

February 21, 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 Gibson 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 County Attorney Charles Brown.

Chairman Nevil asked for changes or modifications before approval of the General Agenda. Mr. Couch requested two (2) changes to the General Agenda: (1) add as item 3 under New Business a briefing by Mr. Mike Rollins of the Recreation Department concerning the Sue Oertley Memorial Fund and (2) add as item 4 under New Business discussion and/or action to authorize various purchase orders for spring youth softball and baseball equipment for the Recreation Department. Commissioner Tankersley offered a motion to approve the General Agenda as amended. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion and it carried, unanimously.

The next item of business was the approval of the minutes of the workshop held on January 23, 2007 and the minutes of the regular meeting held on February 1, 2007. Commissioner Simmons offered a motion to approve the minutes of the workshop on January 23, 2007 and the minutes of the regular meeting on February 1, 2007. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it carried, unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was the County Managers' Executive Summary and Financial Report. Chairman Nevil asked for any discussion of this report. Commissioner Thompson commented that it's important for various committee minutes to be included in the monthly report and asked that these minutes from the various committees be minutes of the most recent meeting. Commissioner Simmons offered a motion to accept the County Manager's Executive Summary and Financial Report. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it carried, unanimously.

The Consent Agenda had eight (8) items for consideration: (1) Agreement with CSI Technology Outfitters for software support and maintenance in the amount of \$20,293.98 (see exhibit #2007-14); (2) Partial release of right-of-way in the Black Swamp Creek area (see exhibit #2007-15); (3) Resolution for a Street Light Tax District for Cypress Crossing Subdivision (see exhibit #2007-16); (4) Resolution for local Legislation for the Bulloch County Coroner (see exhibit #2007-17); (5) Agreement with Doyle Academy for Baseball/Softball School (see exhibit #2007-18); (6) Personnel Contract/Memo of Understanding for the Bulloch County Extension Service (see exhibit #2007-19); Contract Agreement with PYRO Shows for firework shows (see exhibit #2007-20); Re-appointment of Mr. Ray Mosley to the Coastal RDC Board of Directors. Commissioner Jackson offered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion and it carried, unanimously.

The first item under New Business was an Amendment to the Code of Ordinances. Chairman Nevil asked Mr. Couch to discuss this amendment. Mr. Couch advised that this amendment accomplishes two objectives. First, it corrects a current conflict between two provisions of the ordinance relating to the Hotel/Motel Tax. Section 12.28 has the tax rate at three percent and section 12.29 has the tax rate at five percent. The correct tax rate is five percent and the tax has been collected at this rate for several years. Secondly, it transfers the administration and collection of the Hotel/Motel Tax from the Tax Commissioner to the Clerk of the Board. Commissioner Tankersley offered a motion to approve the amendment to the Code of Ordinances. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion and it carried, unanimously. (See exhibit #2007-21)

Next on the agenda was discussion of request by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for consideration of expansion of the Center for Agriculture Office Complex. Chairman Nevil asked Mr. Couch to initiate this discussion. Mr. Couch referenced a letter from Mr. James Fitzgerald of the USDA Rural Development Office and said the USDA Rural Development State Director has advised all local offices of the plans for a new business model to consolidate certain offices. He advised that in conversation with Ms. Jeanmarie Deloach, manager of the local Rural Development Office, it is apparent that the Statesboro Office is the preferred choice for this type of consolidation. He said the purpose of this discussion is to authorize the County Manager and Capital Project

Director to initiate steps to determine the feasibility of potential expansion to the Center for Agriculture. He commented the alternative not to expand the facility might result in the relocation of the local Rural Development Office. He introduced Ms. Deloach. Ms. Deloach gave a summary of the services provided by the local Rural Development Office and said the new business model will also consolidate programs. This will expand the services provided the local office. She said currently the local office has four employees and covers eleven counties. There are twenty offices in the state that will be consolidated to twelve offices and the local office will have two to three additional employees and cover fourteen to fifteen counties. She said Statesboro has been named as a good location for a consolidated office and the request is for consideration for expansion to accommodate the needed office space. Commissioner Simmons asked the timetable for the consolidation. Ms. Deloach said the local offices were in tier two of the consolidation which was proposed to be completed by early fall. Mr. Couch said he had spoken briefly with Congressman Barrow who seemed to be supportive of some type federal government arrangement of debt service with a long-term rental agreement. Commission Simmons offered a motion to authorize the staff to work through Ms. Deloach, State Offices and Congressman Barrow's Office to explore the feasibility of expansion of the Center of Agriculture under a debt service arrangement. Commissioner Gibson seconded the motion and it carried, unanimously.

Next on the agenda was a discussion concerning the Sue Oertley Memorial Tennis Fund. Chairman Nevil asked Mr. Mike Rollins, Recreation Department Director, to initiate this discussion. Mr. Rollins advised the Sue Oertley fund was established after Ms. Oertley's death about a year ago and approximately \$3,800 has been donated. He said Ms. Oertley's daughters had asked that a special fund be established for any money contributed in memory of Ms. Oertley. He commented that later a small group of citizens made a request to name the tennis facility at Memorial Park after Ms. Oertley. The Recreation Advisory Committee voted to grant the request and forwarded the request to the Statesboro City Council because Memorial Park is a city facility. City Council approved the tennis facility being named for Ms. Oertley. The citizens' group subsequently asked for approval of a sign design that was granted by the Recreation Advisory Committee. It was understood by the Advisory Committee that the citizens'

group would pay for construction and any cost of the sign. The citizens' group has now requested funding from the Sue Oertley Fund for items utilized to construct the sign. The Advisory Committee has taken the request under consideration and has approved an expenditure of up to \$1500 toward the construction of the sign. Mr. Rollins said he thought perhaps some Commissioners and some Advisory Committee members have been approached for additional funding for the sign or carte blanche access to the funds. He commented that Ms. Oertley's daughters have requested that the funds be used for a memorial plaque and/or a small garden and recreational programming. A program to be put in place for children has been proposed. This program as well as other requests received will be presented to Ms. Oertley's daughters next week to see what their wishes might be. Commissioner Simmons asked if the citizens' group had donated any of the money to fund. Mr. Rollins said no, according to his information this group has not donated any money. Commissioner Simmons said it was his opinion that Ms. Oertley's daughters should be the ones to give guidance on how the funds are used.

The next item of new business was approval of a bid award to be split on various purchase orders for spring youth baseball/softball equipment. Chairman Nevil asked Mr. Couch to present this item. Mr. Couch advised that the request is for authorization for various purchase orders on a split award for bids of spring youth baseball/softball equipment. He said that it has been determined that it would be more advantageous to honor the lowest price for various equipment item on a split bid. Commissioner Thompson offered a motion to purchase the spring youth baseball/softball equipment as requested. Commissioner Gibson seconded the motion and it carried. (See exhibit #2007-22)

Chairman Nevil asked for comments from the public. Commissioner Thompson introduced Mr. Ed Sikes with whom he has discussed a problem on Kendricks Road. Mr. Sikes said he bought property on Kendricks Road about a year ago and when it rains the road is almost impassable. The ditches are overgrown with saplings and water won't drain off the road. He said he didn't know if the road was county or privately owned because the story changes every time he talks to someone. He asked for the county's help to improve and maintain the road. Commissioner Thompson said he thought part of the road is private and part of the road is county maintained but it's not clear which

part is private. Mr. Couch said he thought the portion of Kendricks Road between M.P. Martin Road and Highway 80 has always been the object of controversy because it has always been a private easement. Mr. Couch said numerous complaints have been received on the road but it is the county's policy not to accept a road that does not meet county standards or to maintain a private easement. He remarked because of a number of substandard roads and for other various reasons there is an Ordinance understudy for a special tax assessment district. A special tax assessment district would allow property owners to petition the Commissioners to improve the road to county standards with a two to five year payment of all the property owners. Mr. Brown said the issue of Kendricks Road came up about eight years ago and at that time some title work was done. It was determined that it was a private road never conveyed to the county and it would be illegal for the county to do any work on the road. Chairman Nevil said the problem is real but the solution to the problem is going take some real effort by someone to get proper right-of-way and other issues resolved. The county has no objection to taking the road when it meets the county standards.

Chairman Nevil reminded everyone of the Chamber of Commerce Legislative Breakfast to be held at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at the Agribusiness Center. Chairman Nevil said the NACO Legislative Conference is to be held in Washington D.C. on March 3<sup>rd</sup> – March 7<sup>th</sup> and the Board may approve up to two delegates to attend this Conference. Commissioner Simmons commented that Department Heads and Staff have been asked to curtail travel and he thought the Commissioners should lead by example. It was his opinion not to send anyone to the NACO Conference this year. Commissioner Thompson said that because of budget constraints he concurred with Commissioner Simmons. Commissioner Simmons offered a motion not to send anyone to the NACO Conference. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion and it carried, unanimously.

Chairman Nevil asked for other comments. Mr. Brown discussed a case where a debtor's attorney objected to Tax Commissioner James Deal's claim of a secured status which means that a tax lien comes before any other claim. The court determined that Mr. Deal's claim is secured which protects tax collection and tax fairness.

Chairman Nevil said that an Executive Session was needed to discuss land acquisition and personnel matters. Commissioner Jackson offered a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss land acquisition and personnel matters. Commissioner Tankersley seconded the motion and it carried, unanimously. (See exhibit #2007-22)

The regular meeting was reconvened. Chairman Nevil asked for further business or comments. Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, the meeting was adjourned.