

Bryan County Board of Commissioners – June 14, 2018

The regular meeting of the Bryan County Board of Commissioners was held on Thursday, June 14, 2018 in Richmond Hill. The following members were present: Chairman Carter Infinger, Commissioner Wade Price, Commissioner Steve Myers, Commissioner Rick Gardner, Commissioner Brad Brookshire, and Commissioner Noah Covington. Also present: County Administrator Ben Taylor, County Clerk Donna Waters and County Attorney Lea Holliday.

Chairman Infinger called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Invocation was given by Commissioner Covington. Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance. Visitors were recognized.

A discussion was held on the **agenda**. A motion was made by Rick Gardner and seconded by Brad Brookshire to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on the **minutes** of the May meetings. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Steve Myers to approve the minutes of the May meetings as printed. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on the **consent agenda**. A motion was made by Rick Gardner and seconded by Brad Brookshire to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

The following items were listed on the consent agenda:

**1. Approval of Tax Refunds**

\*Real Property Appeal Refunds for May 2018 - \$3,380.39

**2. Denial of Interest & Penalty Refund**

\*Jennifer D. Pugh - \$463.91

**Ben Taylor, County Administrator**, met with the board with several issues.

**\*Text Amendment** – 1<sup>st</sup> Reading – Conditional Use Application to offer alcohol sales for off-premises consumption as a Conditional Use in the Interchange Commercial (C-I) districts and as Permitted Use in the General Commercial and Neighborhood Commercial districts. No action required at this time.

**\*Margaret Hackney Conditional Use** – Conditional Use Application proposing riding stable business on 15 acres, A-5 zoned property. The Conditional Use Permit is for “horse boarding, lease horses and horse lessons,” for a 15 acre property accessed off of Highway 144 in South Bryan County. The riding stable operation is anticipated to employ 3 employees and according to their “Vision Statement” document will teach basic horsemanship and provide “Girl/Boy Scout horse badge certification, Summer Camps and Birthday parties.” The site plan shows a riding arena, a six-stall barn, with surrounding pastures. Probable impacts to the surrounding agriculturally zoned properties will be in keeping with the district and should be limited to large events. The Planning Commission recommends approval with conditions that any “event” where there is proposed to be an assembly of over 50 people, utilizing any indoor facility, would require an assembly approval from the Planning & Zoning Department. A motion was made by Brad Brookshire and seconded by Noah Covington to approve the Conditional Use Application proposing riding stable business on 15 acres, A-5 zoned

property for Margaret Hackney with conditions as recommended by the Planning Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

**\*County Administrator's June Report -**

**-Highway 144 Widening** – The Georgia Department of Transportation awarded this project on June 11, 2018 to Preferred Materials, Inc.

**-Roundabout Design Progress** – Our goal for the roundabout for Harris Trail and Belfast River is to have it ready for bid on September 1, 2018.

**-Northern Animal Shelter** – We still need to put in some asphalt, fencing and crush & run in the back area and this project will be complete.

**-Hendrix Park Improvements** – We are in the process of signing the contract that was awarded last month so he can proceed with this project.

**-LMIG Resurfacing Projects** – This project includes the resurfacing of Harveytown Road, Ash Branch Road and Bailey Plantation Drive and is ready to get underway.

**-North Bryan Transportation Study** – The North Bryan Transportation Study has been completed by Thomas & Hutton.

**-Henderson Park Gym & Soccer Fields**– RFQ for architectural services will be solicited soon for the Henderson Park Gym & Soccer Fields. This project is part of the 2019 SPLOST projects.

**\*Appointment to Middle Coastal Unified Development Authority Appointment** – Bryan County is currently a member of the Middle Coastal Unified Development Authority (MCUDA). It consists of 13 counties with each county appointing two members to the board. Anna Chafin and Brad Brookshire currently serve as the members for Bryan County. Brad Brookshire was appointed in August 2015 to fill an unexpired term which will expire June 30, 2018. Mr. Brookshire can be reappointed to a four year term to expire June 30, 2022. Commissioner Brookshire abstained from voting. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Rick Gardner to reappoint Brad Brookshire to the Middle Coastal Unified Development Authority for a term to expire in June, 2022. Motion carried unanimously.

**\*Appointment to the Board of Assessors** – Matt Owens currently serves on the Bryan County Board of Assessors. His term on this board will expire at the end of this month. Mr. Owens has indicated he would like to continue serving on this board. This is a six (6) year appoint, so the tenure of this term runs from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2024. A motion was made by Wade Price and seconded by Noah Covington to reappoint Matt Owens to the Bryan County Board of Assessors to serve a six (6) year term from July 1, 2018 until June 30, 2024. Motion carried unanimously

**\*Appointments to the Library Board** – The Bryan County Library Board currently has two (2) positions that need to be reappointed. The staff and trustees of the library are recommending the reappointment of Alex Floyd and John Hoskins. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Wade Price to reappoint Alex Floyd and John Hoskins to the Bryan County Library Board for a three (3) year term of appointment to expire June 30, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

**\*Appointment of Summer Lunch Food Service Program Administrator** – Bryan County is a federally funded initiative that provides healthy meals at no cost for children in eligible areas during the

summer months. This program has been in Bryan County for over 20 years. Due to federal requirements, an administrator of the program must be officially appointed by the Board to continue to receive federal funds. Wendy Sims has long served with this responsibility. A motion was made by Wade Price and seconded by Brad Brookshire to appoint Wendy Sims as the Summer Lunch Food Service Program Administrator for Bryan County for Fiscal Year 2018-2019. Motion carried unanimously.

**\*Adoption of the 2018-2028 Bryan County Comprehensive Plan Update** – The Bryan County Comprehensive Plan has been reviewed by the Coastal Regional Commission and the Department of Community Affairs and they have determined that the plan complies with the local planning requirements and is therefore eligible for adoption by the County. A motion was made by Steve Myers and seconded by Noah Covington to approve the resolution adopting the Bryan County 2018-2028 Comprehensive Plan Update. Motion carried unanimously.

**\*Appointment of Chief Magistrate Judge** – Chief Magistrate Judge Darrell Snider is retiring the end of June. The job has been advertised and Honorable Charles Rose, Superior Court Judge of the Atlantic Judicial Circuit, was tasked with making a recommendation on behalf of the Superior Court Judges. He is recommending Carolyn Shervette for the position. The local Act 1984 Ga Laws 4162 provides that the Chief Magistrate is appointed by the Superior Court Judges (by majority vote) with concurrence of the Board of Commissioners. A motion was made by Brad Brookshire and seconded by Rick Gardner to approve the recommendation of the Superior Court Judges to appoint Carolyn Shervette as the Chief Magistrate Judge effective July 1, 2018 with a term ending December 31, 2020 and approve the resolution establishing the salary of the Chief Magistrate Judge and Assistance Chief Magistrate. Motion carried unanimously.

**\*Service Delivery Strategy Extension** – The county and cities have agreed that it is best to file with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for an extension to the normal June 30, 2018 deadline that requires our three governments to have an agreement for service delivery. The method of accomplishing this is to file a DCA Form 5, which allows us to extend the deadline date by four month increments. The extension would be filed until October 31, 2018. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Brad Brookshire to approve the resolution requesting an extension of the current SDS which would extend the SDS until October 31, 2018 and authorize the Chairman to sign the necessary paperwork for the extension. Motion carried unanimously.

**\*Agreement to Mediate SDS** – The City of Richmond Hill's consultant and special counsel (both from Effingham County) have requested that we enter into an Alternative Dispute Resolution Agreement, which they propose. Both of our attorneys agreed that this agreement would not be beneficial to the county. Our attorneys have prepared an agreement to mediate that is consistent with State Law. A motion was made by Steve Myers and seconded by Brad Brookshire to approve agreement to mediate between Bryan County and the cities of Pembroke and Richmond Hill. Motion carried unanimously.

**\*Service Delivery Strategy Mediator** – The county and cities feel the best way to reach an agreement on the Service Delivery Strategy is through mediation. A mediator will need to be appointed and we will need to establish dates for the mediation. Justice Norman Fletcher is highly qualified to serve as the mediator. He has served as a Justice on the Georgia Supreme Court from 1990-2005, including a term as Presiding Justice from 1995-2001 and Chief Justice from 2001-2005. He also has years of experience in arbitration and mediation. He has also served as a county attorney and city

attorney. We would establish the dates of July 16-18, 2018 as possible dates for mediation. This appointment and dates would be dependent upon the cities agreement. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Brad Brookshire to approve the resolution appointing Justice Norman Fletcher as mediator in the SDS matter and establish the dates of July 16-18, 2018 as possible dates for mediation, dependent upon the cities agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

**\*Belfast Keller I-95 Interchange Funding** – The Georgia Department of Transportation has bid the I-95 interchange project and the results of this have yielded a larger funding gap than originally forecasted. The county passed a resolution promising the fill this funding gap up to the amount of \$2.1 million back in June 2017. We have recently been informed that the monetary amount will increase by \$625,000 for both Bryan County and the City of Richmond Hill. The DOT has informed us that we have 50 days from May 30 to make a decision on whether or not to proceed with the commitment of additional funds. A motion was made by Steve Myers and seconded by Brad Brookshire to approve the resolution committing additional funds for the Belfast-Keller Road Interchange. Motion carried unanimously.

**Charles Lorimer** met with the board to discuss the cost of water/sewer. He is retired and feels as though the county should charge a pay as you go amount for water/sewer usage rather than a flat amount for an allocated amount.

A motion was made by Steve Myers and seconded by Noah Covington to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.