

Bryan County Board of Commissioners - January 7, 2003

The regular meeting of the Bryan County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, January 7, 2003. The following members were present: Chairman Brooks Warnell, Commissioner Rick Gardner, Commissioner Blondean Newman, Commissioner Toby Roberts, Commissioner Al Dixon, Jr., Commissioner Ed Bacon, County Administrator David McCranie and County Clerk Donna Waters.

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 1:45 p.m. Invocation was given by Commissioner Roberts. Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance. Visitors were recognized.

A discussion was held on the *minutes* of the December 3, 2002 meeting. A motion was made by Ed Bacon and seconded by Blondean Newman to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2002 meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on the *consent agenda*. A motion was made by Toby Roberts and seconded by Al Dixon to approve the consent agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

The following items were listed on the consent agenda:

1. ***Approval of New Occupational Tax Certificates***
  - \*Professional Accounting & Tax Service
  - \*Black Creek Café
  - \*Sun Coast Builders
  - \*K.I.K. Services
  - \*Tyler Plumbing
  - \*E. J. Creations
  - \*Robert F. Proctor, MD
  - \*Larry's Home Maintenance
  - \*Tuner Creek Wax Works
  
2. ***Approval of Tax Refunds***
  - \*Mr. & Mrs. Alan Woodruff - \$65.14
  - \*Mr. Robert Caldwell - \$125.44
  - \*Mr. Frederick Warnell - \$204.15
  
3. ***Approval of Donation of Leave Time***

\*Amy McDowell - 280 hours

\*Ralph Pruden - 40 hours

Chairman Warnell introduced ***Charles Brown and Jay Stewart of Brown, Rountree & Stewart, PC***. A motion was made by Toby Roberts and seconded by Ed Bacon to attain the firm of Brown, Rountree & Stewart, PC as our legal counsel for 2003. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on the ***appointment of the Vice-Chairman for 2003***. A motion was made by Al Dixon and seconded by Toby Roberts to appoint Ms. Blondean Newman as our Vice-Chairman for 2003. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on the ***appointment of the County Clerk***. A motion was made by Al Dixon and seconded by Blondean Newman to re-appoint Donna Waters as County Clerk of 2003. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on the ***appointment of the County Depository***. A motion was made by Ed Bacon and seconded by Toby Roberts to continue with First Bank of Coastal Georgia as the County Depository for 2003. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on a ***resolution adopting various county budgets for 2003***. A motion was made by Al Dixon and seconded by Ed Bacon to adopt the resolution to adopt various county budgets for fiscal year 2003. Motion carried unanimously.

‘Copy Resolution’

A discussion as held on the ***abandonment of Warnell Road***. Chairman Warnell excused himself from the meeting during this discussion. A motion was made by Al Dixon and seconded by Toby Roberts that we abandon the county road known as Warnell Road, this road serves no substantial public purpose. Motion carried unanimously.

***Mike Melton***, Richmond Hill City Administrator, met with the board to discuss the ***railroad crossing at State Route 144 in Richmond Hill***. The cost for the installation of a concrete crossing is approximately \$41,473. The City of Richmond Hill is requesting the county participate by paying one-half of this project and allowing the city’s one-half come from SPLOST funds. A motion was made by Al Dixon and seconded by Ed Bacon to approve the railroad crossing at State Route 144 project with the county paying one-half from county allocated SPLOST funds and the city paying one-half from city allocated SPLOST funds. Motion carried unanimously.

***Darrell McNeill of Growth Solutions, Inc.*** met with the board to give an update on several projects.

**\*State Route 144 Bypass** - There is no significant progress to report at this time.

**\*Heritage Trust Program/Multiple Use Recreation Plan** - The goal is to execute more research within the next 60 days and schedule a planning meeting with the University of Georgia, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Rayonier Timber Company and Commissioners Bacon and Dixon.

**\*Bryan County Mapping** - Growth Solutions, Inc. is currently updating and expanding their database inventory for an extensive mapping capability of Bryan County similar to a GIS database. This should be a tremendous resource for the county and Mr. McNeill would like to work closely with the commissioners on planning and sharing this technology.

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

**\*Harris Trail Road** - We received notice to proceed from the Department of Transportation on December 31, 2002. We have not received final plans from the design engineer at Thomas and Hutton, but should have them by the end of the week. Bryan County will be the prime contractor for the construction phase of this project and we can start on the traffic control items, erosion and sediment, and construction staking anytime.

**\*State Route 144 and Ivey Street** - We are still in the process of acquiring right-of-way for the construction of this project. The Department of Transportation has advised us this project can be built without the newly designed driveway as shown on the construction plans. This would be a three way intersection. Mr. Smiley was asked to send a letter to the property owner and request an acceptance or rejection of our proposal. An additional letter should be sent to the property owner in regards to the future design of this project.

**\*Oxford Subdivision Sidewalks/Walking Trails** - We are currently waiting on the title work on this project.

**\*State Route 144 Bypass** - The paperwork and preliminary plans along with suggestions concerning this project have been mailed to the general office.

**\*Priority List** - Each commissioner was asked to get their priority list to Mr. Smiley prior to the next meeting in order to have the list in next month's commission book. The board will need to review each list and prioritize the overall list.

**Edward Rich of Magnolia Point** met with the board to discuss this organization. Magnolia Point, serving Bryan, Bulloch, Candler, Effingham, Emanuel, Evans, Jenkins, and Screven, and other counties as space is available, is a human service agency of Georgia Children's Shelter, Inc. It will provide temporary placement of up to ten children from five to

eighteen years of age who have been abused, abandoned, neglected, or otherwise exploited. Children will be afforded a safe and secure environment, with care provided by personnel who are genuinely committed to the children's well-being. Staff will be on duty 24 hours per day, year-round, including weekends and holidays. Due to its nature, the location of Magnolia Point must be kept confidential, but it does look as though it is going to be located in Bryan County. Mr. Rich will be applying for a grant to help fund the facility and needs to Chairman's signature on a "Service Delivery Strategy Act Compliance Certification". A motion was made by Al Dixon and seconded by Rick Gardner to authorize the Chairman to sign the Service Delivery Strategy Act Compliance Certification for Magnolia Point. Voting for: Dixon, Roberts, Newman and Gardner. Voting against: Bacon. Motion carried.

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:

4. ***Donald & Suzanne Patten Rezoning*** - Jon Leibfried and Shea Leibfried spoke in opposition of this rezoning.
5. ***Kenneth Darien/Odell Bacon Rezoning*** - No one spoke in regards to this request.

Chairman Warnell declared the public hearings closed.

***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, zoned A-5. The properties on the east, west and south are zoned AR-5, requested zoning AR-1.5. 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. Subdivision should not adversely affect any adjacent lots, overall character or environmental resources in the area. The planning commission recommends that the property be rezoned to an AR-1.5. A motion was made by Ed Bacon and seconded by Rick Gardner to deny the rezoning request of Donald and Suzanne Patten from A-5 to AR-1.5. Commissioner Bacon withdrew his motion. There being no motion, the rezoning stands as is.
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, tax parcel number 56-25 and 56-25.01, zoned A-5, requested zoning is AR-1.5. The property on the south, east and west are zoned A-5 and the property on the north

is zoned R-30 and AR-1. The proposed development is two residential lots with road frontage on Blige Road. The board requested this be sent back to the applicant to redo the plat showing a 60' road instead of the 30' road which is shown and make sure the applicant knows the road has to be paved.

3. **PUD Ordinance** - Ms. Stringer would like to have the first reading on this ordinance at the February meeting.
4. **Workshop** - Ms. Stringer would like to hold a workshop with the board of commissioners to review the ordinances.

**Susan Clark, EMS Director**, met with the board to give an update on the Emergency Medical Services. We now have 24 full time employees and 4 trucks. The Ellabell station is being renovated. The Pembroke station is up and running. The Richmond Hill station needs attention. Ms. Clark also feels as though the EMS Billing Clerk needs additional help in her office. She is working on a proposal at this time.

A motion was made by Toby Roberts and seconded by Al Dixon to go into **executive session** to discuss litigation. Motion carried unanimously. The board went into executive session at 3:50 p.m.

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 in regular session at 4:10 p.m.

A motion was made by Toby Roberts and seconded by Ed Bacon to take a short recess. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on some **property located adjacent to the Sheriff's property off Highway 17**. The board would like to talk with the property owner about acquiring this property for building an administrative building. Chairman Warnell and Commissioner Dixon were asked to talk with the property owner about details.

A discussion was held on a **truck donated to the South Bryan Fire Department** by the Sheriff. This truck needs some equipment on it. It was the consensus of the board to take the lights and radio out of the old Fire Coordinator's car and put them in this truck. The County Administrator was asked to handle this.

A discussion was held on an **architectural firm for planning** a total comprehensive plan for Bryan County. At the retreat held last April, Commissioners Dixon and Roberts were asked to meet with a firm on this subject, which they have done. It was the consensus of the board to invite this firm to make a presentation to the full Board of Commissioners.

A discussion was held on a request for **donation of leave time** for Sharon Kirk. A motion

was made by Al Dixon and seconded by Blondean Newman to approve the request for donation of leave time for Sharon Kirk due to maternity leave. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on a request from **Goude Electric** for an occupational tax certificate. We cannot confirm at this time whether Mr. Goude has a state license. This topic was tabled until a state license can be provided.

A discussion was held on a request from **CTS** for an occupational tax certificate. A motion was made by Al Dixon and seconded by Toby Roberts to approve the occupational tax certificate for CTS contingent upon Planning & Zoning receiving verification of his state license. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on **various county forms requesting social security numbers**. The County Administrator was asked to review forms with all departments and the county attorney to advise on how to proceed.

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

\***Senator Eric Johnson** is trying to help Bryan County change the **Tier III number** for tax credits given industry in Georgia.

\***Jill Huntington of Georgia Department of Natural Resources** has written asking the county to provide a blanket letter concerning **permitting recreational docks on vacant lots**. A motion was made by Toby Roberts and seconded by Ed Bacon that we inform the Department of Natural Resources to circumvent some paperwork and ask them to notify us on applications and permitting. Motion carried unanimously.

\***Comcast Cable** has gone through a merger with AT & T Broadband. This has resulted in personnel changes in the company and increased monthly charges for basic service.

\***Planning Retreat** - It was the consensus of the board to proceed with planning a retreat for the Board of Commissioners.

\***Base Closures** - A number of military bases will be closing throughout the United States. We have been asked to appoint a committee member to attend meetings supporting Ft. Stewart and Hunter. Commissioner Gardner was asked to serve on this committee and Commissioner Bacon will be an alternate.

\***ACCG Advertisement** - Each year the counties throughout Georgia advertise in the Georgia County Government magazine March issue which is called the "Family Album". The cost for a full page color advertisement is \$995.00. It was the consensus of the board to proceed with the advertisement and change the layout to include the best of Bryan County.

A motion was made by Ed Bacon and seconded by Al Dixon to adjourn. Motion carried

unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.