

Bryan County Board of Commissioners - April 4, 2006

The regular meeting of the Bryan County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, April 4, 2006. The following members were present: Chairman Jimmy Burnsed, Commissioner Ed Bacon, Commissioner Blondean Newman, Commissioner Toby Roberts, Commissioner Rick Gardner and Commissioner Glen Willard. Also present: County Administrator Phillip Jones, County Clerk Donna Waters and County Attorney Charles Brown.

Chairman Burnsed called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Invocation was given by Commissioner Gardner. Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance. Visitors were recognized.

A discussion was held on the *minutes* of the March 7, 2006 regular meeting. A motion was made by Blondean Newman and seconded by Toby Roberts to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2006 regular meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on the *consent agenda*. A motion was made by Ed Bacon and seconded by Glen Willard to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

The following items were listed on the consent agenda:

1. Approval of New Occupational Tax Certificates
 - *John Carlos Plaza - J. C. Outlet
 - *John C. Carnes - John C. Carnes Construction
 - *Dale Emerson Carnes - Emerson Builders, Inc.
 - *Ashley Daniel Thompson - ADT Trucking, Inc.
 - *Jennifer & Michael Clark - Starfall-gifts
 - *Connye Crossman - Connye Crossman, L.M.T.
 - *Caliese DeSha - Dietceutical Supplements, LLC
 - *Ryan Bowden - Badger Lawn & Landscape
 - *Michael Roberts - M. R. Housing, LLC
 - *David Shawn Williams - Bubba's Junk Removal
 - *Brenda Sue Cannon - Down Memory Lane Photography
2. Approval of Superior Court Judges' Budget for FY 2007
 - *Bryan County's share being \$16,908.98
3. Approval of Superior Court Law Clerk's Budget for FY 2007
 - *Bryan County's share being \$852.61
4. Approval of Change to Policy Number 1
 - 'Copy Policy'

5. Approval of Amendment to Personnel Policy Section 5-412
'Copy Amendment'

Terri Liles of Helen's Haven Children's Advocacy Center met with the board to request support for their program. Helen's Haven is the children's advocacy center for the counties in the Atlantic Judicial Circuit. Their mission is to serve every child victim of abuse and trauma and their non-offending parent or caregivers in a child friendly and professional manner. Since their opening in May 2005, approximately 12% of the interviews conducted have been children from Bryan County. The annual operating budget for Helen's Haven CAC for 2006 is \$40,000. At this time, they have been able to meet almost 50% of the annual budget through grants, fund raising, and contributions from individual, businesses, civic organizations, and governmental support. In addition to Bryan County, they are requesting funds from the five additional counties in this circuit. A motion was made by Ed Bacon and seconded by Glen Willard to enter into a one time contract for the remaining year, not to exceed \$5,000, with the County Administrator to negotiate a contract for the services of the At Risk Children that are involved. Motion carried unanimously.

Tara Jennings met with the board to give an update on programs within her departments.

***Section 5311 program** is running smoothly at this time.

***Summer Lunch program** will be starting up on June 5 with 19 sites.

***Senior Citizens program** - The files have been updated, we have increased our attendance and increased our activities. As of March 28, 2006, we are 100% in compliance with our files being updated. The average attendance in December for Pembroke was 15 per day and in February it was 33. The average attendance for Richmond Hill in December was 5 per day and in February it was 15. We need to have an average of 20 per day at the Richmond Hill site by May 30, 2006 or we will have to negotiate our contract differently in July.

***Juvenile Diversion program** - This program was recognized in the Georgia Trend magazine and it was on Georgia Public Television. Working with the legislators to get funding for this program.

***Family Connections program** - Standards for Family Connections are moving forward. There were only two areas that needed improvements and they have been implemented. Healthy Kids Day will be held this Saturday in Pembroke from 10:00 - 2:00, and the one in Richmond Hill will be May 6.

John Butler, Zoning Administrator, met with the board to discuss planning & zoning issues.

**Proposed Ordinance Revisions* to the R-3 (Multifamily residential) Zone and the Mobile Home Building Code were presented for the boards consideration and input. We will have a first reading next month.

**Susan R. Crow* of the University of Georgia made a Community VIZ Presentation to the board. This is a GIS based program that allows you to determine what the maximum population of your county is going to be in years by applying limiting factors. It is a very flexible program that also allows you to see what would happen if you made a change in this ordinance or this zoning, etc. and what would be the outcome.

Pratt Lockwood, Recreation Director, met with the board to discuss the need for *batting cages*. The board discussed the need for two cages at both parks. The cost for building a double batting cage is approximately \$10,827.00 each. We have funds available in the SPLOST IV which can be used for this project. A motion was made by Toby Roberts and seconded by Ed Bacon that we build two batting cages at Hendrix Park and two batting cages at Richmond Hill to accommodate the growth and participation we have from our children playing ball. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on *children from out of the county* playing on county teams. Mr. Lockwood stated this is happening, but the numbers are very small. The children playing from out of county are the ones who live just over the county line and it is much more convenient for them to play in Bryan County than their own county. This has not been a problem in the past and it does not prevent any of our children from playing.

Kate Barker and Paul Weinberger met with the board to request approval of a proclamation proclaiming April 2-8, 2006 as *National Library Week*. A motion was made by Rick Gardner and seconded by Glen Willard to approve the proclamation proclaiming April 2-8, 2006 as National Library Week. Motion carried unanimously.

“Copy Proclamation”

A motion was made by Toby Roberts and seconded to Rick Gardner to go into *closed session* to discuss land acquisition, litigation and personnel matters. Motion carried unanimously. The board went into closed session at 3:25 p.m. The board went back into regular session at 3:45 p.m.

A discussion was held on *tax incentives* for the development authority. It was the consensus of the board to offer the same tax incentives to perspective clients as we did for Orafol.

A discussion was held on *south district fire chief's vehicle*. This vehicle is a two wheel drive, 1993 Ford Explorer, with approximately 208,000 miles. The volunteer firefighters association would like to acquire a larger vehicle with four wheel drive. The First Bank has a

repossessed, four wheel drive, 2002 Ford Expedition (Limited), V10 with 80,584 miles and they will sell it to the county for \$20,000. The Volunteer Firefighters Association will pay half of the cost if the county will pay the remaining half. There are uncommitted funds in the fire account. A motion was made by Toby Roberts and seconded by Blondean Newman to accept the offer of the vehicle for the south district fire chief's vehicle with \$10,000 to come from unreserved fire funds. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on *funding for quality growth and regional development study*. The CGRDC Board of Directors have contracted with Georgia Tech to update existing and proposed population projection for the RDC Region. The total cost for the region is \$57,250. The RDC agreed this project is a very worthwhile endeavor that will benefit cities and counties in our region. Based on population, the unincorporated share of the cost is \$1,444. The Department of Community Affairs has agreed to accept these updated population estimates in the Comprehensive Land Use Plans. A motion was made by Rick Gardner and seconded by Blondean Newman that, depending upon the other members of RDC putting their money in to it, we put our \$1,444 to participate in this with funds to come from contingency. Motion carried unanimously.

A first reading was held on an amendment to the personnel policy by adding an *internet usage policy*. The second reading will be held next month.

A discussion was held on the *county administrative complex* in Richmond Hill. It was the consensus of the board to form a committee of the three commissioners from South Bryan, with Commissioner Roberts chairing the committee, to find a location for this building.

A discussion was held on *water/sewer to the southside of I-16 and Highway 280*. During the negotiations of HB 489, the development authority was assigned a water service delivery area. The development authority applied for and received "Jack and Bore permits" under I-16 and Hwy. 280. The permits are approved. The development authority solicited bids to determine the cost of the project. A couple of questions have arose and the county attorney has researched these questions and offers the following: Does the authority have the power to develop water and sewer infrastructure? Yes, but the Board of Commissioners have what amounts to veto power over that decision. Before the development authority can proceed with this project, there must be a certification from the board of commissioners that they can proceed. To certify this, the commissioners must find that the project is necessary for industries and the commissioners must determine that the project is in the public welfare. Does the development authority have the power to be in the business of operating a water and sewer infrastructure? No, unless using revenue bonds to finance the project. In summary, if the board of commissioners certify these improvements are necessary, then the development authority contracts with a third party or contracts with the county to operate it.

A discussion was held on the Georgia Environmental Facility Authority (GEFA) loan application for ***Genesis Point sewer facility***. The county signed a water and sewer agreement with Fountainhead Development Company for the development of the Genesis Point Tract. The agreement stated the County will construct or have constructed by a private company a wastewater treatment plant. The initial capacity of said system will be 200,000 GPD, when that capacity is at 75% the system will be increased to 500,000 GPD. The County will make application for a State Revolving Fund (SRF), from the Georgia Environmental Facility Authority (GEFA). The developer will guarantee to fund any shortfall in the county's annual loan repayment. A motion was made by Rick Gardner and seconded by Toby Roberts to make application for a GEFA loan subject to verifying that the agreements we had with Fountainhead have been transferred to the new owners, including the letter of credit; and verifying Savannah has a permit to drill a well in Bryan County. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on the purchase of ***real estate on Ball Park Road***. A motion was made by Rick Gardner and seconded by Glen Willard that we authorize Jimmy Burnsed and Phillip Jones to enter into a purchase agreement with the parties for the property on Ball Park Road, the currently used day care center and 1.57 total acres, in amount of \$318,000 with funds to come from SPLOST IV. Motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Bacon expressed his concerns on this project not being discussed during SPLOST V negotiations and the project should not have been accepted without going through the budget cycle.

Sheriff Clyde Smith met with the board to give an update on the new ***Sheriff's Complex*** in Richmond Hill. Bids have been received with the bid being awarded to R H Tyson out of Blackshear in the amount of \$1,441,000. Work should begin within one month. The contract calls for 270 calendar days for completion.

Chairman Burnsed reported we will be holding ***hurricane preparedness meetings*** during the month of May in both north and south Bryan County.

A discussion was held on an ***appointment to the Bryan County Board of Assessors***. A motion was made by Ed Bacon and seconded by Blondean Newman to appoint ***Matt Owens*** to serve the appropriate term on the Bryan County Board of Assessors. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Burnsed declared the meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.