

Bryan County Board of Commissioners - December 2, 2003

The regular meeting of the Bryan County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, December 2, 2003. The following members were present: Chairman Brooks Warnell, Commissioner Ed Bacon, Commissioner Al Dixon, Jr., Commissioner Toby Roberts, Commissioner Rick Gardner, County Administrator Phil Jones, County Clerk Donna Waters and County Attorney Charles Brown.

Chairman Warnell called the pre-agenda meeting to order at 1:39 p.m. The agenda items were discussed and the agenda was accepted as amended.

Chairman Warnell called the regular meeting to order at 1:41 p.m. Invocation was given by Commissioner Dixon. Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance. Visitors were recognized.

A discussion was held on the *minutes* of the November 4, 2003 regular meeting. A motion was made by Al Dixon and seconded by Ed Bacon to approve the minutes of the November 4, 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 Al Dixon to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

The following items were listed on the consent agenda:

1. ***Approval of New Occupational Tax Certificates***
 - *Low Country Bassin' - John Bowen
 - *Modern Craft Homes, LLC - Don Jones
 - *Bryan County Cleaning Service - Asa Clay, Jr.

2. ***Approval of Alcoholic Beverage License***
 - *Zip-N-Food Store # 3 (MA Umiyakrupa Inc.) - Bharatkumar Patel

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

****Old Mill Creek Road*** - An estimate of \$155,698± has been provided for the paving of Old Mill Creek Road. This figure was provided for the residents to consider a special tax district due to this being a private road.

****Groover Hill Project*** - Bids have been received and opened with BRYCO, Inc. being the low bidder with a bid of \$361,303.85. (This project is being funded through a CDBG Grant)

****State Route 144 @ Timber Trail Striping Contract/Lane Reduction*** - The Department of Transportation has approved this project and their maintenance department will be completing this. This project will help to move traffic at a faster and safer pace when making a left turn

from Timber Trail onto State Route 144 North. This project is located within the city limits of Richmond Hill.

***Bridge Repairs** - The bridge on Harris Trail will be closed while repairs are being made, these repairs needed due to reduced load capacity. This should take approximately one week. The bridge on Bacontown Road is already closed due to pier support problems. The contractor will complete the Bacontown bridge then move to the Harris Trail bridge.

***Harris Trail** - We are having problems with this road breaking up. The problem appears to be poor base material. We will contact the DOT District Engineers Office in Jesup to see what options may be available for the county for repairs.

***Blige & Otterhole Roads** - We are currently working on right-of-ways for these roads.

***Jerico** - This project is underway and should be completed by the end of December.

***Emergency Routing Plan** - We need to develop an emergency routing plan that could be easily implemented when an emergency occurs on Highway 144. We will need to work with the Sheriff to develop and implement this plan should an emergency event occur.

Pratt Lockwood, Director of Public Services, met with the board to give an update on projects in his department.

***Basketball Program** - Basketball is underway. We have approximately 460-480 children enrolled in Richmond Hill and approximately 120-150 at Hendrix Park.

***Fall Baseball, Football, Cheerleading & Soccer Programs** - We had approximately 1300 children participating in these programs.

***Gym Expansion at Richmond Hill** - The gym is basically completed. The gas lines should be certified by Thursday or Friday. Koch has donated scoreboards for the gym. It was the consensus of the board to publicly thank the contractor for a well done job and show the public where SPLOST is being spent. This can be done at the kickoff of basketball season on January 8, 2004.

***New Complex at Hendrix Park** - Mr. Lockwood questioned who would be doing the earth work for this project (county or contract labor). He was asked to work with Buddy Shuman on preliminary work to determine how much dirt must be moved and bring it back to the Chairman to determine whether to do the work in-house or contract.

***Needs of Recreation Parks** - A discussion was held on contracting with a firm to assess the needs of recreation at both parks. Mr. Lockwood was asked to look into what price a firm would charge to do a master plan based on projected growth.

A motion was made by Toby Roberts and seconded by Ed Bacon to go into **closed**

session to discuss potential litigation and personnel matters. Motion carried unanimously. The board went into executive session at 2:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Al Dixon and seconded by Ed Bacon to go back into *regular session*. Motion carried unanimously. The board went back into regular session at 3:30 p.m.

A discussion was held on the *Jack Hyde Rezoning*. Mr. Hyde is wanting to put a bed and breakfast on less than 5 acres in an AR-1 zone. The ordinance requires 5 acres for a bed and breakfast. The board will be making a text change in section 1103(b)(v) of the zoning ordinance to eliminate the 5 acre requirement, which is consistent with what we already have, example: in an AR-2.5 area, you are allowed to construct a bed and breakfast as a matter of right. The County Attorney recommended tabling this request until a text change is made. A motion was made by Al Dixon and seconded by Toby Roberts to table Jack Hyde's rezoning application until the January meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on contracting with a firm to assist the county staff with implementing the *GASB No. 34* for year ended December 31, 2003. Proposals have been received with Franklin, Mikell & Deal, LLP being the low proposal. A motion was made by Al Dixon and seconded by Ed Bacon that we authorize the Chairman and County Administrator to work with Franklin, Mikell & Deal, LLP in implementing GASB No. 34 with fees to be in the range of less than \$5,000 with funds coming from contingency. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on a request from *Lloyd Murray and Jake Davis* for *7,500 gallons of water for Phase II of Demeries Lake Subdivision*. The board needs to develop a water/sewer plan before allocating any more water. We will try to have a retreat in February to discuss this issue further. A motion was made by Ed Bacon and seconded by Toby Roberts to deny the request of Lloyd Murray and Jake Davis for 7,500 gallons of water at this time. Voting for: Bacon, Roberts & Gardner. Voting against: Dixon. Motion carried.

A discussion was held on an *appointment* to the *Bryan County Library Board*. This topic was tabled until we can find an interested party to serve.

A discussion was held on the bids on the *Groover Hill Project*. A motion was made by Al Dixon and seconded by Toby Roberts that we approve the *bid to BRYCO, Inc.* (low bidder) in the amount of \$361,303.85 for the Groover Hill CDBG Project. Motion carried unanimously.

Phil Jones, County Administrator, met with the board to give an update on several projects.

**Richmond Hill Office Space* - It was the consensus of the board for the County Administrator to pursue negotiations on leasing space in Richmond Hill at the R C and D Council building for Planning and Zoning, Building Inspections and Tax Commissioner.

**Integrated Science Engineering* - John Collins is no longer with this firm. Mr. Collins would like to continue to work with us on his own. The County Administrator was asked to

contact this firm to see what their plans are in regards to replacing Mr. Collins prior to the board making a decision on whether we should change engineering firms.

A discussion was held on the **lighting of I-95 and Highway 144**. The cost of this project is \$205,361 with DOT paying \$89,665 for fixtures, leaving \$115,697 remaining to be paid by the County. We have allocated \$40,000 in next years budget for this project and \$40,000 from SPLOST, leaving \$35,697 unfunded. The County Administrator was asked to contract the Coastal Bryan Development Authority to discuss their support for this project. A motion was made by Al Dixon and seconded by Rick Gardner that we authorize the Chairman to sign the contract with the Department of Transportation for the lighting of the interchange at I-95 and Highway 144. Motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Roberts abstained from voting on this topic.

Chairman Warnell stated he and Phil Jones had attended the **Coastal Georgia Showcase** and talked with some of the representatives regarding water.

A meeting with **DOT Commissioner Harold Linnenkohl** will be held on December 8, 2003 at 7:30 a.m. in Atlanta to discuss road projects.

A dinner **meeting** will be held on December 15, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. with our **local legislators**.

A motion was made by Toby Roberts and seconded by Ed Bacon to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.