

Bryan County Board of Commissioners - October 4, 2005

The regular meeting of the Bryan County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, October 4, 2005. The following members were present: Vice-Chairman Ed Bacon, Commissioner Blondean Newman, Commissioner Toby Roberts, Commissioner Glen Willard and Commissioner Rick Gardner. Also present: County Administrator Phillip Jones, County Clerk Donna Waters and County Attorney George Rountree.

Vice-Chairman Bacon called a public hearing to order at 4:10 p.m. and stated the purpose of the public hearing was to receive public input on the 2005 millage rate. There being no one present for the public hearing, it was declared closed.

Vice-Chairman Bacon called the regular meeting to order at 4:11 p.m. Invocation was given by Commissioner Willard. Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance. Visitors were recognized.

A discussion was held on the agenda. The agenda was accepted as presented.

A discussion was held on the *minutes* of the September 6, 2005 regular meeting. A motion was made by Toby Roberts and seconded by Rick Gardner to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2005 regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on the *consent agenda*. A motion was made by Rick Gardner and seconded by Glen Willard to accept the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

The following items were listed on the consent agenda:

1. ***Approval on New Occupational Tax Certificates***
 - *Angela Ashley (Jewelry; Painting; Art) - Angela Ashley
 - *Mer”Maids” - Marianne Martin
 - *Rudeo Builders - Nathan Rud
 - *Sanderlin Construction - Robert Sanderlin

2. ***Conveying of property at Interstate Centre***
 - *Approve the transfer of a 1 acre tract of land, identified as Lot 11 to Savannah Electric for the purpose of installing a power sub-station, in consideration for work and services provided in the Interstate Centre.

Sheriff Clyde Smith met with the board to discuss *communications*. Bryan, Chatham and Effingham counties have applied for a joint grant to be used for communications. If awarded, our portion will be \$750,000 with a \$250,000 match, which the Sheriff will match.

Savannah Communications has also informed us that as of December 2006, they will no longer support our 911 system. The cost to replace this will be approximately \$600,000. The cost to upgrade the radio system to 800 MHz is estimated at \$1,460,064. There is a possibility that we could tag off the Chatham county system and save some funds. The Sheriff is also going to check into the communications grant to see if some of these funds can be used for the 911 system. Other means of funding were discussed with no decision being made.

Jim Anderson, Director of Emergency Services, met with the board to give an update on several issues.

***National Incident Management System (NIMS) Resolution** - A motion was made by Toby Roberts and seconded by Blondean Newman that we adopt the NIMS Resolution as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

‘Copy Resolution’

***Assistance to Firefighters Grant** - We have received a grant in the amount of \$99,800. This is a 90/10 grant with our 10% (\$9,980) coming from the fire fund. We will be receiving \$89,000. The grant covers thermal imaging camera, training system, 40 portable radios, etc. A motion was made by Rick Gardner and seconded by Blondean Newman that we accept the Firefighter Grant as specified by the Director of Emergency Services for \$99,800 with matching funds coming from the fire fund. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Anderson has also received notification that we have been approved for a second grant which will pay for additional thermal imaging camera and for training on the equipment. The training will be next week in Washington, D.C. and there will be no cost to the county.

Neil Smiley, Director of Engineering & Inspections, met with the board to give an update on activities in his department.

***Pine Ridge Road** - The paving is complete on this road. It is the intent of the county to pave the driveways back to the right-of-way. This will cut down on maintenance and help with erosion problems. We are allowing the roadway several days to firm up. Mr. Smiley will work up the cost on this.

***Ingress/Egress lanes on US Highway 17 South at Cartertown Road** - This work was completed on September 27, 2005. The work was done 100% Department of Transportation funding.

***Bridge Replacement** - The three (3) bridges we are having replaced on Harris Trail and Bacontown Roads should be complete by December 15, 2005.

***Harris Trail Sidewalk tie-ins** - This project is almost complete and we have received many thanks for this work.

***Darieng Dedication** - The Thomas Darieng Dedication will be held on October 6, 2005 at 12 noon at Tommy Darieng's clubhouse. This dedication is for a portion of Highway 144 from the railroad tracks at Plantation Building Supply to Fancy Hall.

***Otterhole Branch Road** - We are working on acquiring the right-of-way on this road. Currently, we have three (3) signed right-of-way deeds out of a total of eight (8).

***Deep Patching: Harris Trail and Port Royal Roads** - Work should begin on this project by Monday or Tuesday.

***Traffic Light on Highway 144 and I-95 Ramp** - This project is in the October letting.

***Property behind the Health Department** - A motion was made by Rick Gardner and seconded by Blondean Newman to authorize the County Administrator to proceed with land acquisitions for parcels 2-7 at the price shown with funds to come from contingency. Motion carried unanimously.

John Butler, Zoning Administrator, met with the board to introduce the new Compliance Officer, **Ms. Toni Collins**. Mr. Butler also stated the Department of Community Affairs has advised to hold off on the ordinance amendments (which he presented last month) at this time because the state will probably be issuing an indefinite extension on adoption of these.

Phillip Jones, County Administrator, met with the board with several issues.

***Amendment to the Personnel Policy** - This was a second reading for this amendment to the personnel policy. It was the consensus of the board to implement this amendment.

'Copy Amendment'

***Administrative Facility in Richmond Hill** - The county administrator was advised to proceed with identifying companies interested in either design and construction or both for this facility.

***Solid Waste Fee** - A discussion was held on the use of the Insurance Premium Rollback Tax. We have been using these funds to offset the cost of curbside pickup for the residents of the unincorporated areas of Bryan County. The state has cut back funding for road improvements and our county roads need work. We could use the Insurance Premium Rollback Tax for this purpose. A motion was made by Toby Roberts and seconded by Glen Willard to increase the solid waste removal fee from \$30 to \$100 annually and add this to the county tax bill and the Insurance Premium Rollback Tax that was being used to supplement this will be used for road projects. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on the *reimbursement rate for travel* - The current reimbursement rate is \$.31 per gallon. Due to the rising cost of fuel, this amount needs to be adjusted. The new state rate is \$.485 per gallon. A motion was made by Rick Gardner and seconded by Toby Roberts that we move the reimbursement rate from \$.31 per gallon to establishing a base rate of \$3.00 per gallon and a rate structure change for each \$.10 per gallon a \$.01 increase or decrease of the reimbursement rate for travel and this will be reviewed annually during the budget cycle. Motion carried unanimously. The county administrator will review this monthly and the figures will be based on the previous months fuel cost.

A discussion was held on the proposed *2005 millage rate*. The proposed millage rate of .7546 will be a roll back of .85 mills. This is the second straight year for a tax roll back. A motion was made by Glen Willard and seconded by Toby Roberts that the total millage rate for Bryan County for 2005 be 7.546 mills in the unincorporated areas of Bryan County; levies for school purposes is 15.696 mills; the incorporated areas of the City of Pembroke is 6.824 mills; the incorporated areas of the City of Richmond Hill is 6.546 mills; the Cove Subdivision would have an additional 3.098 mills; the Jerico Subdivision would have an additional 4.076 mills and the state tax is .25 mill for a total of 23.492 mills in the unincorporated areas of Bryan County; 22.770 mills in the incorporated areas of the City of Pembroke; 22.492 mills in the incorporated areas of the City of Richmond Hill; 26.590 mills for the Cove Subdivision; and 27.568 mills for the Jerico Subdivision. Motion carried unanimously.

Richard Deal of Franklin, Mikell & Deal, met with the board to present the financial report for 2004. The county is in very good financial condition overall.

George Rountree, County Attorney, met with the board to give an update of several ongoing issues.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.