

Bryan County Board of Commissioners - September 7, 2004

The regular meeting of the Bryan County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, September 7, 2004. The following members were present: Chairman Brooks Warnell, Commissioner Toby Roberts, Commissioner Rick Gardner, Commissioner Ed Bacon, Commissioner Blondean Newman, County Administrator Phillip Jones, County Clerk Donna Waters and County Attorney Charles Brown. Commissioner Al Dixon arrived at 1:50 p.m.

Chairman Warnell called the pre-agenda meeting to order at 1:25 p.m. The agenda items were discussed and the agenda was accepted as presented.

Chairman Warnell called the regular meeting to order at 1:26 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 August 3, 2004 regular meeting. A motion was made by Toby Roberts and seconded by Blondean Newman to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2004 regular meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on the *minutes* of the August 10, 2004 called meeting. A motion as made by Ed Bacon and seconded by Toby Roberts to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2004 called meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on the *minutes* of the August 11, 2004 called meeting. A motion was made by Blondean Newman and seconded by Rick Gardner to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2004 called meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on the *consent agenda*. Commissioner Bacon requested consent item 6 be removed from the consent agenda and move it to closed session. A motion was made by Toby Roberts and seconded by Ed Bacon to approve the consent agenda with the exception of item 6 and move it the closed session. Motion carried unanimously.

The following items were listed on the consent agenda:

1. ***Approval of New Occupational Tax Certificates***
 - *James L. Everett, Jr. - E. L. James Co.
 - *Carol Holland - Rainbo Contracting
 - *Roman Hale - Bulldog Enterprises
 - *Calvin Thompson - Calvin Thompson Stucco & Stone
 - *Patsy Graham Hart - Hill Top Lounge
 - *Suren Patel - Zip-N Food Store # 3 & # 6
 - *John K. Futch - John's Ga. Peach and Trade Co.

2. ***Approval of Tax Refunds***
 *Keyren H. & Brenda Cotter - \$593.63
 *Ken & June Copi - \$770.24
 *Ernest G. Dale, Jr. - \$283.35

3. ***Approval of Alcoholic Beverage Licenses***
 *Suren Patel - Zip-N Food Store #3
 *Suren Patel - Zip-N Food Store #6

4. ***Approval of Lighting Contract at Hendrix Park (SPLOST)***
 *Low bidder - Springfield Electric - \$39,000

5. ***Approval of Concession Stand Contract at Hendrix Park (SPLOST)***
 *Low bidder - Hagan Construction - \$148,671

A discussion was held on an ***alcoholic beverage license*** for Patsy G. Hart at the ***Hilltop Lounge***. A motion was made by Blondean Newman and seconded by Toby Roberts to approve the alcoholic beverage license for Patsy G. Hart for the Hilltop Lounge. Voting for: Roberts, Newman and Gardner. Voting against: Bacon. Motion carried.

A discussion was held on the paving of ***Harris Trail***. The low bidder for this project was Douglas Asphalt Company in the amount of \$1,687,738. The City of Richmond Hill has agreed to allocate \$160,000 from their SPLOST funds toward this project. Department of Transportation funds in the amount of \$135,000 have been reallocated by postponing Otterhole Branch, Fancy Court, and Blige Roads. A motion was made by Toby Roberts and seconded by Blondean Newman to award the low bid to Douglas Asphalt in the amount of \$1,687,738. Motion carried unanimously.

Lois Roberts of the Statesboro Regional Library met with the board to make a budget presentation for the 2005 operating budget for the libraries. The total amount requested is \$199,500. No action was taken at this time. This topic will be discussed at the budget meeting.

Dennis & Eileen Eisenbeil met with the board to discuss an injury her son received while visiting the maintenance shop on October 23, 2002. They are requesting the county pay the medical bills their son has incurred due to this injury. No action taken on this matter.

A discussion was held on a ***broker assignment*** to Bryan County's Blue Cross Blue Shield Program. It was the consensus of the board to put this out to bid and bring back next month.

A discussion was held on the re-appointment of Ms. Judy Robinson to the ***Bryan County Library Board***. A motion was made by Blondean Newman and seconded by Toby Roberts to re-appoint Ms. Judy Robinson to the Bryan County Library Board for a term of September 7, 2004 through September 6, 2007. Motion carried unanimously.

Jim Anderson, Director of Emergency Services, met with the board to request the approval of two proclamations - "Public Safety Display Day" and "2004 Fire Prevention Week". A motion was made by Al Dixon and seconded by Ed Bacon to adopt the proclamation declaring October 3 - 9, 2004 as Fire Prevention Week. Motion carried unanimously.

"Copy Proclamation"

A motion was made by Toby Roberts and seconded by Blondean Newman to adopt the proclamation declaring October 2, 2004 as Public Safety Day. Motion carried unanimously.

"Copy Proclamation"

A discussion was held on an appointment to the **Coastal Georgia R C & D Council** to replace Mr. Billy Speir. No action was taken at this time.

Phillip Jones, County Administrator, met with the board to discuss several issues.

***Interstate Justification Report (IJR) for Belfast-Siding and I-95** - The county has been working with DOT and Rayland to get an interchange at the I-95/Belfast Siding Crossing. Rayland indicated the desire to participate and the county coordinated with DOT to develop a sample agreement for an IJR. The sample agreement was submitted to Rayland approximately two months ago. Rayland responded in a letter dated August 25, 2004 requesting additional information. Mr. Jones has been working with Mr. Matthew Fowler at DOT on this issue. No action is required at this time and Mr. Jones will keep the board abreast of issue and changes as they occur.

***Indigent Defense** - The State will be providing a Director for Indigent Defense (Steve Messinger), three attorneys, and investigator, and two administrative staff to service the 5th Judicial Circuit. Mr. Messinger has indicated the case load of the circuit would require an additional seven attorneys. The counties would be required to fund the annual operational expenses, plus additional staff required to service the circuit. In addition, the Indigent Defense Office would not provide services for deprivation or misdemeanor cases; these services could be provided but under a contract with the Indigent Defense Office or under some other contractual means. A meeting has been scheduled for September 20, 2004 between the Chairmen of the Commissions, the local Indigent Circuit Defender, and the CFO from the Public Defenders office in Atlanta to further discuss the financial requirements, etc. This information will be presented at a later time to each board of commission for consideration.

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

***Groover Hill Project** - This project is nearing completion. All roads have been paved and we are in the process of final cleanup, grassing and grading.

***Bridge Replacement** - Harris Trail and Bacontown Road (3 bridges) - This contract will be in the September letting. There will be no cost to the county other than providing detours. This project will take approximately four months to complete.

***Interstate Centre** - Work has started on the accel/decel lane.

***Greenspace Walking Trail** - We have had a few problems with property owners and having to resurvey some of the parcels.

***Sheriff's Complex** - The engineering firm has mailed out plans to several different individuals for review and comments.

***Tivoli River Fishing Pier** - The pier on the north side of the river needs some repair work. The pilings are pretty solid but the sway bracing boards and several of the walkway boards need to be fixed soon.

***Harris Trail Road/Port Royal Repair Work** - The repair estimates have been completed and we are waiting on a copy from the DOT.

***Pine Ridge Road** - The DOT has no problem with funding this road on the existing 50' right-of-way. The county will be doing the clearing & grubbing.

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. **Robert H. Floyd Rezoning** - No one was present to speak on this matter.
2. **Terry and Brandi Rucker Rezoning** - No one was present to speak on this matter.

Chairman Warnell declared the public hearings closed.

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

1. **Robert Floyd** makes application to **rezone** approximately 1 acre being a part of lands owned by Colen Floyd. The property is tax parcel number 011-026 and is currently zoned A-5. The requested zoning is B-1 and the proposed development is for an army surplus/second hand store. The planning commission recommends approval. A motion was made by Ed Bacon and seconded by Blondean Newman to approve the rezoning request of Robert Floyd to rezone approximately 1 acre from A-5 to B-1 for tax parcel number 011-026, case number Z#166-04. Motion carried unanimously.

2. ***Terry and Brandi Rucker*** makes application to ***rezone*** approximately 1.5 acres located on the corner of I.G. Lanier Road and Highway 199, Lot B, being part of lands owned by Jerry and Ronald Smith. The property is tax parcel number 014-033 and is currently zoned AR-5. The requested development is for a subdivision for one home. The planning commission recommends approval. A motion was made by Ed Bacon and seconded by Blondean Newman to approve the rezoning request of Terry and Brandi Rucker to rezone 1.5 acres from AR-5 to AR-2.5 for tax parcel number 014-033, case number Z#0268-04. Motion carried unanimously.

3. ***Amendments to the Subdivision and Zoning Ordinances***. This is the second reading on the proposed amendments to the subdivision and zoning ordinances. A motion was made by Toby Roberts and seconded by Rick Gardner to approve the amendments to the subdivision and zoning ordinances as presented. Voting for: Dixon, Roberts, Gardner and Newman. Voting against: Bacon. Motion carried.

“Copy Amendments”

Phillip Jones introduced ***John Butler*** as the new ***zoning administrator*** for Bryan County. Christy Stringer will be working primarily in Richmond Hill and John Butler primarily in Pembroke.

Charles Brown, County Attorney, met with the board to give an update on several issues.

****New Commissioner Orientation*** - Charles will address open records, open meetings, parliamentary procedures, quorums, etc. at the January 2005 regular meeting.

****Greenway Walking Trail*** - There are a couple of very small tracts Mr. Smiley is working on having voluntarily conveyed. If this does not happen, we will have to undertake condemnation.

A motion was made by Toby Roberts and seconded by Blondean Newman to go into ***closed session*** to discussion land acquisitions and 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 Rick Gardner to go back into ***regular session***. Motion carried unanimously. The board went back into regular session at 4:45 p.m.

A motion was made by Al Dixon and seconded by Blondean Newman to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.