

Bryan County Board of Commissioners – January 10, 2017

The regular meeting of the Bryan County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 in Pembroke. The following members were present: Chairman Carter Infinger, Commissioner Rick Gardner, Commissioner Brad Brookshire, Commissioner Noah Covington, Commissioner Steve Myers and Commissioner Wade Price. 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 Steve Myers and seconded by Wade Price to approve the agenda as printed. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on the **minutes** of the December 13, 2016 regular meeting. A motion was made by Wade Price and seconded by Brad Brookshire to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2016 regular meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

The **2016 Bryan County Recreation 10 & Under Redskins** were recognized and awarded a proclamation for their recent season which yielded a State Runner-Up Championship Title in the 2016 Class C Division. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Wade Price to approve the proclamation. Motion carried unanimously. Members of the team and cheerleaders were present to receive their award.

A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Steve Myers to close the regular meeting to hold a **Planning & Zoning Public Hearing**. Motion carried unanimously.

1. **Subdivision Ordinance Revisions – Cluster Subdivisions** – A couple of residents were present to speak on this public hearing.
2. **Arterial Road Overlay Ordinance** – This is a first look at this ordinance. A first reading will be held at another time.
3. **Accessory Building & Conditional Use** – This is a first look at this ordinance. A first reading will be held at another time.

A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Steve Myers to adjourn the public hearing to go back into regular session. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on the **consent agenda**. A motion was made by Steve Myers 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 Appeals**
 - *Real Property Appeal Refunds in the amount of \$280.85
 - *TAVT (Motor Vehicle) Appeal Refunds in the amount of \$1,056.62
- 2 **Approval of Alcoholic Beverage License for El Cheapo # 140**

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

***Appointment of Vice-Chairman** – Each year the Board of Commissioners appoints one of its members as the Vice-Chairman. Several years ago, the Board of Commissioners decided the rotation would be 5th District, followed by 3rd District, then 4th District, 2nd District and 1st District. The Vice-Chairman for FY 2016 was Rick Gardner, 5th District. The proposed Vice-Chairman for FY 2017 will be the 3rd District Commissioner Steve Myers. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Brad Brookshire to appoint 3rd District Commissioner Steve Myers as the Vice-Chairman for FY 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

***Appointment of County Clerk** – The County Clerk is considered the personal staff for the Board of Commissioners and subsequently, the Board must reappoint the County Clerk to serve in that capacity each year. Donna has worked for the County since May 1979. A motion was made by Rick Gardner and seconded by Wade Price to appoint Donna Waters as the County Clerk for FY 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

***Appointment of County Attorney** – In January of each year the Board of Commissioners appoints the County Attorney. Leamon (Lea) Holliday with Bouhan Falligant, LLP has served as the County Attorney since January 2015. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Wade Price to appoint Lea Holliday as the County Attorney for FY 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

***Appointment of County Depository** – Each year, the Bryan County Board of Commissioners appoints a local bank as the County Depository. First Bank of Coastal Georgia has been the County Depository for many years, as it is convenient to the county offices in Pembroke and Richmond Hill. Last year the board appointed First Bank of Coastal Georgia as the primary depository and South Bank and Ameris Bank as the secondary County Depositories. Commissioner Brookshire abstained from this discussion and voting. A motion was made by Steve Myers and seconded by Wade Price to appoint First Bank of Coastal Georgia as the primary depository and South bank and Ameris Bank as the secondary County Depositories for FY 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

***Juvenile Judge Contract Agreement** – The Honorable Christy Balbo has been serving as Bryan County's Juvenile Court Judge since April of 2014. The Judge's duties are split between Bryan County and McIntosh County, with considerable more caseload in Bryan County. Judge Balbo's current compensation package includes a stipend from the State of approximately \$25,500 with McIntosh and Bryan County providing \$12,500 each. Judge Balbo uses her private office and its resources when carrying out her duties as judge. In late 2016, Judge Balbo requested an examination of her duties as compared to the compensation package. As a result of that examination, staff is recommending increasing the Bryan County portion of compensation package from \$12,500 to \$25,500 and including an office supplement of \$12,500. This is detailed in an agreement. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Brad Brookshire to approve the Juvenile Court Judges First Amended Service Agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

***Cardiac Monitor Lease Agreement** – The County's use of ECG monitors have proven to be lifesaving equipment for determining the treatment of a patient based on their heart rhythm. The county's current ECG monitors are becoming out of date, not standardized in terms of capabilities, and recently have had many recurring problems with batteries and cables going bad on the equipment. Current replacement parts are very costly and as they age further they will become obsolete. It is important to replace this type of equipment regularly in order to maintain the current technology and operating efficiency. A motion was made by Steve Myers and seconded by Noah Covington to approve

the Equipment Lease Agreement with Philips Medical Capital for (7) Heart Start MRX Cardiac Monitors in the amount of 60 month (FMV) payments of \$3,263.81 + tax. This is a budgeted item for FY 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

***Southeast Corrections MOU – Superior Court** – 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 Superior Court. From July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 they collected \$8,691.00 in fines for Bryan County Superior Court and have collected \$191.99 in restitution for victims of crimes. 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 fee from \$35.00 per month per case to \$40.00 per month per case. Judge Robert Russell 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. This was done last month with State Court and this is consistent with that. A motion was made by Rick Gardner and seconded by Steve Myers to approve the MOU for Probation Services between Bryan County Superior Court and Southeast Corrections, LLC which increase 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.

A discussion was held on the **Cluster Ordinance**. The builders have requested this topic be tabled until next month to allow them more time to discuss this with the staff. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Steve Myers to table the 2nd reading on the Cluster Ordinance until next month. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Brad Brookshire to go into **executive session** to discuss real estate. Motion carried unanimously. The board went into executive session at 6:51 p.m.

A motion was made by Steve Myers and seconded by Noah Covington to go back into **regular session**. Motion carried unanimously. The board went back into regular session at 7:04 p.m.

A motion was made by Steve Myers and seconded by Rick Gardner to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.