

May 16, 2006
Statesboro, GA

The Board met at 8:30 a.m. in the Community Room of the North Main Annex.

Chairman Nevil welcomed the guest and news media. Commissioner Thompson 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 Smith, County Manager Thomas Couch, Parliamentarian and Staff Attorney Jeff Akins.

Chairman Nevil asked for a motion to approve the General Agenda. Mr. Couch stated four changes needed to be made to the agenda: add a request for waiver of development fees from the Bulloch County Development Authority as item one under New Business; add a resolution for the stop loss provision for the Bulloch County Employee Health Insurance Plan as item five under New Business; add a resolution for a spousal surcharge for the Bulloch County Employee Health Insurance Plan as item six under New Business; add a resolution for a contract with Lab One for the Bulloch County Employee Health Insurance Plan as item seven under New Business. Upon motion by Commissioner Gibson, seconded by Commissioner Jackson and carried, the General Agenda was approved with the changes.

Chairman Nevil asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meeting held on May 4, 2006. Upon motion by Commissioner Simmons, seconded by Commissioner Jackson and carried, the minutes of the May 4, 2006 meeting were approved as written.

Chairman Nevil asked for any comments or question concerning the County Manager's Executive Summary and Financial Reports. Upon motion by Commissioner Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Simmons and carried, the summary and report were accepted as presented.

An item of Old Business was a discussion by County Attorney Charles Brown on the Economic Incentive Study. Mr. Brown first reported on the Collins Lake Road Project and said all of the right-of-way parcels had been obtained except for six parcels

which were sought by condemnation. He advised that two of the six have been resolved and four remain. He said the appraised value has been paid into the court and in at least one incident the property owner has disputed this value. Incidents where property owners do not accept the appraised value will proceed to a jury. Mr. Brown also reported that the Southern Links Golf group has filed a lawsuit regarding the sketch plan denial and said defenses to that case are being prepared.

Mr. Brown said he had previously discussed the concept of tax incentives for the purpose of attracting industrial employers, both new employers and existing ones who are expanding their businesses. He reviewed revisions to a resolution which was previously presented and gave details of requirements for a business to be eligible for incentives. He also presented a revised Intergovernmental Agreement with the Development Authority. Commissioner Smith said he understood the Development Authority would issue bonds to finance the industry development. Mr. Brown explained the procedure for issuance and retirement of bonds. Commissioner Smith questioned the guaranty for this financing. Mr. Brown explained steps taken before bonds are issued and other requirements the Development Authority could impose. He said in any case the County Commissioners would never be liable for any default. Commissioner Smith asked about the rate of taxation during the bond repayment. Mr. Brown explained how taxes would be assessed during the years the bonds are being reduced and how taxes would be assessed at complete pay out.

The first item of New Business was a request for the waiver of development fees by the Development Authority. Chairman Nevil asked Mr. Couch to explain this request. Mr. Couch advised that Briggs & Stratton has presented a plan for a construction project and the Development Authority requests the development permit fees for this project be waived. Commissioner Smith asked the amount of the fees. Mr. Couch said approximately \$5,000. Commissioner Smith offered a motion to grant the development permit fee waiver. Commissioner Tankersley seconded the motion and it carried.

Next item of New Business was a resolution to approve the execution of documents relating to financing for the Bulloch County Jail expansion. Mr. Couch discussed the repayment of the lease from SPLOST proceeds. Commissioner Smith asked if the interest rate was variable rate or a fixed rate. Mr. Couch advised it was a

fixed rate for fifteen years with provision for pre-payment as previously explained. Commissioner Tankersley offered a motion to approve the resolution for jail financing. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion and it carried. See exhibit #2006-88.

The next item of New Business was the nominees for appointment to the Hospital Authority Board. Chairman Nevil said names suggested for nomination are Wendell Brannen, Bill Stubbs and Mike Anderson. He asked for other suggestions. Commissioner Thompson asked that the name of Dr. Thad Riley be added. There was some discussion of the number of names to be submitted to the Hospital Authority and it was concluded that three names were to be submitted. Commissioner Thompson withdrew his request. Commissioner Thompson commented that a letter should be sent to people who are not appointed by the Hospital Authority as a courtesy to recognize their willingness to serve. Upon motion by Commissioner Gibson, seconded by Commissioner Smith and carried, the names of Wendell Brannen, Bill Stubbs and Mike Anderson will be submitted to the Hospital Authority.

The next item of New Business was discussion of dates for budget workshops. Chairman Nevil asked Mr. Couch to present this item. Mr. Couch reviewed the proposed dates for Department Heads to present their budgets and Commissioner assignments for each division. He also presented the proposed calendar for the public hearing on the budget and the final adoption. He asked the Commissioners to review the schedule and advise him of any schedule conflicts or changes needed. Commissioners concurred with the schedule. Upon motion by Commissioner Jackson, seconded by Commissioner Gibson and carried, the schedule was accepted as presented. See exhibit #2006-89.

The next item of New Business was a resolution for the stop loss provision for the Bulloch County Employee Health Insurance Plan. Chairman Nevil asked Kimberly Kuebler, Human Resources Director, to present this information. Ms. Kuebler explained this was a renewal of a stop loss contract for the Employee Health Insurance. She said being a self-funded health plan means that the county and employees pay into a fund to cover the cost of claims up to a certain amount and stop loss insurance is purchased to cover any claims above that amount. She advised that the stop loss insurance renewal quote this year is slightly higher than last year with an increased deductible on one potential claim. Commissioner Jackson offered a motion to approve the resolution for the

stop loss contract for the Employee Health Insurance Plan. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion and it carried. See exhibit #2006 – 90.

The next item of New Business was a resolution for a spousal surcharge for the Bulloch County Employee Insurance Plan. Chairman Nevil asked Ms. Kuebler to present this item. Ms. Kuebler said one of the issues of being a self-funded insurance plan is to make sure enough money is paid into the plan to cover claims over the year. She advised that claims were expected to increase by \$150,000 over the next plan year. Different means to pay for this increase without increasing rates to all employees have been considered. An analysis of claims cost showed that payment of claims for spouses cost more than payment of claims for employees and their children. She said that some spouses are eligible for health insurance from other sources. She added that county employees are paying insurance cost for someone who has the opportunity to have insurance elsewhere. She presented a spreadsheet on cost and explained the cost versus premiums paid by the county and employees. The cost for an employee is about 75% of premiums paid in but the cost of an employee and spouse is about 122%. She said it seems fair to ask an employee to pay a large portion of the cost when a spouse has an opportunity to have coverage elsewhere. She said if the rate was increased by 22%, the rate would be \$230 which was a lot more than the proposed surcharge. The proposed spousal surcharge for the plus plan is an additional \$100 per month and an additional \$58 per month for the basic plan. This surcharge would be paid by employees only if their spouse is eligible for other coverage. This surcharge will not apply if a spouse does not have opportunity for other coverage. Commissioner Gibson asked if employees had been polled on this issue. Ms. Kuebler said no, employees were not polled. The two options at this point are to raise premiums across the board and the county taking the bulk of the risk or share the cost of the employees who are increasing the cost to the plan. She said the insurance plan has to be funded. She explained open enrollment for the health plan is next week and the cost breakdown for the plan was just received which prompted this decision without prior notice to employees. She added that employees will have time at open enrollment to make a decision and select their coverage. She said this change affects about 13% of employees or about 50 employees. Commissioner Tankersley offered a motion to approve the spousal surcharge for the Bulloch County Employee

Health Insurance Plan. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion and it carried with a five to one vote. Commissioner Tankersley, Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Thompson and Commissioner Smith voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Gibson voted to oppose the motion. See exhibit #2006 – 91.

The next item under New Business was a Resolution to approve a contract with Lab One for the Bulloch County Insurance Plan. Chairman Nevil asked Ms. Kuebler to present this contract. Ms. Kuebler said this will provide another option to employees relating to any laboratory services. She explained that under our current plan employees have to meet a deductible and pay 20% of laboratory cost but if employees choose to use Lab One for laboratory testing, they will not pay anything. She said Lab One offers bigger discounts on laboratory service and this change will cost the plan about \$2,700 but will save employees about \$21,000 a year. Commissioner Simmons offered a motion to approve the resolution for the contract with Lab One for the Bulloch County Insurance Plan. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion. In discussion Commissioner Smith asked if Lab One was universally accepted by physicians. Ms. Kuebler said Lab One has a location in Statesboro and physicians will have to be informed about Lab One. Commissioner Smith asked what happens if a physician chooses not to use Lab. In these cases the regular lab services would be used which requires the employee to pay 20% after the deductible is met. Commissioner Thompson asked if these resolutions related the Health Insurance Plan could have been provided to the Board sooner. Ms. Kuebler advised that this information was received from the insurance consultant late yesterday. Motion to approve the resolution for the Lab One contract was carried. See exhibit #2006 – 92.

Next item on the agenda for discussion was Public Comments. Ms. Donna Mobley spoke about the truck traffic on Highway 46. A petition was signed to limit the truck traffic on Highway 46. A sign was put up and now has been taken down. The trucks are speeding again. She was told that the sign was changed because of a business being located on Highway 46. She stated that Interstate I-16 is not 200 yards from Highway 46. The business is within 2 miles of exit 137. The majority of trucks that she sees are going to the Wal-Mart Distribution Center. She is asking for some reconsideration to where it does not harm the business and the children on the road.

Chairman Nevil thanked her for bringing that to the Board's attention again and they will look into it. Commissioner Smith stated that he noticed the thru traffic again with the trucks. It is okay for trucks to use the road if they are going to a business located on Highway 46 but something is going to have to be done to restrict the thru traffic. Mr. Couch suggested amending the truck traffic ordinance from Ash Branch Road to Highway 67.

Mr. Greg Hodges, Mr. Linton Sammons and Mr. Prince Preston spoke to the Board about the boat landing at Highway 301 North. Mr. Hodges stated that they own property around the bridge. They have never objected to use of the boat ramp when it's used as a boat ramp. The boat ramp has been used a partying ground, a camp ground, an access to Georgia Power right-of-way, and along with other uses he does not know about. He asked Jim Anderson to prepare a site plan for the proposals that he has. First, he would like to cut off access to the area from the westside of Highway 301 so people cannot get under the bridge. Concerning the Georgia Power access, the right-of-way provides access all the way down to Old River Road. No parking should be allowed on the right-of-way. Cut off the access under the 301 bridge and fence the access road. The boat ramp needs rules posted.

Mr. Sammons stated that he had a nice camping home there. The windows have been shot out and the doors have been taken down. The home has been destroyed. Guns are still being shot down there and it's against the law to shoot guns that close to a public highway. He agrees with the proposal that Mr. Hodges presented. The things going on at the boat ramp are detrimental to Bulloch County.

Mr. C.R. Jackson from the DOT stated they are aware of the situation. They are willing to work along with the proposal or any ideas.

Chairman Nevil stated that different proposals and solutions will be looked at and coordinated with DOT and the property owners.

Mr. Prince Preston stated that a problem they are having is people coming off Old River Road on 4-wheelers going across their property. He was not aware that this boat landing was on the county list as a public boat landing. Chairman Nevil stated that it has been a public one since 1982. The DNR paid for it and the County installed it on the

DOT right-of-way. This boat landing has not been maintained as well as the other landings.

Commissioner Jackson asked what kind of legal issue would the county have to go through to limit the access to this area after 8 or 9 in the evening. Mr. Akins stated that the cooperation was needed from the DOT. There is a possibility of enacting an ordinance to impose some penalties. Commissioner Smith stated that until we get stronger enforcement of trespassing laws, then there will be problems dealing with it. He felt the boat ramp should be closed completely for public use.

The property owners have been told by the Sheriff's Department that the officers did not have time to patrol the area. If someone was caught trespassing, then a call should be made to the Sheriff's Department.

Under staff comments, Mr. Jack Bryant gave an update on the Public Service Center. With regard to the front elevation, the two-story columns will not work architecturally because the building will not be as tall as they planned. The project is moving along rapidly. The 911 center requires rearrangement on the inside because of the support posts. The side windows to the 911 center will be up higher and smaller as a security factor for the command center.

Mr. Couch stated a lunch meeting with the Planning and Zoning Commission was planned for June 14th.

Commissioner Tankersley asked if some of the meetings with departments could be switched. Mr. Couch stated they could but just let him know so he could send out letters by the end of the week.

With no further business to discuss, Commissioner Jackson offered a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.