

Bryan County Board of Commissioners – February 9, 2016

The regular meeting of the Bryan County Board of Commissioners was held on Tuesday, February 9, 2016 in Richmond Hill. The following members were present: Chairman Jimmy Burnsed, Commissioner Steve Myers, Commissioner Noah Covington, Commissioner Carter Infinger, Commissioner Wade Price 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 Covington. 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 Rick Gardner to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on the **minutes** of the January 12, 2016 regular meeting. A motion was made by Wade Price and seconded by Noah Covington to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2016 regular meeting 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 printed. Motion carried unanimously.

The following items were listed on the consent agenda.

1. Approval of Tax Refunds

*\$102.20 for TAVT (Motor Vehicles)

2. Approval of Budget Amendment

*\$15,000 to purchase a vehicle for Planning & Zoning

\$5,000 from contingency and \$10,000 from NPDES Permit Fund

A motion was made by Noah Covington and seconded by Steve Myers to approve consent item two. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Burnsed gave a report on his discussion with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and their future plans for the **Richmond Hill Firearm Range** located on Kilkenny Road. This range is one of 17 functioning DNR Firearm Ranges and the only one located in the Coastal District. There will not be a shotgun range at the location because of the impact to wetlands. The plans are to expand opportunity for rifle and pistol shooting.

Kirk Croasmun, County Engineer, met with the board to give an update on projects.

***2016 LMIG Road Resurfacing Project** – Georgia DOT LMIG funding has been received for the 2016 Road Program. The preparation of bid documents is underway. The project is to be advertised in April and awarded in May.

***I-95 Interchange Project** – This project is anticipated to be bid in September of 2017.

***SR 144 Widening Project** – This project is anticipated to be bid in March of 2017.

***FEMA FIRMS's** – Preliminary maps were released for initial public comment regarding miscellaneous minor comments such as street names, spelling errors, etc.

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

***Resolution of Support for the Coastal Greenway Bike and Pedestrian Trail** – The Joint Coastal Greenway Study Committee was created pursuant to Senate Resolution 26 in the 2015 Legislative Session. The East Coast Greenway is a proposed system of bicycle and pedestrian trails that, when completed, will provide users with 2,900 miles of paved trail from Maine to Florida. The Georgia component of the East Coast Greenway is the Coastal Georgia Greenway: a 155-mile multi-use paved trail that will link Savannah to St. Mary's. The Committee was charged with undertaking a study of the conditions, needs, issues, and problems associated with the implementation and construction of the Coastal Georgia Greenway. The Committee is requesting the board approve a resolution endorsing the recommendations of the house and senate joint Coastal Georgia Greenway Study Committee. A motion was made by Rick Gardner and seconded by Carter Infinger to approve the resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

“Copy Resolution”

***Bryan County Board of Assessors Expansion** – The Bryan County Commission voted in May 2014 to reduce the number of required board members from five members to three members. Current membership includes Matthew Owens, Robert Floyd, and Thomas Haynes. State law notates that the board can consist of up to five people and as few as three. Strong interest has been expressed in returning to a five member board. A motion was made by Steve Myers and seconded by Carter Infinger to adopt the resolution expanding the composition of the board of Tax Assessors from a three member board to a five member board. Motion carried unanimously.

“Copy Resolution”

***Board of Assessors Appointees** – With the expansion of the Board of Assessors, two vacancies will need to be filled. The term of office for the Board of Assessors is six (6) years. Two people have expressed interest to serve on this board. They are aware of the education requirements and commitment of time. The two nominees are Lisa Ward of Richmond Hill and Kenneth Tyler of Richmond Hill. A motion was made by Steve Myers and seconded by Carter Infinger to appoint Lisa Ward and Kenneth Tyler to the Board of Assessors. Motion carried unanimously.

***GDOT Right of Way Agreement & Resolution** – The Department of Transportation requires a contract for right-of-way acquisition between the Department of Transportation and Bryan County for the new I-95 Interchange. This is one of the preliminary steps in the right-of-way acquisition process. A motion was made by Steve Myers and seconded by Carter Infinger to approve the GDOT Right of Way Agreement & Resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Carter Infinger and seconded by Steve Myers to go into **executive session** to discuss personnel issues. Motion carried unanimously. The board went into executive session at 6:01 p.m. The board returned to regular session at 6:28 p.m.

A motion was made by Carter Infinger and seconded by Steve Myers to **appoint Eric Greenway as the Planning & Zoning Director** for Bryan County. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Carter Infinger and seconded by Steve Myers to **adjourn**. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m.