

**CAMDEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 17, 2007 - 6:00 PM
COUNTY ANNEX
KINGSLAND, GEORGIA**

A regular meeting of the Camden County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, April 17, 2007 at the County Annex in Kingsland, Georgia.

Present: Chair Preston Rhodes; Vice-Chair Katherine Nisi-Zell; Commissioner David Rainer; Commissioner Stephen L. Berry; Commissioner Charlene Sears; County Attorney Brent Green; and Interim County Manager Penny Woodard.

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

Commissioner Rhodes delivered the invocation and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The roll call indicated that all Commissioners were present.

AGENDA AMENDMENTS:

Chairman Rhodes recommended the following agenda amendments:

Addition of the following item under Old Business:

- A. Status of County Manager.

Addition of the following items under New Business:

- J. Consideration of Request by John Alexander for Special Use Permit to allow a mobile home located at 143 Gillette Road in Kingsland (Lot 4 Gillette Road Subdivision). This property is identified on Tax Map 082A, Parcel #18.
- K. Consideration of Resolution to Call Special Election for the Tax Allocation District.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA:

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to adopt the agenda as amended.

The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 3, 2007.

The motion carried unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS:

Chairman Rhodes read the Proclamation for “Give Burns the Boot” and presented it to Fire Inspector Chris Goebel.

Vice-Chair Zell waived the reading of the Proclamation for “National Crime Victims’ Rights Week” and stated that a ceremony will be held in honor of this event on the Courthouse steps on Thursday, May 3rd at 11:00am.

Humane Society Presentation – Teresa Richards

Ms. Richards, Treasurer of the Camden County Humane Society stated that last year the budget for the Humane Society was decreased by three (3%) percent and fundraising proceeds helped to offset the costs for operating the facility. She explained that they would like to revisit several areas in the current budget. She stated that some of these include levying and collecting fines and instituting license fees.

Chairman Rhodes stated that this discussion is appropriate at this time since departments are turning in their budgets. He asked Ms. Richards what the difference of the budget will be between Fiscal Year 2007/2008 and Fiscal Year 2006/2007.

Ms. Richards stated that the Fiscal Year 2006/2007 budget was approximately ninety-three thousand seven hundred dollars (\$93, 700.00) and the Fiscal Year 2007/2008 budget will be approximately one hundred and twenty eight thousand dollars (\$128, 000.00).

Quarterly Report – Mike Fender

Mr. Fender presented the Board with an overview of the Quarterly Financial Report. A copy of this report is available at the Board of Commissioners office.

REPORTS:

A. Calendar

The April/May calendar was read.

B. County Manager’s Report:

Interim County Manger Penny Woodard stated that she had asked Chief Gailey to present the Board with an update on the wild fires in Ware County.

Chief Dennis Gailey stated that the winds had changed and the smoke and ash from the fires had engulfed our community. He explained safety tips for drivers and for people in the community to help deal with the smoke. He stated that several Camden County Firefighters and Police officers had been dispatched to Ware County to help assist in trying to extinguish the massive wild fires.

Emergency Management Director Mark Crews

Mr. Crews stated that he had been dispatched to Ware County to assist their Emergency Management team with this disaster. He explained the extent of the fire and the devastation it was causing in Ware County.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ronald Batcher

Mr. Batcher stated that he resides at 101 Gillette Road and is a twenty-six year retired veteran of the military. He explained that he purchased property on Gillette Road because he was under the impression that this area was zoned R-1 and trailers were not allowed to be placed in this subdivision. He stated that this has been the first opportunity for him to provide a permanent home for his family and he does not want his property value to drop because of a trailer being placed near his home. He explained that he has nothing against trailers but, he purchased his home as an investment and feared that allowing a trailer in this community would depreciate its value.

Commissioner Rainer asked how many homeowners objected to the special use permit for the trailer to be placed on this lot.

Mr. Batcher stated that all homeowners on Gillette Road objected.

Commissioner Berry asked if there were any other mobile homes in this area.

Mr. Batcher stated that the only mobile home is one tenths (1/10) of a mile away and there are no mobile homes visible from Gillette Road.

Lisa Batcher

Ms. Batcher stated that she is also opposed to the special use permit to allow this trailer to be placed in their community.

Johnny Kirkdoff

Mr. Kirkdoff stated that he has lived on Gillette Road for fifteen (15) years and is concerned about this mobile home being placed near his home. He explained that he planned to make improvements to his home and does not want a mobile home to depreciate its value.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Status of County Manager.

Chairman Rhodes stated that prior to Friday there were initially five (5) candidates for the position of County Manager and by Friday morning, three (3) cancelled leaving two (2) that came to the interview. He explained that was the status at this point and then opened the floor to discussion among the Board.

Commissioner Rainer made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sears to Authorize the Chairman and the County Attorney to negotiate a Contract with Penny Woodard to continue as Interim County Manager on a yearly basis for up to two (2) years.

Commissioner Berry stated that he was opposed to this and Mrs. Woodard should have been required to go through the interview process just as all the other candidates. He stated that this sends a bad message to the other people applying for the position.

Commissioner Rainer stated that in some counties the Interim County Manager is in that position for years.

Commissioner Berry stated that he was unclear of the motion and asked if negotiations would be for Mrs. Woodard to be County Manager or Interim County Manager.

Commissioner Rainer stated that Mrs. Woodard would stay Interim County Manager for the next two (2) years and then could negotiate beyond that point when the time comes.

Commissioner Berry asked if the time limit of the contract would be in effect until December 31, 2008.

Commissioner Rainer stated that the contract would be in effect until July 1, 2009.

Commissioner Sears stated she would like to see Mrs. Woodard continue as Interim County Manager and believes she is doing a great job. She explained that she felt it was too soon to advertise for this position again and that Mrs. Woodard should be provided an administrative assistant to take the load off of the Human Resource duties she is also required to handle.

Vice-Chair Zell stated that she would also like to see Mrs. Woodard continue as Interim County Manager.

Commissioner Sears stated that the Board should let Mrs. Woodard continue to do what she is doing and re-advertise for the position of County Manager next year.

Commissioner Rainer made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to negotiate a contract with Mrs. Woodard for up to two (2) years on a yearly basis to continue as Interim County Manager.

Commissioner Berry stated that his problem with this process was Barry King had no chance of receiving this job. He stated that nineteen (19) applicants applied for the position and basically this Board was drafting an employee and giving them the job. He stated that this sends a bad message to the applicants applying for this position that had gone through the interview process and makes them feel cheated. He stated that the rules cannot be bent and broken. He asked what happens to the Human Resource Department and where the money to hire an administrative assistant will come from when there is no money in the budget. He stated that the job should be re-advertised and Mrs. Woodard should be judged fairly and equally against all other applicants.

Commissioner Rainer stated that Commissioner Berry was a participant in Mrs. Woodard taking this position in the beginning and that Mrs. Woodard only facilitated in collecting data and did not participate in the actual interview process.

Commissioner Rhodes stated that Commissioner Berry was originally on board with Mrs. Woodard being in this position and somewhere along the way he jumped ship.

Commissioner Berry stated that in the beginning Mrs. Woodard came to him and asked him if she should apply and then later decided to withdraw her application. He explained that he feels she is being drafted and she should not be forced into this position.

Commissioner Sears stated that Mrs. Woodard has been Interim County Manager for some time now and the statements by Commissioner Berry regarding a fair interview are untrue. She stated that Barry King is a friend of Commissioner Berry and he is unhappy that the Board did not choose his candidate for the job.

Commissioner Berry stated that the problem is this Board sees nothing wrong in what they are doing.

Vice-Chair Zell stated that the candidates received a fair interview, the Board has done nothing inappropriate and the two interviewed candidates did not meet their expectations.

So Voted:

Chairman Rhodes – Aye

Vice-Chair Zell – Aye

Commissioner Rainer – Aye

Commissioner Berry – Nay

Commissioner Sears – Aye

The motion carried 4-1.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Consideration of Approval of Contract between D. Ray James Prison and Camden County Landfill.

Vice-Chair Zell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sears to Approve the Contract between D. Ray James Prison and Camden County Landfill.

The motion carried unanimously.

B. Consideration of Reappointment of Dennis Gailey to the Southeast Georgia Medical Services Council.

Vice-Chair Zell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sears to Approve the Reappointment of Dennis Gailey to the Southeast Georgia Medical Services Council.

The motion carried unanimously.

C. Consideration of Agreement between Humane Society of Camden County and Camden County Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Rainer made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sears to table this item until July of 2007.

The motion carried unanimously.

D. First Reading of Ordinance to Amend Article IV Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance.

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rainer to waive the First Reading of Ordinance to Amend Article IV Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance.

The motion carried unanimously.

E. Consideration of Memorandum of Understanding between Naval Submarine Base, Kings Bay and Camden County Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner Rainer made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sears to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay and the Camden County Board of Commissioners.

The motion carried unanimously.

F. Consideration of Tax Release Application.

- Sherlma F. Spread, Digest Year 2005, Bill No. 20094, \$794.80

Vice-Chair Zell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sears to approve the Tax Release Application for Sherlma F. Spread.

The motion carried unanimously.

G. Consideration of Request by Keith and Geneva Pierce (#SU003-007) for Approval of a Special Use Permit to allow a mobile home located at 1103 Colerain Road in Kingsland. This property is identified on Tax Map 069A, Parcel #001.

This item was tabled until May 15, 2007 to allow this item to go back before the Planning and Zoning Board for proper vote.

The motion carried unanimously.

H. Consideration of Request by Spring Bluff, LLC (#S-005-07(F) for Final Plat Approval for River Place Plantation Phase II for 56 lots and 2 tracts located north of Highway 17. This property is identified on Tax Map 097, Parcel #013.

This item was tabled until May 15, 2007 to allow this item to go back before the Planning and Zoning Board for proper vote.

The motion carried unanimously.

I. Consideration of Conducting One Board of Commissioners Meeting in May (May 15, 2007).

Vice Chair Zell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rainer to approve Conducting One (1) Board of Commissioners Meeting in May (May 15, 2007).

The motion carried unanimously.

J. Consideration of Request by John Alexander for Special Use Permit to allow a mobile home located at 143 Gillette Road in Kingsland (Lot 4 Gillette Road Subdivision). This property is identified on Tax Map 082A, Parcel #18.

This item was tabled until May 15, 2007 to allow this item to go back before the Planning and Zoning Board for proper vote.

The motion carried unanimously.

K. Consideration of Resolution to Call Special Election for the Tax Allocation District.

Commissioner Rainer made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Sears to approve the Resolution to Call Special Election for the Tax Allocation District.

The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Lawton Teston

Mr. Teston stated that he believes Mrs. Woodard does a good job as Interim County Manager and would like to see her negotiate a contract for two (2) years.

Vice-Chair Zell stated that she believe there was too much time between the advertising and the interview process which caused some candidates to get hired by other counties.

Commissioner Berry stated that this sends a bad message to the people whom applied for the County Manager Position.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Sears made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Zell to adjourn the April 17, 2007 meeting. The vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Preston Rhodes, Chairman

Diana Smith, Executive Assistant/Clerk

