Waverly Minit Mart.

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Chairman Rainer to approve the application for a Retail Sale of Malt Beverages and Wine License for the Waverly Minit Mart.

The vote was unanimous.

E. Consideration of Application by Jerry James Middleton for three Consumption on Premises Spirituous Liquors, Malt Beverages and Wine Licenses for the River House at Cabin Bluff, The Pub at Cabin Bluff and The Lodge at Cabin Bluff.

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin to approve the application by Jerry James Middleton for three Consumption on Premises Spirituous Liquors, Malt Beverages and Wine Licenses for the River House at Cabin Bluff, The Pub at Cabin Bluff and The Lodge at Cabin Bluff.

The vote was unanimous.

F. Discussion/Consideration of Appointment of Board regarding Addition to the Camden County Jail.

Vice-Chairman Herrin made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rhodes to have 9 members on the Board, including 3 from the Sheriff's Office, 2 from the Board of Commissioners, 1 from the City of St. Marys, 1 from the City of Kingsland, and 2 At-Large and to name these individuals at the next Board of Commissioners Meeting on November 1, 2005.

The vote was unanimous.

G. Consideration of Acceptance of Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Feller to resolve to accept the bicycle/pedestrian plan.

The vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Commissioner Feller, seconded by Vice-Chairman Herrin to adjourn the October 18, 2005 meeting. The vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Rainer, Chairman

Diana Smith, Executive Assistant/Clerk