

Bryan County Board of Commissioners - February 11, 2003

The regular meeting of the Bryan County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, February 11, 2003. The following members were present: Chairman Brooks Warnell, Commissioner Rick Gardner, Commissioner Al Dixon, Jr., Commissioner Ed Bacon, Commissioner Bloudean Newman, Commissioner Toby Roberts, County Administrator David McCranie, County Clerk Donna Waters and County Attorney Jay Stewart.

Chairman Warnell called the pre-agenda meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. The agenda items were discussed and the agenda was approved as amended.

Chairman Warnell called the regular meeting to order at 1:36 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 January 7, 2003 regular meeting. A motion was made by Al Dixon and seconded by Bloudean Newman to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2003 regular meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on the *minutes* of the January 17, 2003 called meeting. A motion was made by Toby Roberts and seconded by Ed Bacon to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2003 called 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 consent agenda with the exception of item 4, which was moved to the regular agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

The following items were listed on the consent agenda.

1. ***Approval of New Occupational Tax Certificates***
 - *Walsh Industrial Equipment - Patrick Walsh
 - *S & E Concessions - Ernest Hamilton
 - *Blue Flag Motorsports - James Hunt
 - *Hale Tea Company - Lisa Brown
 - *Corbin Construction - Donna Corbin
 - *Right Angle Construction & Remodeling - Damon Leopold
 - *Have Scissors Will Travel - Joy Ratledge
 - *Shiv Associates, Inc. - Rashmikant Patel
 - *Lee's Glass & Supply - Anthony Lee
 - *Karlene's Pet Center - Karlene Sellers
2. ***Approval of Alcoholic Beverage License***
 - *R. S. Package Shop - Richard Stringer
3. ***Approval of Tax Refund***

*L. Richard Lee Properties & E. B. Miles Properties - \$6.20

Jody Laing met with the board to discuss his dissatisfaction over the **court system** failing him on several occasions. He has had problems with subpoenas being served on himself and his wife, leaving them not knowing about court dates and the court cases being dismissed. He has had problems with the District Attorney's Office and the Sheriff's Department returning his calls. The Chairman was asked to contact the District Attorney and the Sheriff requesting the Board of Commissioners have an audience with them.

Owen Thayer and Kimberly Nott of the **Coastal Bryan Development Authority** met with the board to discuss several issues.

***Bryan County Resource Guide** - The Coastal Bryan Development Authority is requesting the county share in the cost of the publication of this guide with the Richmond Hill-Bryan County Chamber of Commerce and the Richmond Hill Convention & Visitor's Bureau. They would like for the county to pay 1/3 of the cost which is \$4,570.00. The development authority was asked to pay this out of their budget at this time.

***Highway 144/I-95 Lighting** - The high side estimate for this project is \$110,000. We will talk with Gary Priester of the Department of Transportation and the legislator members in regards to assistance with this project.

***Belfast Siding Interchange** - The development authority would like to obtain a letter of support for this project to be sent to Rayland. It was the consensus of the board to proceed with this letter.

***Southeast Georgia Alliance** - There is a newly formed Southeast Georgia Alliance in which Bryan County should become a member. To become a member of SEGA the base membership fee is \$2,000. The fee will not be due until after the first membership meeting that is tentatively scheduled for March 20th. A motion was made by Al Dixon and seconded by Ed Bacon that we give Kimberly Nott permission to contact SEGA and commit Bryan County's participation in membership into SEGA and our dues being contingent upon them making the first meeting and the organization actually coming to fruition and the dues be paid equally out of the two industrial funds. Motion carried unanimously.

Richard Flierl and Brett Wylie of Cooper Carry, Inc. met with the board to give a short presentation of their firm's credentials, including general information of their firm, its history and the significance of their studio, The Center for Connective Architecture. They also explained their role in preparing **master planning** for livable communities.

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

1. **Donald & Suzanne Patten Rezoning** - No one present to speak in favor or

opposition.

2. ***Odell Bacon/Kenneth Darien Rezoning*** - No one present to speak in favor or opposition other than the applicants.
3. ***M. E. Brown/Robert Smith, Jr. Rezoning*** - No one present to speak in favor or opposition other than the applicant.

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

1. ***Donald and Suzanne Patten Rezoning*** - This property consists of 5 acres on Belfast Keller Road in South Bryan County, tax parcel number 56-16, currently zoned A-5. The requested zoning is AR-1.5. The properties on the east, west and south are zoned AR-5. There are nearby properties that are zoned R-1 and R-30. Other properties are zoned A-5 but are less than five acres. The applicant intends to subdivide his lot and put another house on the back lot for himself. His plans are to sell the lot in front so that his wife can quit work. She is having some health problems. A motion was made by Toby Roberts and seconded by Rick Gardner to table this request of Donald & Suzanne Patten in order to contact all surrounding property owners. Motion carried unanimously.
2. ***Kenneth Darien/Odell Bacon Rezoning*** - This property consists of 25.22 acres cut out of map and parcel number 56-14 which was a total of 400 acres owned by Rayonier. Property is located on Blige Road with 685 ft. of road frontage. The tax parcel number is 56-25 and 56-25.01, currently zoned A-5. The requested zoning is AR-1.5. The adjacent zonings are A-5 on the south, east and west and property on the north is zoned R-30 and AR-1. The proposed development is for two residential lots with road frontage on Blige Road. A motion was made by Al Dixon and seconded by Toby Roberts to deny the rezoning request of Kenneth Darien/Odell Bacon from A-5 to AR-1.5. Voting for: Dixon, Roberts, Gardner and Newman. Voting against: Bacon. Motion carried.
3. ***M. E. Brown/Robert Smith, Jr. Rezoning*** - This property consists of over 31 acres on the south side of Highway 80 in the North end of Bryan County. It is tax parcel number 12.9-02 and is currently zoned A-5. The requested zoning is AR-2.5. The properties on the north, south, east and west are zoned A-5. The applicant intends to build one house on a 3.8 acre lot and would like to have only the 3.8 acres rezoned to a 2.5 acre district. A motion was made by Blondean Newman and seconded by Ed Bacon to approve the rezoning request of M. E. Brown/Robert Smith, Jr. to rezone 3.8 acres of tax parcel number 12.9-02 from A-5 to AR-2.5. Motion carried unanimously.
4. ***PUD Ordinance*** - Copies of the proposed PUD Ordinance were given to the commissioners for their review. We will have a first reading of the PUD

Ordinance at the March meeting.

5. ***Demeries Lake Subdivision Preliminary Plat Revision*** - Mr. Murray is requesting to modify the preliminary plat that was approved by the Bryan County Board of Commissioners in the following manner: To allow the placement of shrubbery in the center of both cul-de-sac in said subdivision in lieu of completely paving the entire cul-de-sac; To allow a smaller island at the entrance to Demeries Lake Subdivision with shrubbery to be placed in said island. Upon approval of these two conditions the developers would transfer ownership and maintenance of said areas in the cul-de-sac and island at the entrance to the homeowners association to be maintained by the homeowners. The developers would request that they be allowed to eliminate the sidewalk as set forth on the preliminary plans based upon the fact that the lots are two and one-half acres and total lots in the entire subdivision would be approximately thirty with only sixteen in Phase I. It was the consensus of the board to allow these changes.

Chairman Warnell left the meeting at this time and Vice-Chairman Newman chaired the remainder of the meeting.

Susan Clark, EMS Director, met with the board to give an update on the Emergency Medical Service.

****Jodie Jernigan*** has been hired to full time to fill a vacancy on the ambulance. She will also be assisting Linda Miller on the EMS billing.

****Fee Structure*** - A new fee structure was presented for the years 2003, 2004 and 2005. A motion was made by Toby Roberts and seconded by Ed Bacon that we adopt the proposed fee structure for years 2003, 2004 and 2005 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

“Copy Fee Structure”

Kathy Hicks, E-911 Coordinator, met with the board to discuss the need for additional funding. ***Coastal Communications*** has notified her that as of February 1, 2003, they are going to start billing our agency monthly for ANI information. Ms. Hicks was advised our county should have already been paying for this information but had “fallen through the cracks”. The approximately total annual cost is \$17,760.00. Presently, we do not pay other telephone companies for this information. A motion was made by Al Dixon and seconded by Ed Bacon to table this topic in order to talk with Coastal Communications and allow the county attorney time to review this.

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

***Harris Trail Road Phase II** - We have received the final plans from Thomas & Hutton and can move forward with this project. A preconstruction conference has been held and the surveyor should begin on Friday. The railroad still needs to be settled, they want us to send half the money now and the other half later. The cost to repair the arms, purchase equipment, etc. is \$295,144.94. We need to send the railroad a check for \$147,572.47, this will allow them to buy the equipment to do the new work.

***State Route 144 and Ivey Street** - The right-of-way has been acquired on this project and the paperwork has been sent to the county attorney to be certified. We need to try to schedule the work on this project for June, after school is out.

***Oxford Subdivision Sidewalks** - We have acquired right-of-way on this project and can move on with the construction once we have dry weather. It will be necessary to go back and survey three (3) or four (4) parcels once we find out the exact location of the sidewalk. We should do this work in the March/April time frame.

***Carlos Cowart Road** - The contractor has moved in on this project and started the paving process. The rain has slowed this down.

***Interstate Centre Roadway Project** - A preconstruction meeting was held on February 3, 2003. Work should be starting within the next couple of weeks.

***Frank Hendry Road** - This road has been surveyed and the preliminary title work was requested August 12, 2002. Some negotiation work has been done, we are waiting on the title update to complete right-of-way negotiation.

***Seascape Road** - Right-of-way has been donated for this road. We are waiting on the title work.

***Jerico Subdivision** - We are waiting on a deed to the road from the Homeowners Association's attorney.

Chris Canicatti met with the board to discuss the paving of **Hendrix Road**. There has been several accidents on this road during the past couple of months.

David McCranie, County Administrator, met with the board to give an update on several projects.

***Richmond Hill Gym Expansion** - After the bid award of the gym expansion project, Mr. Lockwood was asked to get with the contractor and discuss alternatives that might reduce the cost of the building without diminishing the finished gym. It was the consensus of the board no to cut anything out of the original bid and to proceed with the project.

***Danny Bryant Property** - Mr. McCranie has met with Danny Bryant concerning the

U.S. 17 site. This was a positive meeting, we will have to do some surveying and then get back in touch with Mr. Bryant concerning this property.

***Sheriff's Complex** - This project is proceeding. The Sheriff has chosen McCall & Associates as the architectural firm.

***CDBG Project (Groover Hill Area)** - This project is underway at this time.

***Scrap Tire Grant Workshop** - Christy Stringer attended this workshop. In order to qualify for this grant, a person would have to be committed to this project only. The board is not in favor of this at this time.

***Commissioners at the Capitol Day** - The District 12 Commissioners Day at the Capitol is February 19, 2003. Mr. McCranie will be in Atlanta at this time with Family Connections and he will represent Bryan County. If anyone else can attend, please let David know.

***Retreat** - Mr. McCranie has been in touch with Julian Padford with Savannah Electric and he has indicated he would like to be our moderator again. A tentative date of April 24 and 25, at the Sea Palms Resort has been set. Each commissioner was asked to notify David and let him know if this date is okay.

***House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee** - Congressman Max Burns has been appointed to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. This committee handles projects such as T21 and other projects pertaining to infrastructure improvements and transportation projects across the country. (This is projects such as lights, bike trails, tourist related projects, etc.) We need to contact Congressman Burns to see if we can get assistance with our lighting project.

Commissioner Roberts discussed the need to have someone in charge of the **marquis sign at Richmond Hill**. Mr. McCranie was asked to bring back a recommendation to the board.

Paul Weinberger of the Pembroke Library met with the board to discuss **roofing of the Pembroke Library**. Bids have been received on this project. It was the consensus of the board to receive bids on a metal roof before making a decision.

A discussion was held on an **appointment to the Bryan County Library Board**. This topic was tabled until March.

A discussion was held on a request from the **City of Pembroke for SPLOST funding**. They are requesting \$25,515.55 for lighting and \$4,531.74 for street improvements for the street behind El Cheapo. A motion was made by Ed Bacon and seconded by Toby Roberts to approve the request of the City of Pembroke for SPLOST funding for \$25,515.55 for lighting and \$4,531.74 for street improvements. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on the status of the *emergency vehicle for South Bryan County Fire Department*. The lights & radio out of the county administrator's old car is currently being used. A motion was made by Al Dixon and seconded by Toby Roberts to approve the purchase of the following items with funds to come from the fire fund contingency: Painting - \$600.00; Decals & Emergency Insignia - \$450.00; Radio, connections & installation - \$1,500.00; Lights, sirens & horns - \$1,500.00; Breathing apparatus & miscellaneous equipment - \$4,000.00. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on the *donation of leave time to Jessi Shuman*. A motion was made by Ed Bacon and seconded by Toby Roberts to grant Jessi Shuman 120 hours of donated leave time. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Toby Roberts and seconded by Al Dixon to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.