

January 16, 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 Simmons 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 & Parliamentarian Jeff Akins.

Chairman Nevil made the annual public announcement of the county officers for calendar year 2007: Vice Chairman – Walter Gibson; County Manager – Thomas Couch; County Attorney – Charles Brown; County Auditor – Richard Deal. Commissioner Jackson offered a motion to approve the officers for 2007. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion and it carried, unanimously.

Chairman Nevil asked for changes or modifications before approval of the General Agenda. Mr. Couch requested two (2) changes to the General Agenda: (1) defer the approval of the County Manager's Executive Summary and Financial Report until the January 23rd Work Shop and (2) add as item 5 under the Consent Agenda, proposed action to authorize a term contract for annual t-shirt bid at the Recreation Department. Commissioner Tankersley offered a motion to approve the General Agenda as amended. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it carried, unanimously.

The next item of business was the approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held on January 2, 2007 and the Executive Session held on January 2, 2007. Commissioner Simmons offered a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on January 2, 2007 and the Executive Session on January 2, 2007. Commissioner Gibson seconded the motion and it carried, unanimously.

Mr. Couch referenced the information on the bid for the annual t-shirt contract added to the Consent Agenda and said if needed, it could be deferred to new business for discussion. Commissioner Thompson asked why this information was just presented to the Commissioners this morning. Mr. Couch advised the bids had not been reviewed

with the Purchasing Department and, although there were some minor discrepancies in prices, he agreed with the Recreation Department's recommendation to contract with one vendor based on an average price on the different items bid. Chairman Nevil asked what the bid price basis represents. Mr. Couch said this was on a unit price and explained the calculations used to arrive at this unit cost.

The Consent Agenda had five items for consideration: (1) a Resolution for a Strategic Enterprise Plan for the Splash Park, see exhibit #2007-6; (2) audit proposal for EMS billing services from Dabbs, Hickman, Hill & Cannon in the amount of \$12,975; (3) a Resolution for a lease agreement for equipment with SunTrust Master Lease, see exhibit #2007-7; (4) alcohol license applications for off-premise licenses for Luther Rogers, III-Archanaben Viradiya and Mohammand Chassemzadeh-EZ Stop; (5) bid for t-shirts for recreation activities from Boan Art Graphics. Commissioner Thompson offered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Gibson seconded the motion and it carried, unanimously.

The first item of new business was a bid for a Fire Service Evaluation and ISO reduction study from National Fire Services. Chairman Nevil asked Mr. Couch to present this item. Mr. Couch said the Commissioners had previously approved to proceed with a request for a proposal for this study. He asked Public Safety Director Ted Wynn to give more information on the study. Mr. Wynn said objective of this study is to lower the insurance premiums for unincorporated area citizens. He advised the county carries a predominately class 9 rating. This study will give steps, guidance and directions for fire service, which could lower the rating. He said the bid price for this study was \$27,951 and said National Fire Services submitted the only bid. Chairman Nevil asked if the reduction in the insurance premium would be significant. Mr. Wynn said it could be significant. A premium of \$1200 in a class 9 could be reduced almost one-half in a class 5-6. Mr. Wynn discussed issues the study would address and time involved in conducting and implementing the recommendations. Commissioner Gibson offered a motion to approve the bid from National Fire Services for the Fire Service Study and ISO Reduction Study. Commissioner Tankersley seconded the motion and it carried, unanimously.

The next item of new business was discussion of the bids for the renovation of the old hospital building. Chairman Nevil asked for discussion or comments. Mr. Couch referenced the bid results report and said the low bid of \$4,831,193 exceeded the architect's budget estimate about 60%. He said that Dabbs-Williams submitted the low bid and Mr. Brad Williams was present to answer any questions. He stated the issue is that the county does not have adequate funding to proceed in a timely manner and he didn't think the county could wait for the 2007 SPLOST funds to come in. He advised the staff recommendation is to reject the bids. Commissioner Thompson asked what was the major factor in the bids being so much more than the estimate. Mr. Brad Williams said several things contributed to the bid being over budget. This is an old building that is not in good condition and the budget estimate was too conservative from the beginning. He said the county has the option to negotiate with the low bidder and enter into a construction-management arrangement. He discussed the process and advantages of the construction-management concept and said the project could be completed within budget under this arrangement. Mr. Couch said the question was could the County enter into such an arrangement or would the bid process have to begin all over again. Mr. Akins said without some research he wasn't sure what the Public Works Statute would allow. Commissioner Tankersley offered a motion to defer action on the bids for the old hospital building until the first meeting in February to allow time for research of legal requirements. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion and it carried, unanimously.

Chairman Nevil asked for public comments. Mr. Donald Stafford said he lives at 600 Pleasant Hill Church Road in the Highway 119, Eldora Road area. He said his concern was ambulance service in the southeast area of the county. He stated his wife has a heart condition and on December 18th he called 911 for an ambulance for her which took over 30 minutes to arrive. He said he understands that locating ambulance services in the southeast area of the county has been previously discussed. He said he also understands that Bulloch County is a large county but this area is growing. He stated his request was for this situation to be reviewed again and some type action be taken to locate ambulance services in the southeast area of the county. Mr. Couch said there are plans in the 2007 SPLOST proceeds to locate a facility somewhere in the southeast area

of the county but it will probably be into 2009 before a facility can be operational because of the funding arrangements for the jail addition.

Ms. Pearl Brown, president of the NAACP, said they were interested in the plans for the Luetta Moore Community Center. She voiced concerns on several issues but said at this point their main issue is a facility at the Luetta Moore Community Center. She said they wanted some facilities out in the county with activities similar to the ones at the Boys and Girls Club. She said they would staff the facilities with retired teachers and community leaders. She added the community is willing to work with these programs for young people and they were asking the Commissioners to consider these kinds of programs. She stated that everyone needs to come together as a group because it affects all of Bulloch County. Mr. Couch asked if they would be willing to discuss facilities with leaders of the Boys and Girls Club. Ms. Brown said they would not have any problem with discussing what is available with the leaders of the Boys and Girls Club.

Chairman Nevil said that an Executive Session was needed to discuss personnel matters and land acquisition. Commissioner Gibson offered a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters and land acquisition. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it carried, unanimously. See exhibit #2007-8.

The regular meeting was reconvened. Chairman Nevil asked for other business or comments. Commissioner Jackson offered a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Gibson seconded the motion and it carried, unanimously.