

Bryan County Board of Commissioners – December 13, 2016

The regular meeting of the Bryan County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, December 13, 2016 in Richmond Hill. The following members were present: Chairman Jimmy Burnsed, Commissioner Rick Gardner, Commissioner Wade Price, Commissioner Steve Myers, Commissioner Noah Covington and Commissioner Brad Brookshire. Also present: County Administrator Ben Taylor, County Clerk Donna Waters and County Attorney Lea Holiday.

Chairman Burnsed called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Invocation was given by Chairman Burnsed. Everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Probate Judge Sam Davis swore in **Brad Brookshire** as the Commissioner for the 4th District.

A discussion was held on the **agenda**. A motion was made by Steve Myers and seconded by Noah Covington to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on the **minutes** of the November 14, 2016 regular meeting. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Steve Myers to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2016 regular meeting as printed. Motion carried unanimously.

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

The following items were listed on the consent agenda:

1. Approval of Tax Appeals - \$436.63 for Motor Vehicle Appeal Refunds
2. Approval of Alcohol License for Pradeep Patel for EZ Liquor
3. Approval of Alcohol License for Divyaben Patel for Zip N # 5
4. Approval of Surplus Property Declaration

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

***FY 2017 Budget Consideration** – Each year the County is required by state law to adopt a budget to include revenues and expenditures by departments for the following year. The proposed budget for the General Fund in the amount of \$20,843,450; SPLOST VI in the amount of \$5,671,000; E-911 Fund in the amount of \$1,472,160; Fire Protection Fund in the amount of \$1,452,860; Water & Sewer Fund in the amount of \$1,575,000; Solid Waste Fund in the amount of \$1,156,000; Special Recreation Funds in the amount of \$413,445 and other minor funds in the amount of \$419,581. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Steve Myers to adopt the FY 2017 County Operating Budget as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

***Freeport Exemption – E-Commerce Addition** – The E-Commerce eligibility addition to the Freeport Tax Exemption for Bryan County passed its first hurdle of adoption with the successful completion of winning a county-wide election. As noted in the August 1st meeting which authorized the submission for this referendum on the November Ballot, the second step in the process is the establishment of the exemption percentage. The existing three categories for Freeport Exemption are at 100% and it would be helpful if this percentage was consistent. A motion was made by Brad Brookshire and seconded by Steve Myers to adopt the resolution establishing the Freeport Exemption for e-commerce fulfillment centers at 100%. Motion carried unanimously.

***E-911 Upgrade 7 Year Lease Purchase Agreement** – The dispatch radio consoles were originally purchased in 2006, when the County transitioned to the 800 radio system. Our current consoles have well reached their “end of life”, which means Motorola will no longer support our equipment. We have been able to prolong this expenditure because we have a redundant system that we have been using to replace/repair the equipment. The second portion of the request is to upgrade the 911 telephone system. This new upgrade will be more web based. Motorola is willing to do special financing for both of these projects together with a lease option, no payment due for two years. A motion was made by Rick Gardner and seconded by Steve Myers to approve the Lease-Purchase Agreement with Motorola dated November 17, 2016 for replacing the County’s 911 Consoles and Telephone System which will be funded by SPLOST and amend the 2016 budget to reflect the lease agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

***Appointment to the Elections Board** – Mr. Nevin Patton currently serves as the Chairman of the Bryan County Board of Elections & Registrations. His term on this board will expire on December 31, 2016. Mr. Patton has indicated he would like to continue serving on this board. This is a four (4) year appointment, so the tenure of this term runs from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2020. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Steve Myers to reappoint Mr. Nevin Patton to the Bryan County Board of Elections for the term of January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

***Appointment to the Board of Health** – Ms. Jewel Owens and Ms. Emma Porter Fettes currently serve on the Bryan County Board of Health. Their term on this board will expire on December 31, 2016. This is a six (6) year appointment, so the tenure of this term runs from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2022. A motion was made by Wade Price and seconded by Steve Myers to reappoint Ms. Jewel Owens and Ms. Emma Porter Fettes to the Board of Health for the term of January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2022. Motion carried unanimously.

***Southeast Correctional Probation Services Contract** – Bryan County entered into an agreement with Southeast Corrections in November 2014 to provide probation services. Southeast Corrections has been a very vital part in the success of collecting fines and the probation system in Bryan County State Court. From July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, they collected \$212,139.88 in fines for Bryan County State Court and have collected \$3,261.00 in restitution for victims of crime. At the 2015 legislative session, O.C.G.A. §42-8-103 passed and became effective July 1, 2015. The practical effect is to create “pay only probation”, where a defendant is placed on probation solely because he/she is unable to pay a fine. When this occurs, 42-8-103 caps the probation supervision fees at three months, regardless of the length of the probated sentence. Thus, Southeast may have to supervise some of the cases with higher fines for a year or more, with their fees capped at three months. Thus, Southeast has requested to increase their collection fees from \$35.00 per month per case to \$40.00 per month per case. Judge Ray Smith has no objection to the \$5.00 per month per case increase because it will be borne by the probationers and cost the county nothing. A motion was made by Steve Myers and seconded by Noah Covington to approve the Memorandum of Understanding Agreement for Probation Services between Bryan County State Court and Southeast Corrections, LLC which increases the current fee structure for standard supervision fees from \$35 per month per case to \$40 per month per case and authorize the Chairman to execute same. Motion carried unanimously.

***Development Authority/Daniel Defense MOU Agreement** – Last month, the Development Authority of Bryan County request that the Memorandum of Understanding between the Authority and

the local industry Daniel Defense be approved. Daniel Defense will consolidate operations from their Ridgeland, SC facility and their existing facility in Interstate Centre into a new facility (258,000 SF expandable) in Interstate Centre. An amendment to the MOU specifies the transaction cost responsibilities. A motion was made by Steve Myers and seconded by Brad Brookshire to approve Amendment to the Economic Development Agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

The Commissioners thanked Chairman Burnsed for his 12 years of service to the County. Mr. Burnsed was presented with a plaque for his years of service to Bryan County.

Chairman Burnsed declared the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.