

August 20, 2007  
Statesboro, GA

The Board met at 8:30 a.m. in the Community Room of the North Main Annex. Chairman Nevil welcomed the guests and called the meeting to order. Commissioner Jackson gave the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

Ms. Evelyn Wilson, Clerk of the Board, performed the roll call of commissioners and staff. The following commissioners and staff were present: Chairman Nevil, Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Tankersley, Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Rushing, County Manager Tom Couch and Staff Attorney Jeff Akins.

Chairman Nevil asked for changes or modification before approval of the General Agenda. Commissioner Simmons offered a motion to approve the General Agenda as presented. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it carried, unanimously.

The next item of business was the approval of the minutes of the public hearing held on July 17, 2007, the regular meeting held on August 7, 2007 and the workshop held on August 14, 2007. Chairman Nevil asked for any correction or additions to the minutes. Commissioner Gibson offered a motion to approve the minutes as printed for the three meetings. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion and it carried, unanimously.

Chairman Nevil asked for any public comments. Ms. Donna Witte, Chairman of the Bulloch County Commission Human Services, gave a history and the purpose of the Commission. She said grants received by the Commission have enabled them to support several programs in the county. She introduced Executive Director Katherine Hendrix. Ms. Hendrix said the last comprehensive needs assessment was conducted in 1990 through 1992 and the Commission is planning to conduct a new needs assessment. This assessment will not only look at the needs in the county but will also look at resources. The purpose of the assessment is to identify, document and address the health and human services assets, strengths, opportunities, challenges and needs of Bulloch County and its citizens. She asked for the Board's support and public endorsement of this needs assessment. Chairman Nevil said the Commissioners appreciated their services and offered the Board's support of the needs assessment.

Chairman Nevil recognized Mr. Brad Wiggins of the Bulloch County Health Department to discuss a proposed local code amendment. Mr. Wiggins said a law in the local ordinance requires septic tank contractors in Bulloch County exclusively to obtain a bond before they install a septic system. He quoted section 8-26 of the Bulloch County Ordinance which requires this bond. The rule was established some time ago and served the purpose at that time but the State has now begun certifying contractors. He covered the fees, testing requirements and continuing education requirements for the State certification. He said the contractors in Bulloch County know the local law and have been paying for the bond but the real problem in enforcing the local law is with contractors from outside the county. These contractors, who are

certified, call for an inspection of an installed septic system and the installation is correct but they are told they have to have a bond. It seems to be a moot point. He commented that an insurance company will not pay as long as the Health Department approves the septic system. This is an unnecessary fee for local contractors. Mr. Wiggins proposed that this requirement be eliminated. Mr. Couch asked if there could be circumstances where the county may need to retain language that a bond may be required in certain situations but otherwise will accept the state certification. Mr. Wiggins said he couldn't think of any such circumstances but it wouldn't cause any harm to have this language. Mr. Akins will draft an amendment to address this bond requirement for the Board's consideration.

The Consent Agenda had five (5) items for consideration: (1) a resolution for a Street Light Tax District for Phase I of Stonebrook Subdivision; (2) a resolution for a lease agreement with Pineland Mental Health; (3) three grant agreements with the Department of Community Affairs; (4) a bid award for public works uniforms; (5) appointment of Commissioner Roy Thompson to the Statesboro/Bulloch County Airport Committee. Chairman Nevil asked for discussion of items on the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Thompson referenced the grant agreement for the Rocky Ford ramp improvement and asked for update on the Williams Landing. Mr. Couch advised a good model has not been developed for this landing because land will have to be acquired for parking and public space. The Rocky Ford landing affords the best opportunity for improvements this time. Commissioner Tankersley offered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion and it carried, unanimously.

The first item of New Business was discussion and/or action of a contract/change order with Lose and Associates for engineering services for the S&S Greenway. Chairman Nevil asked Mr. Couch to present this item. Mr. Couch called attention to contract and the scope of work purposed by Lose and Associates. Commissioner Thompson referenced the hourly rate schedule and asked how it compared to other engineering firms. Mr. Couch said the rate schedule looks comparable to other professional architect and engineering firms. Commissioner Thompson referenced payment of reimbursement expenses at cost and asked who monitors these reimbursement expenses. Mr. Mike Rollins said the county has used this firm over several years and have never experienced any issue with reimbursement expenses. Detail of reimbursement expenses is provided and can be disputed. Commissioner Jackson offered a motion to approve the contract with Lose and Associates. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion and it carried, unanimously. See exhibit #2007-81

The next item of New Business was discussion and/or action to participate with City of Statesboro in joint financing for improvements at the city/county landfill. Chairman Nevil asked Mr. Couch to lead this discussion. Mr. Couch commented that approximately \$250,000 in 2002 SPLOST funds have been allocated for the expansion of the solid waste transfer station and recycling facility. The city and county are

seeking GEFA financing in order to leverage cash flow until 2007 SPLOST funds become available. Mr. Bob Smith, Environmental Manager, advised the city and county are seeking GEFA financing in the amount of approximately \$1.5 million for expansion of the transfer station and land acquisition for an inert landfill. He said this will be a fifteen to twenty year loan at a low interest rate and will be repaid from the landfill-operating budget. Commissioner Tankersley offered a motion to authorize the City of Statesboro to be the lead advocate in seeking GEFA financing for improvements at the city/county landfill. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion and it carried, unanimously.

Chairman Nevil asked for comments from the Commissioners or the staff. Commissioner Tankersley said, while the river is low, there is a boat ramp on Highway 24 which needs some rip-rap to fill in a drop off at the end of the boat ramp.

Commissioner Thompson commented that employee morale is very important and requested the Board meet with employees of different departments to hear their comments and concerns. Commissioner Tankersley asked if employees were bringing their concerns to the Department Head to be brought to the County Manager's attention. Commissioner Thompson said he didn't know but this would be an informal meeting with employees.

Chairman Nevil said an Executive Session was needed to discuss personnel matters, land acquisition and pending litigation. Commissioner Gibson offered a motion to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters, land acquisition and pending litigation. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it carried, unanimously. (See exhibit #2007-82

The meeting was reconvened. Chairman Nevil asked for other business or comments. Commissioner Tankersley offered a motion to recess briefly before proceeding with the scheduled workshop. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion and it carried, unanimously.

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J. Garrett Nevil

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ATTEST