

Bryan County Board of Commissioners – January 9, 2018

The regular meeting of the Bryan County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 in Pembroke. The following members were present: Chairman Carter Infinger, Commissioner Brad Brookshire, Commissioner Noah Covington, Commissioner Steve Myers, Commissioner Rick Gardner 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 Brad Brookshire. 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 with the addition of an executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

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

A discussion was held on the **consent agenda**. A motion was made by Noah Covington 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 Appeals - \$200.76

*TAVT (Motor Vehicles) Appeals - \$82.28

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

***Administrator's Monthly Report** for January 2018 included:

-Transportation Projects – We will be proceeding with engineering to get projects shovel ready with the passage of TSPLOST. These projects include intersection improvements at: Belfast River Road/Harris Trail Road; Belfast River Road/Belfast Keller Road; and Highway 17/Belfast Keller Road (heavily explore options with GDOT and consult with our engineers on options.) We will have a third party do this engineer work.

-Shoulder Installation on a portion of Belfast River Road – This is a 2 foot shoulder installation which should be complete by the end of March. It is being funded with the LMIG Safety Grant. The shoulder installation is from Harris Trail Road to Belfast Keller Road.

-Northern Transportation Study – We are progressing with Thomas & Hutton Engineering on conducting a transportation study for North Bryan County. This is state routes and local road intersections.

-Resurfacing – The construction of these projects is planned for this summer when school is out. The roads include Ash Branch Road (approximately 1.7 miles); Harveytown Road (approximately 1.7 miles) and Bailey Plantation Drive (approximately 0.4 miles).

***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 the 3rd District, then 4th District, 2nd District and 1st District. The Vice-Chairman for 2017 was Steve Myers, 3rd District. The proposed Vice-Chairman for 2018 will be the 4th District Commissioner Brad Brookshire. A motion was made by Steve Myers and seconded by Wade Price to appoint Brad Brookshire as Vice-Chairman for 2018. 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 Waters has worked for the County since May 1979. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Rick Gardner to appoint Donna Waters as County Clerk for 2018. 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 Falligan, LLP has served as the County Attorney since January 2015. A motion was made by Brad Brookshire and seconded by Noah Covington to appoint Lea Holliday as the County Attorney for 2018. 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. The past couple of years, 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 vote. A motion was made by Steve Myers and seconded by Wade Price to appoint First Bank of Coastal Georgia as the primary county depository and South Bank and Ameris Bank as the secondary county depositories. Motion carried unanimously.

***Appointment to the Library Board** – The Bryan County Library Board currently has a vacancy. Ms. Sheila Fields represented north Bryan County and completed her allowable terms of service. Ms. Sarah Williams, a north Bryan resident, has expressed her interest in serving on this board as a representative for north Bryan County. The staff and trustees of the library are recommending Ms. Sarah Williams to serve on this board. This appointment would be a three (3) year appointment. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Steve Myers to appoint Sarah Williams to the Bryan County Library Board with a term of service to begin immediately and expire December 31, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

***Infrastructure Purchase Agreement** – Bryan County has been in talks with the City of Savannah and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division in regards to purchasing the Savannah Drinking Water Well located in Southern Bryan County, adjacent to Fire Station 10. The purchase of this well will increase Bryan County's countywide daily water allocation from 600,000 gallons per day to 1.6 million gallons per day. Current daily consumption is approximately 200,000 gallons per day. Last month, the Commission voted to accept a Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority Loan to finance several water and wastewater projects to address infrastructure that is necessitated by Bryan County's rapid growth. This project is included in that list of projects. Purchase price of this well is estimated at \$636,000 as of December 2017. The county is seeking Commission approval to execute the agreement to purchase the Savannah Well from the City of Savannah. A motion was made by Steve Myers and seconded by Brad Brookshire to authorize the execution of the Infrastructure Purchase Agreement with the City of

Savannah for the purchase of the Savannah Well subject to changes deemed necessary by legal counsel. Motion carried unanimously.

***IC 2 Lift Station Bid Award** – This project involves the installation of a lift station in the Interstate Centre II Industrial Park to serve upcoming industry under construction and potential industry for that portion of the Park. It is financed by the recently award Georgia Environmental Facilities Grant to Bryan County accepted in the December meeting. The project was bid out in accordance with Bryan County Policy and the Georgia Public Work Construction Project Regulations. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Brad Brookshire to award the Interstate Centre II Lift Station bid to J. L. Hardin, Inc. in the amount of \$375,280. Motion carried unanimously.

***Resolution to Establish Qualifying Fees** – The Bryan County Board of Commissioners are required to set and publish qualifying fees for County Offices by February 1, 2018. Qualifying fees are generally set by law, the amount is depending on the county office. The qualifying fees that need to be set for 2018 are for District Commissioner in the amount of \$255.00 and Board of Education Member in the amount of \$103.50. A motion was made by Brad Brookshire and seconded by Steve Myers to adopt the resolution to set the qualifying fees for 2018. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Steve Myers and seconded by Rick Gardner to go into **executive session** to discuss a claim against the county. Motion carried unanimously. The board went into executive session at 5:50 p.m. The board went back into regular session at 6:56 p.m.

A motion was made by Steve Myers and seconded by Wade Price to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.