

Bryan County Board of Commissioners - April 1, 2003

The regular meeting of the Bryan County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, April 1, 2003. The following members were present: Chairman Brooks Warnell, Commissioner Al Dixon, Jr., Commissioner Blondean Newman, Commissioner Rick Gardner, Commissioner Ed Bacon, Commissioner Toby Roberts, County Administrator David McCranie, County Clerk Donna Waters and County Attorney Charles Brown.

Chairman Warnell called the pre-agenda meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. The agenda items were discussed and the agenda was approved as amended.

Chairman Warnell called the regular meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance. After a moment of silence, the invocation as given by Commissioner Dixon. Visitors were recognized.

A discussion was held on the *minutes* of the March 11, 2003 regular meeting. A motion was made by Ed Bacon and seconded by Al Dixon to approve the minutes of the March 11, 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 Blondean Newman to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

The following items were listing on the consent agenda:

1. ***Approval of New Occupational Tax Certificates***
  - \*Richard C. Stafford - Richard Stafford Construction
  - \*Thomas R. Jenkins - Jenkins Construction Company
  - \*Courtney C. Williams - C & M Sales
  - \*Farida Punjani - Country Store
  
2. ***Approval of Alcoholic Beverage License***
  - \*Farida Punjani - Country Store

***Michele Henderson*** met with the board to discuss a proposal by the ***City of Pembroke*** in regards to the ***Service Delivery Strategy***. The city is requesting an allocation of 50,000 gallons of water per day, as well as an expanded service delivery area. The board has concerns with these requests and asked Ms. Henderson go back and meet with the city council. The Chairman will also meet with the Mayor.

Ms. Henderson also discussed amending the service delivery strategy in regards to ***future service territory***. Since we have two cities that we have to negotiate service delivery territory with, perhaps in our water agreement it may want to say that if the county wants to give up service in the north end of the county it does not require the consent of the City of Richmond

Hill and if the county wants to give up service in the south end of the county it does not require the consent of the City of Pembroke. It was the consensus of the Board to propose an amendment on this.

***Darrell McNeill of Growth Solutions, Inc.*** met with the Board to give an update on the ***Highway 144 By-pass project***. The Department of Transportation has sent a letter stating that as a result of their review on the SR 144 Realignment-Proposed new location, they believe that this project should maintain its existing alignment and original concept of widening from two to four lanes from Timber Trail/CR 100 to Park Hill Road/Belfast Keller/CR 154. Mr. McNeill has spoken with DOT in regards to this letter and they have stated the door is not closed on the by-pass project, but the county will need to write an appeal letter with a revised alignment and a revised cost estimate for the interchange near Park Hill Road. It was the consensus of the board to send the appeal letter. Commissioner Roberts to going to meet with John Burns, DOT Board Member, in regards to this project.

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

***\*Oxford Subdivision Sidewalk*** - We have ran into problems on this project. Previously, the easement agreements had been acquired and the project was ready to proceed once the site could dry out. We now have some citizens who want to be compensated and have input on the location. It was the consensus of the board to proceed with this projects due to previous easements being signed. Commissioner Roberts and Mr. Smiley will meet with the President of the Homeowners Association to discuss the layout of this project.

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

***\*Patching Project: Cartertown Road, Clarktown Road and Charles Shuman Road*** - We are currently waiting on notice to proceed from the Department of Transportation on this project.

***\*Railroad Crossing on Cartertown Road*** - The potholes have become dangerous at this location. The county attorney was asked to write a letter to the railroad in regards to the urgency of repairing these potholes.

***\*Groover Hill Road (CDBG Grant)*** - The right-of-way has been certified by the County Attorney and information has been forwarded to Sara Davis for approval. Sara has advised Mr. Smiley that she has reviewed the titles and he should be able to start negotiations within two (2) weeks.

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

\*We have received a letter from **Georgia Transmission Corporation** concerning the high voltage transmission line to a new substation called **Ivanhoe Substation**. This line should go down Cuyler Road, which is behind our new Interstate Centre. This should be a benefit to all our new industries as they locate in this park.

\*Due to the heavy rains, our **road department** has been busy handling drainage and road problems. They're doing a great job, but obviously can't cure every problem at once.

\*The Committee to rework the **Personnel handbook** met on Friday, March 28. These meetings had been suspended due to the influx of activities and the committee will try to have this completed in the couple of months to be presented to the commission for change and/or adoption.

\*Work on **Harris Trial** has begun by our road department. We will try to make this road a priority even though we may have to work elsewhere occasionally. We have started with clearing and right-of-ways and this work is proceeding smoothly.

\*We have been trying to acquire bids on a **metal roof for the library in Pembroke**. We had one bid, but we are trying to get others. Hopefully, by the May meeting we will have metal roof bids along with shingle bids for review.

\*We are progressing on our **solid waste plan**. We held a solid waste public hearing on Thursday, March 27, 2003. Teresa Concannon, RDC, is holding the hearings and writing our amended plan. Another meeting will be held next month.

\*The **hazardous mitigation committee** continues to meet to satisfy the state requirements in order to participate with GEMA and FEMA.

\*Our county attorney has approved the wording of the **contract with McCall and Associates for the new Sheriff's complex and 911 center**. Sheriff Smith is paying the majority of this contract from his funds. The only thing that the county would be responsible for would be the EMA addition should we decided to do this.

\*Kathy Hicks and David McCranie met with representatives from **Coastal Communications** regarding the bill for servicing the accounts. Negotiations were made to determine whether or not they would lower the bill. They were informed we had not budgeted for it. They agreed to decrease the bill amount by 50%, but have informed us they will begin charging the full amount in January, 2004.

\***Canoochee River Raft Race** - A request has been made to use the Jerry Bacon Park in Groveland in conjunction with the raft race. It was the consensus of the board to allow the use of the park as long as regulations are followed.

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. ***Jack Carney/Frank DuBose Rezoning*** - No one present to speak in favor or opposition of this request.
2. ***James & Joetta Jenkins Rezoning*** - No one present to speak in favor or opposition of this request.
3. ***Proposed PUD Ordinance 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading*** - Johnny Murphy present to speak on this.

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

1. ***Jack Carney/Frank DuBose*** requests an amendment to the zoning map changing parcel B, map 30, parcel 9.01 from AR-1 zone to R-1 zone. The property is located on Highway 280 between Black Creek and Groover Hill Road. The tax parcel number is 030-09.01. Parcel B is bounded on the North by Highway 280, East by Parcel A, South and West by lands belonging to other parties. A motion was made by Blondean Newman and seconded by Ed Bacon to approve the rezoning request of Jack Carney/Frank DuBose from AR-1 to R-1. Motion carried unanimously.
2. ***James and Joetta Jenkins*** requests an amendment to the zoning map changing KC Tract 2, map 62, parcel 47 from A-5 zone to AR-2.5 zone. The property is located on Griffin Road off Belfast Keller. The tax parcel number is 062-047.02. North of KC Tract 2 is Griffin Road, South east side on private road, north west and south west sides are bounded by other private property. A motion was made by Al Dixon and seconded by Toby Roberts to approve the rezoning request of James and Joetta Jenkins from A-5 to AR-2.5. Motion carried unanimously.
3. ***PUD Ordinance*** - The two readings of this ordinance have been held. We will hold a workshop on Thursday, April 17, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. at the Richmond Hill Courthouse on this ordinance. This workshop will include the Planning Commission.

Johnny Murphy gave an update on the *purchase of property for recreation purposes*. Mr. Murphy has met with Rayonier and they have indicated they should be ready to make a decision within two (2) weeks. After this, we can proceed with negotiating to buy the property.

A motion was made by Toby Roberts and seconded by Ed Bacon to go into ***closed session***. Motion carried unanimously. The board went into closed session at 5:07 p.m.

Topics discussed during closed session:

1. ***Litigation***

A motion was made by Toby Roberts and seconded by Al Dixon to go back into ***regular session***. Motion carried unanimously. The board went back into regular session at 5:30 p.m.

A discussion was held on the ***various fees*** the county departments charge for services. At the current time, the majority of these fees are part of the ordinance, which requires two readings to amend. There was discussion on removing this from the ordinance and reviewing annually. No action was taken at this time.

A discussion was held on the ***re-codification of county ordinances***. We last did ours in December of 1996. We should consider doing this again in a couple of years.

The County Attorney discussed what constitutes a ***quorum of the commissioners***. The Chairman and three (3) members represent a quorum. To pass a motion, a majority of the commissioners present and voting must vote affirmatively. "Majority" is defined as one-half of the commissioners present excluding abstentions.

Commissioner Gardner discussed the need a topographical review of our county with long range planning for ***drainage***. No action was taken at this time.

A discussion was held on ***interviews for the Planning & Zoning Director***. These interviews will be held on Thursday, April 10, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. at the Richmond Hill Library.

A discussion was held on a proclamation for ***Fair Housing Month***. A motion was made by Al Dixon and seconded by Toby Roberts to adopt the proclamation on Fair Housing Month. Motion carried unanimously.

"Copy Proclamation"

A discussion was held on an ***appointment to the Bryan County Board of Health***. A motion was made by Al Dixon and seconded by Toby Roberts to appoint Ben Chapman to the Bryan County Board of Health to fill the unexpired term of Sandra Butler, which will expire December 31, 2003. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on a resolution on the ***Short Term Work Program of the Solid Waste Plan***. A motion was made by Al Dixon and seconded by Toby Roberts to adopt the resolution on the Short Term Work Program of the Solid Waste Plan. Motion carried unanimously.

"Copy Resolution"

A discussion was held on the ***Juvenile Court Budget***. A motion was made by Al Dixon and seconded by Toby Roberts to approve the Juvenile Court Budget in the amount of \$625.00 for Bryan County. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on the ***Superior Court Judges Budget***. A motion was made by Al Dixon and seconded by Ed Bacon to approve the Superior Court Judges Budget for Bryan County in the amount of \$13,057.06. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on a ***temporary sign for the Interstate Centre***. The present ordinance does not allow signage on Interstate 16. A motion was made by Blondean Newman and seconded by Toby Roberts to allow the sign on Interstate 16. After discussion the motion was withdrew in order to allow the County Attorney to review.

A discussion was held on the ***part time secretary in the Probate Judges Office***. A motion was made by Toby Roberts and seconded by Blondean Newman to classify the part time position in the Probate Judges Office as 0030 part time secretary at the rate of \$8.57 per hour not to exceed 29 hours per week. 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 Ed Bacon to re-appoint Barbara Baker to the Bryan County Library Board with a term of July 1, 2003 until June 30, 2006. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Al Dixon and seconded by Toby Roberts to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.