

September 18, 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 Tankersley 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 Simmons, Commissioner Tankersley, Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Rushing, County Manager Tom Couch and Staff Attorney Jeff Akins. Commissioner Jackson was absent.

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

The next item of business was the approval of the minutes of the workshop held on September 4, 2007 and the regular meeting held on September 4, 2007. Chairman Nevil asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes. Commissioner Gibson offered a motion to approve the minutes as printed for the two meetings. Commissioner Rushing seconded the motion and it carried, unanimously.

Chairman Nevil asked for any public comments.

Mr. Jimmy Hayes questioned the expenditure of \$10,000,000 to run water and sewerage lines to the proposed Flying J project. Mr. Couch responded that it was too premature to make a conclusion on what direction the county will take on this project. The county is reconciling the cost amount with the city and is not prepared to execute any agreement at this time.

Dr. Ruth Green questioned the cost of the proposed horse arena. She commented that the SPLASH park was the only public swimming area in the county. She commented on the recreation department's annual budget and said fees for the SPLASH park and recreational activities are too high. Chairman Nevil advised Dr. Green that he and Mr. Couch would be available after the meeting if she would like to further discuss her concerns and questions. Commissioner Thompson commented that he would be happy to discuss recreational activities with Dr. Green.

The first item on the agenda was employee recognitions. Chairman Nevil asked Mr. Couch to make these recognitions. Mr. Couch said that due to a schedule conflict Ms. LeeAnna Deal could not be present and would be recognized at a future meeting. He stated that the Georgia Department of Corrections has named the Bulloch County Correctional Institute as the "Correctional Institute Facility of the Year". He recognized Warden Billy Tompkins and members of his staff and presented a plaque on behalf of the Board in recognition of their work in achieving this award. Warden Tompkins thanked the Commissioners for this recognition. He gave credit to his staff for their work to obtain this award and thanked the Commissioners for their support.

The next item on the agenda was a presentation by Linwood McNure of the Georgia Forestry Commission. Mr. McNure gave the annual report of the Forestry Commission's operations in Bulloch County for the period of July 2006 to June 2007.

Chairman Nevil presented an Alcohol License Application for an off-premise license for Quick Stop for Vikash H. Citroda. Commissioner Tankersley offered a motion to approve the Alcohol License Application. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion and it carried, unanimously.

Chairman Nevil asked Mr. Couch to lead the discussion of the Deputy Clerk position. Mr. Couch spoke of the retirement of Clerk Evelyn Wilson at the end of December. He said that he and Ms. Wilson have recommended a succession plan that would segregate the joint duties of the Clerk of the Board and the Financial Director. The recommendation is also to consolidate the Clerk of the Board position with the position of the Executive Assistant to the County Manager. He recommended that Ms. Marcia Collins be appointed as Deputy Clerk in addition to her duties as Executive Assistant to the County Manager in order to allow a three-month transition period for her ultimate appointment as Clerk of the Board. Commissioner Thompson offered a motion to appoint Ms. Marcia Collins as Deputy Clerk. Commissioner Gibson seconded the motion and it carried, unanimously.

Chairman Nevil said that because of a conflict with the dates for ACCG Fall Conference the first Board meeting in October needs to be rescheduled. Mr. Couch said there has been some discussion of the possibility of moving the first meeting in October to the second Tuesday which is October 9th and also moving the second meeting in October to the fourth Tuesday which is October 23rd. Commissioner

Tankersley offered a motion to reschedule the first meeting in October to Tuesday, October 9th and reschedule the second meeting in October to Tuesday, October 23rd. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion and it carried, unanimously.

Chairman Nevil asked for comments from the Commissioners. Commissioner Tankersley gave a report on issues covered at the ACCG Fall Retreat. Topics and issues reviewed were: (1) A presentation by Dr. Carol Couch, EPD Director, on Georgia's Water Plan. A revised draft may be read at www.georgiawatercouncil.org; (2) A presentation by Chris Clark, GEFA Director, on plans for Georgia's Land Conservation Program. There is \$55 million in Georgia's revolving low interest loan fund with \$52 million currently available for land conservation; (3) An update was given on Speaker Richardson's "GREAT" (Georgia's Repeal of Every Ad Valorem Tax) Tax Plan. ACCG's role in the debate is to remain positive towards reform and to be solution based by providing alternatives for tax reform. ACCG will provide information on this plan or information can be obtained at www.thegreatplanforgeorgia.com Commissioners are encouraged to attend informal meetings on this plan and discuss it with their senators and representatives; (4) The 2008 Draft County Platform was reviewed. The top three legislative issues will be tax reform, water plan funding and transportation funding; (5) The 12th District ACCG meeting will be on Wednesday, October 31st at 6:00 p.m. at Plant McManus in Brunswick; (6) Commissioner Harold Limenkohl is retiring from the Department of Transportation at the end of December; (7) A ten percent increase in ACCG dues was approved by the ACCG Board of Managers. Bulloch County's dues will be \$5,476 which is money well spent when considering the services offered by ACCG compared to the cost of hiring professional advisers and lobbyists; (8) A Records Management Survey was done through a grant to ACCG with all 159 counties participating. ACCG's goal through continued partnership with the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board is to provide increased awareness of the importance of record management. The copy of the survey was provided to all the counties; (9) A new DVD has been produced by ACCG on pandemic flu and it is not a matter of if this is going to occur but when. Commissioner Tankersley presented a book "Georgia Flight" (The History of Aviation in Georgia) to Chairman Nevil for placement at the Statesboro-Bulloch County Airport.

Commissioner Thompson commented that workshops held by the Commissioners are open to the public. He requested a workshop in the near future to discuss the following topics: Splash 'n the Boro; financial reports; audits for EMS, Splash 'n the Boro and Clerk of Court; land use for the old hospital site; land acquisition at the library; SPLOST funds for paving; community building at Luetta Moore Park; the ag-arena; Land Use Plan; airport overlay; services to Flying J.

Chairman Nevil announced a five-minute recess prior to the work session for general banking services.

The meeting was reconvened. Chairman Nevil asked Mr. Couch to open the discussion on general banking services. Mr. Couch said as requested by the Board the two finalists for general banking services were invited to give a presentation detailing their services. A coin flip gave Sea Island Bank the opportunity to give the first presentation.

Sea Island Bank representatives present were Mr. Wayne Akins, Mr. Joseph Shuford, Mr. Chris Carter and Mr. Adam Lovett. Mr. Akins gave a power point presentation covering cash management procedures and services. He discussed the investment rate, the 10% reserve requirement and service fees. He presented a graph of the prime rate (proposed by Sea Island Bank) versus the federal funds rate (proposed by BB&T) for the last ten years. He said they believe both the history and future predictions of the prime rate show that Sea Island Bank's proposal would be a better proposal in terms of rates, fees and net benefit.

BB&T representatives present were Mr. Jimmy Hodges and Mr. John Lane. Mr. Hodges gave a history of BB&T's relationship with the County. He discussed the federal funds rate and BB&T's elimination of all service fees or other cost. He stated that BB&T has no 10% reserve requirement. He reviewed Mr. Couch's analysis of the RFP which recommended BB&T's proposal. He said when their bid was submitted on July 11th it was the best bid possible but interest rates do change and it is hard to forecast what interest rates will do. He concluded that BB&T looks forward to the opportunity to serve the county.

Chairman Nevil asked for Commissioners' questions or comments. Commissioner Thompson commented on the difference in the prime interest rate and the federal funds rate and asked Mr. Couch if, as of the date of the bid, he had changed his recommendation. Mr. Couch said the bids were opened on July 11th and there was a lengthy review period because of the volume of information. He said there have been some changes in the economy since the bid was opened which affects interest rates. He said he can't predict what the future will bring but both banks have given a steady bench mark for interest and he didn't believe there would be a dramatic change in the next three years unless there is a big cataclysmic change in the economy. He said it would be inappropriate for him to change a recommendation that he made two weeks ago. He added that his job is to present information to the Board and make a recommendation. His current recommendation would have to stand but the ultimate decision belongs to the Board.

Commissioner Thompson said this was a difficult decision because the bids were different. Sea Island Bank thinks one rate is better and BB&T thinks another is better. He asked if there was a way for the banks to bid on the same criteria. Mr. Couch said there were still some differences in the banks' account structure. He reviewed the RFP process and said there were some specific requirements in the RFP but the banks were also given the flexibility to model the interest rate and fees and to be creative in how their service would be delivered. He discussed the reasons for the difference in the bids.

Commissioner Simmons said Mr. Couch has put time, effort and thought in the process and has made a recommendation. Commissioner Simmons offered a motion to accept the recommendation made by Mr. Couch to accept the BB&T proposal. Commissioner Rushing seconded the motion and it carried. Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Gibson and Commissioner Thompson voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Tankersley voted to oppose the motion.

Chairman Nevil asked for further comments or business. Commissioner Gibson offered a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion and it carried, unanimously.

J. Garrett Nevil

ATTEST