

Bryan County Board of Commissioners - May 4, 2004

The regular meeting of the Bryan County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, May 4, 2004. The following members were present: Chairman Brooks Warnell, Commissioner Ed Bacon, Commissioner Blondean Newman, Commissioner Al Dixon, Jr., Commissioner Toby Roberts and Commissioner Rick Gardner. Also present were County Administrator Phillip Jones, County Clerk Donna Waters and County Attorney Charles Brown.

Chairman Warnell called the pre-agenda meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. The agenda items were discussed and the agenda was accepted as presented.

Chairman Warnell called the regular meeting to order at 1:31 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 April 6, 2004 regular meeting. A motion as made by Al Dixon and seconded by Ed Bacon to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2004 regular meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on the *consent agenda*. A motion was made by Ed Bacon and seconded by Toby Roberts 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***
 - *C.F.W. Alvarenga - Cristian Alvarenga
 - *Creek Side Landscaping - Tabatha Binion
 - *Automation Control Systems, LLC - Mark Casper
 - *Converge FX, LLC - Anna Marie Hahn
 - *SSE Teknologies - Charles Healy
 - *Creative LTC Planning - Gail Onken
 - *Water Management Co. Inc. d/b/a Waterway RV Park - Cheryl Simmons
 - *Sparks - Angel Sparks

2. ***Approval of Tax Refunds***
 - *Gary & Jan Close - 67-1-151 - \$390.11
 - *Grover & Donna Crosby - 26-2-023 - \$157.27
 - *Grover & Donna Crosby - 26-2-024 - \$110.50
 - *Jerry & Mary Rutland - 57-021 - \$86.97
 - *James & Robin Vauisco - 60-005.01 - \$1078.80
 - *Emerald & Janie Mae Rawls - 011-1-05 - \$365.67

3. ***Amendment to Personnel Ordinance***
 - *1 Year Service - 10 days personal leave per year
 - *2-5 Years Service - 14 days personal leave per year
4. ***Adoption of Resolution to Amend Budget***
(Copy Resolution)
5. ***Adoption of 2005 Proposed Budget Calendar***

Jackie Sommers, owner of the KOA Campground, met with the board to request additional water to expand the services in the KOA Campground in Richmond Hill. The KOA Campground is located with the city limits of Richmond Hill and due to the service delivery strategy, the county can not provide water for this proposed expansion.

Linda Whiddon met with the board to express her concerns over future developments and the impact it will be having on the roads and schools. She also discussed the need for imposing impact fees on developers to help support responsible growth in the county.

Jim Woods of Fountainhead Development Company (FDC), met with the board to discuss the county leasing the proposed marina and certain adjacent properties for a county operated marina to include being the applicant for permitting of the said marina. A possible agreement could include: the marina would be public and operated by the county; FDC would fund the marina permitting process and the construction of the marina parking area; the county would lease a portion of the marina area for \$1.00 for fifty years; the county would operate the marine and would receive fees for hoisting boats into and out of the water and would receive fees for dockage at the slips; FDC would own the stacked storage facility and receive fees for storage; fifty percent of the slips would be reserved for Genesis Point residents who would pay dockage fees to the county on an annual or multi-year lease basis. It was the consensus of the board to have the County Administrator explore this proposal.

Renee Houser, President of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 164 in Pembroke, met with the board to invite the commissioners to attend a Memorial Service on May 30. She was also requesting assistance in contributing to a PA System to be used in the North Bryan County area. No action was taken at this time.

Jim Anderson, Director of Emergency Services, met with the board to give an update on activities in his department.

- *Working on having the EMS moved into the fire stations
- *Soliciting bids for a new light rescue truck for the north end
- *New radios have been purchased for the EMS. The old radios will be used for first responders, etc.
- *Currently working with GEMA on the G-8 Summit
- *Working on policies and procedures for EMS & Fire

*During April, Bryan County Fire Department answered a total of 33 calls, 20 of those being on the south end and 13 being on the north end.

*Clarktown Forest Fire was a total of 488 acres and it took 69 personnel 6 days to consider it controlled.

Phil Jones, County Administrator, met with the board to give an update on activities in the Engineering & Inspections Department.

****Groover Hill Project*** - This project is moving along at a good pace. All of the clearing has been completed and the majority of the cross drain pipe has been laid. A load test has been done on Mitchell Road and they are in the process of placing GAB. This project should be complete on time.

****Jack and Bore under State Route 30/280 at Interstate Centre*** - We have received the contract back from Mr. Krebs. The contract has been reviewed by the County Attorney, County Administrator and Director of Engineering & Inspections and have found to be in order. Work can begin most anytime.

****Harris Trail Road and Port Royal Road*** - The boring and testing work has been completed on these roads. The samples have been taken back to the Atlanta Lab for analyzing. Normally this takes about thirty (30) days to come up with a plan to repair the roads.

****Bridge Repair: Harris Trail at Sterling Creek, Bacontown over Otter Hole Branch*** - Local county maps have been mailed to the Department of Transportation and discussion has been held on the detour routes in general. It is very likely this contract will be let July 1, 2004.

****Interstate Centre - US 280/State Route 30*** Grading, drainage, turn lanes, and construction of 4000' of two lane rural roadway extension - Letters have been written to the Department of Transportation to cancel out the first contract and to reissue another contract that will better fit our needs on this project. This contract should be on the fast lane and should be ready for construction within thirty days. DOT Commissioner Linnenkohl restored the funds for this project, taking the total to \$270,000.

****Oxford Walking Trail*** - The walkway across the entrance to Oxford Subdivision has been completed with thermo plastic. The area looks good. The grand opening was held on Saturday, May 1, 2004.

****Medium Cut: US 17 at Sheriff's Complex*** - The Department of Transportation has been down to look at the site we have requested for the medium cut. This being about 1000' from the existing cut. Atlanta has disapproved this cut. We need to talk to Commissioner Linnenkohl and ask for some help in this matter.

***Harris Trail Road: Phase II** - The contract has been completed. The advertisement for bid will run on May 6, 2004. This will run for thirty days and bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. on June 4, 2004.

A discussion was held on an **appointment to the Bryan County Planning Commission**. Eric T. Austin has expressed interest in serving on this board. The appointment would be for a four year term to expire May 4, 2008. A motion was made by Rick Gardner and seconded by Ed Bacon to appoint Eric T. Austin to the Bryan County Planning Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on letter of resignation from Jimmy Burnsed to the **Coastal Workforce Investment Board**. Mr. Billy Wooten has expressed interest in serving on this board. A motion as made by Ed Bacon and seconded by Toby Roberts to accept the resignation of Jimmy Burnsed from the Coastal Workforce Investment Board. Motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Ed Bacon and seconded by Blondean Newman to accept Mr. Billy Wooten as a nominee to the Coastal Workforce Investment Board. Motion carried unanimously. The effective date of the appointment will be July 1, 2004 until June 30, 2007.

A discussion was held on publishing a **quarterly newsletter for Bryan County**. It was the consensus of the board to proceed and include information such as a message from the Chairman, a message from each district commissioner, and general information for the various departments. The county administrator will prepare an example for the next meeting.

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

1. **Article XI/Preliminary Plat Approval** - Bryan Mortgage and Finance Co./**Charlie Stafford - Saddlebrook Subdivision** - 22 lots on 19.5 acres, Richmond Hill, Georgia - Mr. Stafford asked to be removed at this time. Several citizens were present to speak in regards to this request, but due to this issue not being heard at this time, the citizens did not have the opportunity to speak.
2. **Article XI/Preliminary Plat Approval - W. K. Polk/Jim Wilson - Taylor Place Subdivision** - 57 lots on 47 acres, Ellabell, Georgia - This property consist of 46.99 acres on the east side of Carlos Cowart Road off Toni Branch Road in Ellabell, tax parcel number 026-034.01 and is zoned R-1. The applicant will use community water system and private septic tanks. A motion was made by Rick Gardner and seconded by Blondean Newman to approve the Article XI preliminary plat for W. K. Polk/Taylor Place Subdivision as drawn with stipulation that within the 30' buffer, there be a five (5') foot walk (concrete or asphalt) moving parallel with Carlos Cowart Road running from one side of subdivision to the other side of the subdivision. Voting for: Dixon, Roberts, Newman & Gardner. Voting against: Bacon. Motion carried.

3. **Article XI/Preliminary Plat Approval - DB & B, LLC/McGregory Place Subdivision** - 43 lots on 27 acres, Richmond Hill, Georgia - The property is a planned phase of Buckhead Subdivision, which consists of 27 acres bounded on the west by Cross Wind Drive and on three sides by other lands owned by DB&B, LLC., tax parcel number 062-112, zoned PUD. The applicant will use community water system and private septic tanks. A motion was made by Toby Roberts and seconded by Ed Bacon to approve Article XI preliminary plat approval for DB & B, LLC/McGregory Place Subdivision with condition of reduction in road to 22' and instead of sidewalks have paving and walking trail. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Warnell excused himself from the meeting at this time. Vice-Chairman Roberts took over the meeting.

4. **Conceptual Site Plan Approval - Jeffery Jepson/North Point Real Estate - Old Barge Landing PUD** - 28.3 acres, Highway 144, Richmond Hill, Georgia - The property consists of 28.3 acres bounded on the north by the Cove Subdivision, on the south by a private lot, on the east by the Ogeechee River and on the west by State Route 144, tax parcel number 60-1-063, zoned PUD. The following notations were made by the board of commissioners: the tender of this plan; the notation that the plan evidences the reduction in unit numbers and the reduction in height along the riverbank; that the plan is accepted for confirmation and information purposes and the following concerns have been expressed:

- *the distance from building 27 to the lot line
- *define the kind of barrier that will exist between building 27 and the property of the Foss family
- *on the east side the existing vegetation would remain
- *on the west wide, the commissioners pointed out to the developer the likelihood of the four laning of Highway 144 and 120' right-of-way being required, the additional right-of-way should be planned in their design approximately 20'
- *the 50' setback required by the county for properties abutting a major thoroughfare
- *the 50' buffer abutting Highway 144 include a pedestrian walkway/bicycle path; the walkway/path can be built from asphalt, concrete or timber if necessary to bridge wetlands.
- *the width and paving of the emergency exit

Chairman Warnell returned to the meeting at this time.

Charles Brown, County Attorney, met with the board on a couple of issues.

***Interest & Penalty on delinquent taxes** - A property owner is refusing to pay interest & penalty on delinquent taxes until the Attorney General tells him to do so. The tax commissioner has questioned the appropriateness of her procedures in collecting interest & penalty. She is following the procedures as stated by state law and should continue to do so.

***Foss/Jepson Litigation** - We have received a successful resolution of the Foss/Jepson litigation.

A discussion was held on the sale of **Global Commodities**. A grant was received to assist with this project when it initially began. The commissioners are concerned about the county's investment in this property. The County Administrator and County Attorney were asked to review this matter.

A discussion was held on a **proclamation on County Clerk's Week** proclaiming the week of May 2-May 8, 2004 as County Clerk's Week. A motion was made by Toby Roberts and seconded by Ed Bacon to approve the proclamation on "County Clerk's Week". Motion carried unanimously. Donna Waters, County Clerk, was thanked for the job she does and was presented with a basket of flowers from the commissioners.

"Copy Proclamation"

A discussion was held on a **resolution on funding for indigent defense services**. A motion as made by Al Dixon and seconded by Ed Bacon to approve the resolution on funding for indigent defense services. Motion carried unanimously.

"Copy Resolution"

Phillip Jones, County Administrator, met with the board to give an update of several meetings.

***STIP (State Transportation Improvement Program) Meeting** will be held on May 12, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room.

***Tax Committee Meeting** will be held on May 10, 2004 at 3:00 p.m. at the Richmond Hill Courthouse.

***Joint Working Meeting with the Board of Education** and Board of Commissioners will be held on May 20, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. at the Board of Education Conference Room.

*We need to schedule a meeting to discuss the need to have one *development authority*. Commissioners Bacon and Gardner were asked to serve on a committee in regards to this and bring recommendation back to the board.

**Governors Emergency Management Conference* will be May 10-May 12 at the Savannah International Trade Center.

Chairman Warnell stated the Governor will come down to the area to sign *House Bill 984*. The date and location and not sure at this time.

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.