

Bryan County Board of Commissioners – January 12, 2016

The regular meeting of the Bryan County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 in Pembroke. The following members were present: Chairman Jimmy Burnsed, Commissioner Steve Myers, Commissioner Wade Price, Commissioner Carter Infinger, Commissioner Noah Covington and Commissioner Rick Gardner. Also present: County Administrator Ben Taylor, County Clerk Donna Waters and County Attorney Lea Holliday.

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

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

A discussion was held on the **minutes** of the December 8, 2015 regular meeting. A motion was made by Wade Price and seconded by Steve Myers to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2015 minutes as printed. Motion carried unanimously.

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

The following items were listed on the consent agenda:

1. Approval of Tax Refunds

\$5,770.70 for Real Property & \$570.50 for Motor Vehicles for a total of \$6,341.20

2. Approval of FY 2015 Budget Amendment

*Sheriff's Budget – Transfer \$38,000 from Tri-County Drug Task to Patrol Vehicles

3. Approval of FY 2016 Budget Amendment

*Senior Citizens Budget – Transfer \$21,500 from Transit savings due to consolidation with CRC to purchase a used van for Senior Citizens Center.

A motion was made by Carter Infinger and seconded by Wade Price to adjourn the regular meeting to hold a planning & zoning public hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

- 1. Rayonier Atlantic Timber Company Rezoning** – Representatives from Rayonier were present to speak on this rezoning. Several citizens were also present to speak with concerns of the added traffic by heavy equipment on Oak Level Road.

A motion was made by Carter Infinger and seconded by Wade Price to adjourn the public hearing and reopen the regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Christine Williams, Zoning Administrator, met with the board with Planning & Zoning Issues.

1. **Case CUP # 147-15 – Rayonier Atlantic Timber Company** has requested that the A-5 zone on 36 acres on the corner of Oak Level Road and Carver School Road be amended to also allow a Borrow Pit operation. The lot, zoned agricultural, has been used to grow timber. Currently it is vacant. To be used as a borrow pit, the Bryan County Ordinance will require that the pit be at least fifty feet from the property line. It also requires a thirty foot buffer between the use and any use that may be affected in a negative manner on adjacent lots. The staff recommends approval on the condition that a fifty foot butter be required along the south and east sides. Staff also recommends that the times of operation at the borrow pit be limited so as not to interfere with school or work traffic. The Planning Commission voted to recommend the request with the condition of a minimum 100 foot setback of wooded, vegetative buffer on Oak Level Road and Carver School Road. A motion was made Carter Infinger and seconded by Wade Price to approve the rezoning request of Rayonier Atlantic Timber Company as recommended by the Planning Commission with the conditions stated by the Planning Commission. Voting for: Infinger, Price, Myers & Covington. Voting against: Gardner. Motion carried 4 to 1.
2. **Case SD # 2091-15 - Preliminary Plat Approval for Mark Smith aka Bryan Property Investors for Hidden Creek Subdivision Phase 2** – The applicant has requested approval of the second phase of Hidden Creek Subdivision located on Wilma Edwards Road. This phase will consist of 37.67 acres. Twenty-five additional lots were requested but after review, the number of requested lots was reduced to 17. An unnumbered A flood zone intrudes on approximately 8 acres; until a flood study is completed no development can take place in a flood zone without a BFE. Staff recommends approval on the condition that all items identified in the Engineer’s letter are revised as noted. A motion was made by Steve Myers and seconded by Wade Price to approve the preliminary plat approval for Mark Smith for the second phase of Hidden Creek. Motion carried unanimously.

Jennifer Durham, Regional Library Director, met with the board to discuss the location of the future library in South Bryan County. The Library Board would like for the new library to be located adjacent to the Administrative Complex on Captain Matthew Freeman Drive.

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

***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 2015 was Noah Covington, 1st District. The proposed Vice-Chairman for FY 2016 will be the 5th District Commissioner Rick Gardner. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Steve Myers to appoint Mr. Rick Gardner, 5th District Commissioner as the Vice-Chairman of the Bryan County Board of Commissioners for FY 2016. 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 Carter Infinger and seconded by Steve Myers to reappoint Donna Waters as the Bryan County Clerk for FY 2016. 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 Steve Myers and seconded by Carter Infinger to reappoint Lea Holliday as the County Attorney for FY 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

***Appointment of County Depository** – Each year, the 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. A motion was made by Steve Myers and seconded by Carter Infinger to appoint the First Bank of Coastal Georgia as the primary County Depository and South Bank and Ameris Bank as secondary County Depositories for FY 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

***Appointment to Coastal Area District Development Authority** – CADDA is a private, non-profit, economic development lender that offers both credit enhancement programs as well as incentive programs to the banks and small business concerns. It was established in 1976 as a result of a grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA). CADDA is governed by a very active and supportive Board of Directors consisting of 17 members representing 9 counties in Georgia. Those counties include: Effingham, Chatham, Bryan, Liberty, Long, McIntosh, Glynn, Camden, and Bulloch. CADDA receives no federal, state, or local funding. It is self-sufficient and generates sufficient revenues to pay its operating expenses including loan losses. Dell Keith, who previously served on the Board as Bryan County's representative, has moved out of the County; therefore necessitating the need to appoint another representative. Mr. John Seagraves has expressed his interest to be on this board, and his employment experience with the expertise required to serve effectively. This appointment is for three years. A motion was made by Steve Myers and seconded by Carter Infinger to appoint John Seagraves to the Coastal Area District Development Authority with the term of appointment from January 1, 2016 until December 31, 2018. Motion carried unanimously.

***Approval of Grant Resolution for Coastal Access Plan for the Jerico River** – The goal of this project is for the City of Richmond Hill and Bryan County to work together to improve public access to coastal resources by performing a site inventory and analysis, feasibility study, and master plan for a public access point for the Jerico River at the Egypt Trail site within the State land off of Belfast Keller Road. The proposed project is in close proximity to the location of a new interchange on I-95, which is expected to serve as a catalyst for commercial and industrial development on the south end of Bryan County. Additionally, the project site lies directly adjacent to a large planned unit development primed for substantial residential growth in the coming decade estimated at 3,000 new homes. By providing access to the Jerico River at this specific location, a large number of residents and visitors will learn about and grow to appreciate our unique coastal resources, as well as the necessity to protect those resources. To accomplish this goal the City and County are seeking a State grant for the implementation

of a Coastal Access Plan for the Jerico River. This plan will then be used to lobby for additional State funds for construction of the proposed improvements. The attached resolution expresses the County's endorsement of the project and the joint application with the agreement that the County and the City of Richmond Hill will provide the necessary matching requirements for the grant. The majority of the match is expected to be in-kind staff services rather than cash. A motion was made by Steve Myers and seconded by Rick Gardner to adopt the resolution in support of grant funds for implementation of a Coastal Access plan for the Jerico River. Motion carried unanimously.

***Approval of Resolution Setting Qualifying Fees** – The Board of Commissioners are required to set and publish qualifying fees for County offices by February 1, 2016. Qualifying fees are generally set by Law; the amount is depending on the county office. A motion was made by Carter Infinger and seconded by Wade Price to adopt the resolution to set the qualifying fees for County offices. Motion carried unanimously.

***Amendment to Section 5-807.1 of the Personnel Policy** – Interest has been expressed to add Good Friday and Veterans Day to the County Holiday Schedule. This would increase our total recognized paid holiday days from 10 to 12. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Wade Price to adopt the resolution amending the Personnel Policy to reflect the addition of Good Friday and Veterans Day. Voting for: Covington and Price. Voting against: Gardner, Infinger & Myers. Motion did not carry. A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Steve Myers to add Veterans Day as a County Holiday. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Carter Infinger and seconded by Wade Price to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.