

Bryan County Board of Commissioners - August 5, 2003

The regular meeting of the Bryan County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, August 5, 2003. The following members were present: Chairman Brooks Warnell, Commissioner Blondean Newman, Commissioner Ed Bacon, Commissioner Al Dixon, Jr., Commissioner Toby Roberts, Commissioner Rick Gardner, County Clerk Donna Waters and County Attorney Charles Brown.

Chairman Warnell called the pre-agenda meeting to order at 1:42 p.m. The agenda items were discussed and the agenda was approved as amended.

Chairman Warnell called the regular meeting to order at 1:45 p.m. Invocation was given by Sam Davis. Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance. Visitors were recognized.

A discussion was held on the *minutes* of the July 1, 2003 regular meeting. A motion was made by Al Dixon and seconded by Ed Bacon to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2003 regular meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on the *consent agenda*. A motion was made by Al Dixon and seconded by Ed Bacon to approve the new occupational tax certificates on the consent agenda at this time. Motion carried unanimously. Other items on the consent agenda were moved to the regular agenda.

The following is a list of the *new occupational tax certificates*:

- *Hewett Landscape Management - William R. Herndon
- *Home Works - Timothy Sandlin
- *Classic Metalworks - Leon Johns
- *Videorama - Gloria Dunn

Sam Davis, Probate Judge, met with the board to discuss his part time *clerical position* being changed to a full time clerical position with the additional funds coming from the elections budget. This topic was tabled until later in the meeting.

Jo Hickson of the *Coastal Georgia Greenway Committee* met with the board to give a presentation on the preliminary Bridge Master Plan and Through Corridor Analysis Report. The Bridge Master Plan is a GDOT Transportation Enhancement Project and the Through Corridor Analysis is a GDCA Regional Assistance Program Project.

Debbie Newman, Tax Commissioner and Dan Rollf, Chief Assessor met with the board to discuss and answer questions on mobile homes that the Tax Assessors office have verified are either no longer located in Bryan County or are dwellings that are no longer livable.

Susan Clark, EMS Director, met with the board to give an update on activities in the EMS Department. Ms. Clark also discussed the need for two (2) new ambulances. Jodie Jernigan and Linda Miller were also present to answer any questions.

Chairman Warnell called **planning & zoning public hearings** to order and stated the purpose of the public hearings was to receive public input on the following topics:

1. **Christopher Blair Rezoning** - Several citizens spoke in opposition of this request.
2. **Lavern Hill Rezoning** - One citizen was present to speak in favor of this request.

Christine Stringer, Interim Planning Director, met with the board with planning & zoning issues.

1. **Christopher Blair** makes application to rezone from an A-5 to a B-1. The property consists of 5.41 acres on the north side of Highway 80 at tax parcel number 023-034. The properties on all sides are zoned A-5. The applicant intends to put in a metal building that will serve as an electrical contractor's office and storage facility. The planning department recommend a conditional BN Zone which allows for an office with no outside storage which would help to exclude any kind of storage outside of the building. The planning commission recommends denial. A motion was made by Ed Bacon and seconded by Blondean Newman to deny the request of Christopher Blair for rezoning from A-5 to B-1. Motion carried unanimously.
2. **Lavern Hill** makes application to rezone from an AR-1 to a B-1. The property consists of 1.5 acres on the west side of Charles Shuman Road at tax parcel number 022-02. The properties on the south are zoned A-5. The other adjoining properties are zoned AR-1. The applicant intends to have a day care facility in an existing building on the property. The planning department states this facility is needed and will not adversely affect the neighborhood. The planning commission recommends approval. A motion was made by Ed Bacon and seconded by Blondean Newman to approve the rezoning request of Lavern Hill from AR-1 to B-1 conditional to allow for a day care center only. Motion carried unanimously.

John Collins of Integrated Science & Engineering met with the board to discuss an **Environmental Resource Management Plan**. Mr. Collins was asked to prepare a report and come back before the board at the September meeting to discuss this further.

Neil Smiley, Director of Engineering & Inspections, met with the board to give an

update on projects in his department.

***Approval of roads for State Aid (Base & Paving) F/Y 2003 - Blige Road, Otter Hole Road and Fancy Court** were approved by the Department of Transportation of July 16, 2003. The funding on these projects will be approximately \$135,000. It was the consensus of the board to start with the survey and right-of-way work on Otter Hole and Blige Roads. We already have the right-of-way on Fancy Court.

***PR TSAP-144 (4) CI (029) Project (Ivey Street Red Light)** - We did not receive any bids on this project from the June advertisement. Two contractors were later called and asked to give us a bid on this work. It was the consensus of the board to hold off on this project and re-bid at a later time.

***Groover Hill Road** - At this time we have nine (9) right-of-way deeds signed. We will be sending 10-11 parcels to the county attorney for condemnation in the next couple of days.

***Hendrix Road** - The Department of Transportation has reviewed this road and made recommendations. Chairman Warnell, Commissioner Bacon, Neil Smiley and Derrell Newman are to meet on site to discuss this project.

***Oxford Subdivision** - We are presently waiting of the final topping of asphalt on this project.

Derrell Newman, Director of Public Works, met with the board to discuss several projects.

***Harris Trail Road** - A printout was given to each commissioner showing what has been done on this project and what has been expended thus far.

***Dutchtown Subdivision** - The County Attorney and Mr. Newman received a letter from an attorney about the status of some county roads. The developer of this subdivision maintains these roads are private and wishes them to remain private. However, in 1977, he submitted a proposed plat to the county that has the line item certification of ownership and dedication and that he hereby dedicates all streets to Bryan County, Georgia and a certificate of approval dated in 1977 by the county accepting these roads. It was the consensus of the board that these are county roads and we should notify this attorney of such.

***Georgia's Better Back Roads Projects** - The RC&D county commission members from throughout the state have long been concerned with increased demand for better rural roads as well as the potential for water quality-related fines caused by poorly maintained dirt roads. A committee called Georgia's Better Back Roads Projects has been formed and Mr. Newman has been asked by ACCG to serve on this newly formed committee.

***Bodaford Trail Road** - Mr. Newman was asked to figure what it will cost to repair this

road and get back with the Chairman.

A motion was made by Toby Roberts and seconded by Ed Bacon to go into *executive session* to discuss personnel matters and litigation. Motion carried unanimously. The board went into executive session at 4:46 p.m.

A motion was made by Toby Roberts and seconded by Blondean Newman to go back into *regular session*. Motion carried unanimously. The board went back into regular session at 5:15 p.m.

A motion was made by Toby Roberts and seconded by Rick Gardner that the Bryan County Board of Commissioners accept the *resignation of County Administrator David McCranie*, effective August 1, 2003; that the County retain him in the position of consultant through December 31, 2003, and that while he is serving as consultant, he be available to County officials and employees to consult and assist in the completion of County projects with which he is familiar; that during this period, he receive compensation as currently paid, plus medical insurance and retirement benefits; further provided, if he obtains employment at essentially the same compensation which would prevent him serving as consultant, compensation from Bryan County will terminate on the occurrence of such employment provided, however, Mr. McCranie shall receive no less than three months compensation and benefits. If employment should occur prior to three months of compensation and benefits received, Mr. McCranie will be paid the balance of three months compensation and benefits. In any event, all his duties and the County's covenants, with the exception of retirement, which is to be paid through December 31, 2004, terminate December 31, 2003 if not earlier terminated because of employment. Motion carried unanimously.

After a discussion, it was the consensus of the board to *advertise* for the position of *county administrator* for two weeks in the local paper, on the ACCG job market web page and Savannahjobs.com with the deadline for receiving applications being August 31, 2003.

Chairman Warnell expressed his *appreciation* for the job which *David McCranie* had done during his tenure as county administrator.

Ty Hill of Gateway Community Service Board met with the board to request a *loan* of up to \$36,000 to be paid back over 12 months. The Children and Adolescent program is currently using open warehouse space to conduct groups because there is no more usable space in the building located in Pembroke. There is no conditioned air nor separate rooms for splitting up the groups as needed. The Gateway CSB is proposing to build out some of the warehouse space into group rooms. These rooms will have air-conditioning and walls for privacy. The cost of this project is estimated to be around \$36,000. They are asking the County to consider loaning them the money for a period of 12 to 24 months. This will be paid back in monthly installments until

the balance is paid in full. A motion was made by Toby Roberts and seconded by Blondean

Newman that we honor the request of Gateway Community Service Board and loan them up to \$36,000 to be paid back within 12 months. Commissioner Bacon abstained from voting. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on the *Advanced Versatile Services Contract*. A motion was made by Toby Roberts and seconded by Ed Bacon to accept the contract as presented by Advanced Versatile Services through December 31, 2004. Motion carried unanimously.

“Copy Contract”

A discussion was held on the *appointment of a new Planning and Zoning Director*. A motion was made by Al Dixon and seconded by Ed Bacon that we appoint **Ron Thomasson** as the new Planning and Zoning Director with an annual salary of \$50,000. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on an *appointment to the Bryan County Department of Family and Children Services Board*. This topic was tabled until next month.

A discussion was held on setting a *date for budget hearings*. It was the consensus of the board to meet on **August 20 and August 21** at 8:00 a.m. each day at the Commission Meeting Room.

A discussion was held on an *Emergency Management Plan*. February 2004 is the deadline for submitting updated plans. It was the consensus of the board to form a committee consisting of Vernon Rushing as chairperson, a representative from each fire chief, each police chief, sheriff, EMS and Environmental Health to help develop this plan.

Commissioner Dixon discussed several concerns the *South Bryan Fire Department* has in regards to their organization.

A discussion was held on *tax refunds*. A motion was made by Toby Roberts and seconded by Blondean Newman to approve the request for refund for fire tax in the amount of \$56.25 for Mary Engelmann and approve the refund request for Scott G. Wadeson in the amount of \$275.79. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on *releasing taxes on mobile homes* that the Tax Assessors office have verified are either no longer located in Bryan County or are dwellings that are no longer livable. This topic was tabled.

A discussion was held on the request by *Sam Davis to change his part time clerical position to full time*. A motion was made by Toby Roberts and seconded by Rick Gardner to

approve the request for the part time clerical position in the Probate Court to be changed to a full time clerical position with fund to come from the election budget. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Ed Bacon and seconded by Rick Gardner to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.