

February 15, 2011  
Statesboro, GA

### Regular Meeting

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

Ms. Maggie Fitzgerald, Clerk of the Board, performed the roll call of the commissioners and staff. The following commissioners were present: Chairman Nevil, Vice Chairman Mosley, Commissioner Ethridge, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Thompson, and Commissioner Gibson. The following staff were present: County Manager Thomas Couch, County Attorney Jeff Akins, Chief Financial Officer Harry Starling, Development Services Director Andy Welch, and Public Safety Director Ted Wynn.

After Roll Call, the first item of business was the approval of the General Agenda. Chairman Nevil asked for amendments or modifications of the General Agenda. County Manager Thomas Couch asked to add an Executive Session, to discuss Potential Litigation, after Commission and Staff Comments, but before Adjournment. Hearing no further amendments or modifications, Commissioner Mosley 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 for the Regular Meeting and Executive Session held on February 2, 2011. Chairman Nevil called for corrections or modifications to the Minutes. Without hearing any corrections or modifications, Commissioner Gibson offered a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Rushing seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Next, Chairman Nevil asked for public comments from the audience at large or in writing. Clerk of the Board Maggie Fitzgerald and County Manager Thomas Couch both stated there were no formal requests or petitions received in writing. Hearing no further comments from the public, Chairman Nevil moved forward to Consent Agenda.

The next item on the Agenda was to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: (1) To dispense with the reading and adopt a resolution based on the Staff recommendation

to transfer a vehicle to the Town of Portal (See Exhibit #2011-13), and (2) To authorize the re-appointment of Ms. Eldonna Hilde to the Bulloch County Board of Health for a six year term. Without discussion, Commissioner Thompson offered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

Chairman Nevil stated that having no New or Unfinished Business Items to address, the Board would hear three Presentations. Chairman Nevil stated that the first Presentation would be given by Ms. Mary Harden, Executive Director of Safe Haven, regarding consideration for a request for funding. Ms. Harden stated that the State declined \$85,089.00 of funding, and placed the women living at the shelter on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) which is very restrictive. Ms. Harden asked the Board to consider adding \$30,000.00 to the County's budget for funding of Safe Haven. Mr. Couch asked Ms. Harden to fill out the forms for the solicitation of funds from an outside agency, and the Board would consider the request during the budget review process. Chairman Nevil thanked Ms. Harden for the presentation.

Chairman Nevil stated that the second Presentation would be given by Mr. Jack Parker, Finance Director of Concerted Services, and Ms. Ophelia Gaines, Executive Director of Concerted Services, regarding consideration for a request for funding. Ms. Gaines stated that the County asked Concerted Services to take over the last year of a four year contract for Savannah Inc., when the business was not financially able to continue serving meals to the elderly at the Senior Citizens Center. Ms. Gaines stated that the County has not reimbursed Concerted Services for the meals. Next, Mr. Parker stated that Concerted Services would need \$30,000.00 from the County in order to continue serving the meals because the meals cost about \$10.00 each to prepare, but Concerted Services is only reimbursed \$7.00 per meal. After further discussion, Chairman Nevil thanked Ms. Gaines and Mr. Parker, and stated that the Board would consider the request during the budget review.

Chairman Nevil stated that the third and final Presentation would be given by County Manager Thomas Couch regarding FY 2012 Budget Planning. Mr. Couch discussed the economic outlook for the FY 2012 budget period, revenue impacts, the budget priority surveys as completed by the Board, and the budget planning schedule.

Mr. Couch stated that tentative budget scenarios would need to be finished by May 1, 2011, in order for the Board to make the necessary decisions.

With no further items of New Business, Chairman Nevil asked each Commissioner to take thirty seconds for any general comments or statements, beginning with Commissioner Ethridge and then proceeding down the bench accordingly. Commissioner Ethridge thanked Ms. Harden, Ms. Gaines, and Mr. Couch for their presentations. Commissioner Mosley also thanked the presenters, and stated that he hopes the economy will turn around very soon. Commissioner Thompson agreed with Mr. Mosley, and stated that the economy is bad right now for all forms of government and that everyone is making difficult decisions regarding cutting funding. Commissioner Gibson stated that many citizens in Register and Portal have been complaining about the dirt roads in those areas. Chairman Nevil stated that dirt roads cannot be scraped or graded until the dirt is dry, and that it is difficult for a handful of employees and equipment to fix every road when there is over 700 miles of dirt roads in Bulloch County. After further discussion, Chairman Nevil asked for comments from the Staff, and County Manager Thomas Couch discussed a preference budget survey for the Board to complete, concerns about TAD for the 301/I-16 Industrial Park, bidding out property and casualty insurance, and the bid for an auditor. Next, Clerk of the Board Maggie Fitzgerald reminded the Board about a Town Hall meeting at the Airport regarding the airport overlay district, and discussed a date for a ribbon cutting for the Transfer Station addition and new recycling center.

Hearing no further comments from the Board or Staff, Chairman Nevil stated that there was no further business expected for the open session of the regular agenda, and the Board must close the meeting, Recess for about ten minutes, and then enter into Executive Session to discuss Potential Litigation. Chairman Nevil stated that at the conclusion of the Executive Session, which was expected to last about fifteen minutes, the Board would then reconvene in all likelihood to move for adjournment. Chairman Nevil called for a motion to adjourn into Executive Session in accordance with the provisions of O.C.G.A. 50-14-3 and other applicable laws, pursuant to the advice of the Chief Corporate Counsel, Jeff Akins, for the purposes of deliberating on Potential Litigation. Without further discussion, Commissioner Simmons offered a motion to enter

into Executive Session to discuss Potential Litigation (See Exhibit #2011-14). Commissioner Ethridge seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Commissioner Ethridge, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Thompson, and Commissioner Gibson voted in favor of the motion.

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The meeting was reconvened, and Chairman Nevil stated there was no further business for the open session, and asked if there were any further comments from the Commission or Staff. Hearing no further comments from the Board or Staff, Chairman Nevil asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Mosley offered a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

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J. Garrett Nevil, Chairman

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Attest: Maggie Fitzgerald, Clerk of the Board