

Bryan County Board of Commissioners - March 11, 2003

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

Chairman Warnell called the pre-agenda meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. The agenda items were discussed and the agenda was approved as amended.

Chairman Warnell called the regular meeting to order at 1:41 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 February 11, 2003 regular meeting. A motion was made by Ed Bacon and seconded by Al Dixon to approve the minutes of the of the February 11, 2003 regular meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on the *consent agenda*. A motion was made by Toby Roberts and seconded by Ed Bacon to approve the consent agenda with the exception of item #4. Motion carried unanimously.

The following items were listed on the consent agenda.

1. ***Approval of New Occupational Tax Certificates***
 - *Precision Golf - Christopher & Heather Godwin
 - *Sea Breeze - Sandy L. Peterson
 - *South Georgia Truck & Equipment - Terry Pike
 - *CASSH Interprise, Inc. - Humphrey & Renee Thomas
 - *Reba's Country Stables - Reba Perkins

2. ***Approval of Tax Refunds***
 - *Mr. Charles Bell - \$940.87
 - *Judy Price - \$85.00
 - *Mr. James R. Lanier - \$216.10
 - *Release bills on following mobile homes:
 - *Amy Stafford - \$291.57
 - *Jack Guenther - \$698.34
 - *Jennifer Williams - \$719.88
 - *Neta Presley - \$813.18

 - *Joe Anne Parker - \$181.29

*Velma Johnson - \$227.79

*James Waller - \$574.64

3. ***Denial of Tax Refunds***

*Matt Suddath - \$96.39

Michele Henderson met with the board to discuss the ***City of Richmond Hill's Settlement Proposal*** in regards to the ***Water & Sewer Service Delivery***. A motion was made by Al Dixon and seconded by Ed Bacon that we approve the revisions to the Service Delivery Strategy as to the water and sewer services proposed here today. Motion carried unanimously.

Attachment on Water and Sewer Services

The October, 1999 Bryan County Service Delivery Strategy will be amended as follows:

1. Richmond Hill will be the provider of water and sewer services within its incorporated area, and within the adjacent area indicated on the attached map.
2. Pembroke will be the provider of water and sewer services within its incorporated area, and within the adjacent area shaded on the attached map.
3. Bryan County will be the provider of water and sewer services in the remainder of the unincorporated area of Bryan County, not designated as the service area of Richmond Hill or Pembroke.
4. Water purchased by Bryan County from the City of Savannah, under the existing agreement between Bryan County and the City of Savannah, shall be used only to provide water to the Genesis Point development and the adjacent area as shown on the attached map, unless otherwise agreed between Richmond Hill and Bryan County.
5. Bryan County will share equally with Richmond Hill the volume of water that will become available as a result of the "multiplier factor" of the Savannah/Bryan County water purchase agreement as designated by Georgia EPD.

A discussion was held on a ***proposal from the City of Richmond Hill*** regarding special ***service districts and millage differential between Richmond Hill and Bryan County***.

Commissioner Dixon stated that when Bryan County does establish a special tax district for services for the unincorporated areas, that you will see the mil differential will be a moving target, because of budget and revenue changes. A motion was made by Toby Roberts and seconded by Al Dixon that we approve the proposal regarding special service districts and millage differential between Richmond Hill and Bryan County. Motion carried unanimously.

Proposal Regarding Special Service Districts

***and Millage Differential
Between Richmond Hill and Bryan County***

1. Beginning with the county tax bills issued in 2005, there will be a 1 mil differential in the amount of taxes collected from within the City of Richmond Hill and the unincorporated areas of Bryan County. This will be achieved through establishment of special service tax district(s) within the unincorporated area of Bryan County.
2. The above millage rate differentials shall be maintained until 2008, when the differentials will be renegotiated prior to issuance of the 2008 tax bills.
3. Bryan County and the City of Pembroke may negotiate a separate agreement for millage differentials between the City of Pembroke and the unincorporated area of Bryan County.

Teresa Concannon of the ***Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center*** met with the board to discuss the ***Solid Waste Short Term Work Plan***. A motion was made by Ed Bacon and seconded by Blondean Newman that we contract with the Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center for \$1800.00 to prepare our solid waste short term work plan. Motion carried unanimously.

Janet Thayer met with the board to discuss starting a ***Bryan County Leadership Program***. She is requesting a letter of support for this program along with a commitment of funds. She would also like for one commissioner to sit on the selection committee, which Al Dixon volunteered to be on this committee. It was the consensus of the Board to write a letter of support at this time. It was also the consensus of the Board that we would commit funds at a later time.

Steve Scholar of the City of Richmond Hill met with the board to discuss the county participating in a ***beautification program***. They are proposing welcome signs on Highway 17 and planting crape myrtles in the median. The approximate cost will be \$65,305 and they are requesting Bryan County fund approximately \$35,805 out of SPLOST funds. The city will pay \$8,250 and the Richmond Hill Convention and Visitor's Bureau will pay \$8,250.00. A motion was made by Al Dixon and seconded by Blondean Newman that we commit to the beautification program for Richmond Hill and Bryan County. Motion carried unanimously.

Owen Thayer of the ***Coastal Bryan Development Authority*** discussed with the board the ***lighting at Highway 144 and I-95 interchange***. They are requesting funding to finance labor costs to install lighting equipment at this interchange. The estimated cost from Coastal Electric (the low bidder) is \$80,000. There is a possibility we can get some state funding on this project if we tie it in with a federal project nearby. The commissioners questioned whether SPLOST funds can be used on this project. After reviewing the resolution on SPLOST, the County Attorney

advised SPLOST funds (road and street improvements) can be used. No decision was made at this time.

Tara Jennings of Family Connections met with the board to discuss bids which were received on a *mini-bus* to be purchased from **drug abuse treatment and education funds**. A motion was made by Al Dixon and seconded by Bloudean Newman that we approve purchasing the Nalley Bus at \$54,826.00 with funds to come from the Bryan County Drug Abuse & Treatment Fund. Motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Roberts abstained from voting.

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. **Louis Arnsdorff Rezoning** - No one present to speak in favor or opposition.
3. **PUD Ordinance** - No one signed up to speak on this item.

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

1. **Donald and Suzanne Patten Rezoning** - The property consists of 5 acres on Belfast Keller Road in South Bryan County. The tax parcel number is 56-16 and the current zoning is 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 the front so that his wife can quit work. She is having some health problems. A motion was made by Al Dixon and seconded by Toby Roberts that we approve the rezoning of Donald & Suzanne Patten from A-5 to AR-1.5 with the condition that it be limited to the two lots as shown with the one lot with the 250' frontage having access off of Belfast Keller Road and the other remaining lot using access off their easement from the private dirt road owned by Rayonier. Motion carried unanimously.
2. **Louis Arnsdorff Rezoning** - The property consists of 8.6 acres on the south side of Smith Road and west side of Highway 144 in Bryan County. The tax parcel number is 64-004 and the current zoning is A-5. The requested zoning is AR-2.5. The properties on the north, east and south are zoned A-5, on the west is AR-2.5.
3. The applicant intends to subdivide the property into three lots. A motion was made by Toby Roberts and seconded by Bloudean Newman to approve the

rezoning request of Louis Arnsdorff from A-5 to AR-2.5. Motion carried unanimously.

4. ***PUD Ordinance*** - The first reading of the PUD Ordinance was held. Several changes were made at this time.
5. ***Resolution on Greenspace Program*** - A motion was made by Al Dixon and seconded by Blondean Newman adopting the resolution authorizing the greenspace program and the establishment of a trust fund for the greenspace. Motion carried unanimously.

‘Copy Resolution’

Sam Davis, Probate Judge, met with the board to request funding to hire ***additional personnel*** in his department. A motion was made by Al Dixon and seconded by Toby Roberts that we authorize the Probate Judge to advertise for a part time clerk position in his office with hours not to exceed 29 hours per week. Voting for: Dixon, Roberts, Newman. Voting against: Bacon. Motion carried.

David McCranie, County Administrator, met with the board to discuss several projects.

****Grants through FEMA for Fire Departments*** - The South Bryan Fire Department is requesting permission to apply for grants through FEMA. One grant is with the US Fire Agency Administration in the amount of \$100,000 - \$150,000 and will require a 10% match. Another grant is with the Homeland Security in the amount of \$50,000 - \$100,000 and will require a 10% match. A motion was made by Al Dixon and seconded by Toby Roberts that we give a letter of support and approval to the fire departments to apply for those grants, recognizing that if we are successful in obtaining the grants we have a 10% match, to come out of the fire fund. Motion carried unanimously.

****Bike Trail through Richmond Hill*** - Ms. Jo Hickson has applied for federal funding through the TEA grants for year 2003 for funds on the bike trail through Richmond Hill.

****Safety Meetings*** - We are continuing with our safety meetings trying to meet all the rules for our insurance discounts.

****Policy for Marquis Sign in Richmond Hill*** - Proposing we hire a high school student who will be paid \$40.00 per week to come twice a week (Mondays and Thursdays) and change out our community messages. A form will need to be completed by anyone wishing to use the sign and approved by David. It was the consensus of the Board to try this policy and see how it works.

****Ivanhoe Substation*** - A high voltage transmission line called Ivanhoe Substation was proposed to go through our new Industrial Development Centre at I-16 and Highway 280. This

line is now proposed to go down Cuyler Road, missing our park.

***Bryan County Hazardous Mitigation Planning Committee** - This committee has been meeting monthly in order to comply with the state requirements for any of our emergency disaster events. Once completed, this will allow Bryan County to receive state and federal emergency funds for any disaster relief that may be required. Vernon Rushing is chairing this committee.

***Representative Max Burns** will be in Augusta on March 15, 2003 at 12:00 for a victory celebration. The board has been invited to attend. He will also be in Pembroke on March 14, 2003.

***Retreat** - We have not been able to schedule a retreat at this time. It was the consensus of the board to try to schedule something in September.

***Economic Impact Study** - The North Bryan Chamber of Commerce would like to request that the Board of Commissioners join with them in contracting for an "Economic Impact Study" to be conducted by the Business Board of Georgia Southern University under Dr. Phyllis Isley. No action was taken at this time. It was stated that the Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center is doing a regional study at this time.

Chris Canicatti met with the board to discuss the paving of **Hendrix Road**. The board instructed Derrell Newman to put gravel on the end of this road to help at this time.

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

***Groover Hill Road** - Preliminary Title Work has been received, acquiring right-of-way should begin any day.

***Patching Projects** - Certification has been received on Cartertown, Clarktown and Charles Shuman Road.

***State Route 144 & Ivey Street** - Certification has been received on this project.

***Oxford Subdivision Sidewalk** - We have certified the right-of-way on this project but it has been too wet to do any work. Work should begin within a week.

***Frank Hendry Road** - We are waiting on title work on this project.

***Road Priority List** - Mr. Smiley is requesting to have each of the roads on this list graded by the State before we take this list to the state.

Dan Rollf, Chief Assessor, met with the board to discuss the **GIS Coordinator** position.

A motion was made by Ed Bacon and seconded by Toby Roberts that we establish the starting salary of the GIS Coordinator at \$25,000 effective March 17, 2003. Motion carried unanimously.

Charles Brown, County Attorney, met with the board to discuss several issues.

***One Georgia** - One Georgia has ruled in favor of the Development Authority and Bryan County in regards to the awarding of the road improvement bid. They have sent the necessary forms to the North Bryan Development Authority for signature to proceed.

***Harris Trail** - For information purposes, the following resolution was presented and approved.

‘Copy Resolution’

***Independent Contractor Agreement** - The contract between Bryan County and Advanced Versatile Services was reviewed and found to be in order.

***Contracts on Water Well & Storage Tank** - The contracts on the water well and storage tank at the Industrial Centre have been reviewed and found to be in order with minors changes being made.

Derrell Newman, Director of Public Works, met with the board to discuss projects in his department.

***SPLOST Projects** - Mr. Newman gave an update on SPLOST projects he has been working on since the beginning of the current SPLOST in 2001.

***Advanced Versatile Services Contract** - Mr. Newman presented an amendment to include overtime to the current contract with Advanced Versatile Services. A motion was made by Ed Bacon and seconded by Blondean Newman to amend the Advanced Versatile Services contract to include the payment of overtime wages. Motion carried unanimously.

‘Copy Amendment’

A discussion was held on an **appointment to the Bryan County Board of Health**. This topic was tabled until April meeting.

A discussion was held on an **appointment to the Bryan County Board of Assessors**. A motion was made by Al Dixon and seconded by Ed Bacon to appoint **Michele Henderson** to a six year term on the Bryan County Board of Assessors. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on an **appointment to the Bryan County Library Board**. A

motion was made by Al Dixon and seconded by Toby Roberts to appoint ***Jimmy Hendley*** to the Bryan County Library Board with his term to expire June 30, 2004. Motion carried unanimously.

The Department of Transportation has required Bryan County to secure a ***letter of credit*** in the amount of \$20,000 in order to acquire a permit to connect the new ***Industrial Centre Road*** into Highway 280. This letter of credit will be required as long as construction goes on at this location. The First Bank of Coastal Georgia has agreed to issue this letter of credit without a charge to the county. A motion as made by Al Dixon and seconded by Toby Roberts authorizing the Chairman to sign a note for a letter of credit held by the First Bank of Coastal Georgia in the amount of \$20,000 for DOT requirements on the road construction on the Industrial Centre Road. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on a request for ***transfer of funds in the 911 department***. This topic was tabled at this time.

A discussion was held on ***donation of leave time***. A motion was made by Ed Bacon and seconded by Toby Roberts to add back to the consent agenda item #4 for approval. Motion carried unanimously.

Item #4 - ***Donation of Leave Time***

Tommie Rackley - 320 hours

Bernadine Houston - 100 hours

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.