

Bryan County Board of Commissioners - May 3, 2005

The regular meeting of the Bryan County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, May 3, 2005. The following members were present: Chairman Jimmy Burnsed, Commissioner Ed Bacon, Commissioner Rick Gardner, Commissioner Blondean Newman, Commissioner Glen Willard and Commissioner Toby Roberts. Also present: County Administrator Phillip Jones, County Clerk Donna Waters and Attorney Jay Stewart.

Chairman Burnsed called the pre-agenda meeting to order at 1:20 p.m. The agenda items were discussed and the agenda was accepted.

Chairman Burnsed called the regular meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Invocation was given by Commissioner Gardner. Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance. Visitors were recognized.

A discussion was held on the *minutes* of the April 4, 2005 regular meeting. A motion was made by Ed Bacon and seconded by Glen Willard to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2005 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. Motion carried unanimously.

The following items were listed on the consent agenda:

1. ***Approval of New Occupational Tax Certificates***
 - *Coastal Claims Services, Inc. - Jack D. Sims
 - *Coastal Tree Service - Blake Alan Waters
 - *Dave's Home Improvements - Joseph D. Shuman
 - *Graybeards, Inc. - Gerald Brady
 - *Integrity Construction Services - Reece Williams
 - *Keep 'n It Klean Auto Detailing - Joseph Deplacito
 - *Loflin & Son, Inc. - Oliver E. Loflin
 - *Purvis Salvage - Tommy Purvis
 - *Signature Landscaping and Outdoor Services - Chase E. McBrayer
 - *The Country Store (Change in Ownership) - Mohamed Jessani
 - *The Living Void - Bobby L. Ware
 - *Adiev Restoration - Ralph G. Stair, Jr.

2. ***Approval of Alcoholic Beverage License***
 - *The Country Store - Mohamed Jessani

3. ***Approval of Tax Refunds Due to Appeals***

*John Bacich Etal	024-037	\$ 820.43
*Nancy Benton	027-004	94.65
*The Ford Plantation	0545-100	1009.72
	0549-091	80.59
*Robert & Sybil Hunter	025-032	322.05
*SSH Partnership	0473-008	3457.41

4. ***Approval of Tax Refunds Due to Error***

*Justina Reid Nelson and Reginald Nelson	0571-033	\$1377.91
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5. ***Approval of Budget Amendments*** to Various Departments for County Retirement Plan - \$27,533 from contingency to various departments

6. ***Development Authority Issues***
 - *Resolution designating Orafol Parkway as a county road
 - *Memorandum of Understanding setting forth an agreement that the Development Authority will reimburse the county the sum of \$200,000 used to acquire property.

“Copy Resolution and Memorandum of Understanding”

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

****Baseball/Softball*** is in full force. With both parks, we will hold between 570-620 games. We have 1,093 children registered (784 in Richmond Hill and 309 at Hendrix Park).

****New Hendrix Park Complex*** - Contractor is on location, grading work is being done with hopes of paving by the end of the week.

****New Park in Richmond Hill*** - Dimensions and needs have been given to Mr. Johnny Murphy on the needs for soccer, baseball/softball, tennis, football, etc. Mr. Murphy will take this information to an architectural firm who will draw up conceptual plans for us to review. Once this is done, the recreation board, as well as the commissioners, will meet to review the plans.

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

****Lighting Interchange at I-95 and State Route 144*** - This contract is scheduled for the September 05 DOT letting.

****Traffic Signal at I-95 and State Route 144*** - This contract is scheduled for the July 05 DOT letting.

***GA Central Railroad/CSX Property - Harris Trail Road** - Georgia Central Railroad expects to perform this work on May 20 - May 24. It will be necessary to close Harris Trail Road to thru traffic during this time.

***Harris Trail Road Four-Lane Project** - This project was running along at a smooth pace. A couple of weeks ago the central office at Douglas Asphalt burned. This will slow the time schedule to start laying the 9.5 mm topping. We have been assured by Douglas Asphalt that they would move back in as soon as possible.

***State Route 144 at Rabbit Hill** - The road count at this location was 12,510 in 2003 and 12,662 in 2004. A road count is currently being performed for 2005.

***Pine Ridge Road** - Bids for the base and paving of Pine Ridge Road have been received and opened. The low bidder was Ellis Wood Contracting in the amount of \$138,794.05. The DOT Commissioner has allocated \$66,451.05 for this project. With the county roads department performing the stone work, approximately \$18,000 can be saved. We will also contact DOT to see if any additional funds can be allocated to this project. A motion was made by Blondean Newman and seconded by Rick Gardner to give the bid to Ellis Wood Contracting with funds to come from contingency in the amount of \$54,122, with the county performing the work of cutting the road down and installing the stone. Voting for: Newman, Gardner, Roberts and Willard. Voting against: Bacon. Motion carried.

***Liberty County Line Cross-Over** - The DOT needs a letter from the Board as to what we want to do with this project. It was the consensus of the board to stick with the original request which was to move the cut down to Mount Hope Creek Subdivision entrance and close off the Shuman Trailer Park entrance. This will prevent Bryan County citizens, emergency vehicles, etc. from having to go into Liberty County to get back into Bryan County.

Derrell Newman, Director of Public Works, met with the board to give an update of activities in this department.

***Mosquito Control** - Mosquito Control is under way with spraying beginning shortly. We have two trucks which will be running a couple of hours in the morning and then a couple of hours in the afternoon. It takes approximately one week to cover the entire county.

***Grass Mowing** - Preparing the Pine Ridge Road project is going to tie up the roads crew for a couple of weeks. This is going to delay the grass mowing for two to three more weeks. Mr. Newman hopes to start mowing around the first of June.

***Road Signs** - Inspections are being done on road signs both day and night. This is being done due to requirements by the insurance carrier. Once this is complete, Mr. Newman will be making a presentation to the board on what needs to be done to be in compliance with regulations.

***Road Paving** - Mr. Newman and the County Administrator are looking at a new method of paving roads.

***Hendrix Road** - This road is doing good since using the fly ash. This road eventually needs to have a triple surface treatment.

Christine Stringer, Zoning Administrator, met with the board with planning & zoning issues.

1. **Dennis Morris** is requesting fifteen (15) **additional water taps** in order to complete building out the 56 lot subdivision (**Wellington Oaks**) submitted for approval in June of 1998. The EPD has recommended Mr. Morris consider digging a second well into the Miocene Aquifer to augment the water requirements needed to complete the subdivision. The water we had left over in our water bank has been put with the 450,000 gallons we have to start Bryan County in the water business. A motion was made by Toby Roberts and seconded by Rick Gardner that we deny the request of Wellington Oaks Subdivision for 15 additional water taps for all the reasons discussed. Motion carried unanimously.

Debbie Newman, Tax Commissioner, met with the board to give an update on activities in her department.

***HB 501** - This bill is where the Department of Driver Services was created. This bill also allows the Tax Commissioners to issue drivers licenses, but it is optional. Ms. Newman is not in favor of issuing drivers licenses at this time. The board supports Ms. Newman on this decision.

***Insurance lapse fees & suspension** - If you let your insurance lapse at any time, for even one day, you get a lapse fee of \$25.00. If this fee is not paid within 30 days, you have a suspended tag. You then have to pay \$60.00 to reinstate your tag and the \$25.00 lapse fee. After two suspensions, you cannot drive your vehicle for 90 days and after the third suspension you cannot drive your vehicle for 6 months. The county gets \$5.00 of the lapse fee and \$10.00 of the suspension fee.

***On-line property tax** - We currently have the on-line payment system for property taxes and are getting approximately 10-15 uses per month. Ms. Newman is in the process of getting the vehicle registrations on-line.

***Digest** - Our 2004 digest was over \$16,000,000 and we collected 15,781,000. We have a 96.72% collection rate. Bills were due in February, delinquent letters were sent out in February, March and April. Currently getting ready to file FiFas with the Clerks Office, this is for any tax bills over 90 days old. After this, any property that has two years or more will start the tax foreclosure procedures. In the end, there will probably be approximately 20 parcels sold.

***Mobile Home Collections** - These collections are good. We now have code enforcement giving out citations for not displaying decals. This goes before the Magistrate Judge.

***Intangible Taxes** - In 1996, approximately \$16,000 was being collected per month for recording intangible tax (\$3.00 per thousand on any loan you make over three years). This is about \$5,500,000 per month people in Bryan County are borrowing. This month, \$94,156 was collected in intangible tax. This means people in Bryan County are borrowing \$32,000,000 per month. This amount has been fairly steady for the past year.

A discussion was held on holding a **workshop** to discuss **SPLOST**. It was the consensus of the board to meet on May 25 at 1:00 p.m. The location is to be determined.

A discussion was held on a **location** for a **new administrative complex** in Richmond Hill. We have four possible sites being looked into at this time, with no decision being made.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.