

June 9, 2009
Statesboro, GA

Special Called 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. County Manager Thomas Couch gave the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

Mrs. Christy Strickland, Deputy Clerk of the Board, performed the roll call of the commissioners and staff. The following commissioners were present: Chairman Nevil, Commissioner Tankersley, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Jackson, Commissioner Rushing, and Commissioner Thompson. The following staff were present: County Manager Thomas Couch, Staff Attorney Jeff Akins, Chief Financial Officer Harry Starling, Purchasing Manager Kenneth Trapnell, Transportation Director Eddie Smith, Tax Commissioner James Deal, Chief Tax Assessor John Scott, Public Safety Director Ted Wynn, Deputy Warden Wayne Smith, and Planning and Zoning Development Director Andy Welch.

After Roll Call, the first item of business was the approval of the General Agenda. Chairman Nevil asked for changes or modifications of the General Agenda. County Manager Thomas Couch requested to amend the agenda by adding one item, to be the first item, under the New Business Agenda, which was the discussion and/or action to approve a Total Cost Agreement with Industrial Tractor, Inc., and a Resolution approving a Lease-Purchase Agreement with Deere Credit, Inc. Without hearing any further changes or modifications, Commissioner Simmons offered a motion to approve the General Agenda with one modification as requested by the County Manager. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

The next item of business was the duly advertised Public Hearing for the proposed Fiscal Year 2010 General Appropriations Budget. The Public Notice, as advertised in the County's Legal Organ, is shown as Exhibit # 2009-64. Commissioner Tankersley offered a motion to open the Public Hearing. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Chairman Nevil yielded the floor to County Manager Thomas Couch.

Mr. Couch stated that as of May 31st, as Chief Budget Officer, he proposed a recommended General Appropriations Budget of \$59,930,350.00. Mr. Couch stated that approximately 50% or \$29,193,000.00 would consist of proceeds from the General Fund, 27% or \$15.3 million would be appropriated for various Special Purpose Local Options Sales Tax (SPLOST) projects, which included proceeds from the 1997, 2002, and 2007 SPLOST accounts. Mr. Couch stated that 16% accounts for the twenty combined Special Revenue Funds that are reserved for restricted purposes, and 5% of the \$59 million is for an Internal Services Fund for the Employee's partially self insured Health Insurance. Mr. Couch continued that 2% of the budget consists of combined Enterprise Fund that consists of approximately \$3 million and includes revenue from Splash in the Boro, the Aquatic Center, and the Agribusiness Center. Mr. Couch reviewed the budget assumptions, which included a proposed re-allocation of 2002 SPLOST Funds, the Home Owner's Tax Relief Grant which will no longer be funded by the State, funding the Board of Elections, and several other topics. Mr. Couch also explained the Schedule of Unmet Needs for County Departments that is included in the budget because of the past year's bleak economic conditions. In conclusion, Mr. Couch discussed the Stabilization Plan to rebuild fund reserves, and then yielded the floor to the Chairman. Chairman Nevil called for questions and comments regarding the budget from the Board, Staff, or Public. Hearing none, Commissioner Tankersley offered a motion to close the Public Hearing. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously. Commissioner Tankersley thanked County Manager Thomas Couch for his hard work on the FY 2010 Budget, and stated that it was the most comprehensive budget document she has seen for Bulloch County. Clerk of the Board Maggie Fitzgerald relieved Deputy Clerk Christy Strickland at 9:00 a.m.

With no items of Old or Unfinished Business, Chairman Nevil stated that the first item of Business was the discussion and/or action to authorize the County Manager to execute a Total Cost Agreement with Industrial Tractor Company Inc., to effectuate the buyback provisions related to the John Deere model 670 G motor grader (See Exhibit #2009-65) and to approve a Lease-Purchase Agreement, Resolution #2009-15, with Deere Credit, Inc., to finance the purchase of a John Deere model 670 G motor grader (See Exhibit #2009-66). Chairman Nevil called on County Manager Couch for

discussion. Mr. Couch stated that the Roads Department has been in receipt of a John Deere 670 G motor grader, and that the Board approved the purchase at a previous meeting. Mr. Couch recommended that the Board make a motion to approve the Total Cost Agreement and the Resolution approving the Lease-Purchase Agreement. Without discussion, Commissioner Tankersley offered a motion to approve the Total Cost Agreement and the Resolution approving the Lease-Purchase Agreement. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

The second item of Business was the discussion and/or action to authorize the County Manager to execute a purchase order and award to the lowest and most advantageous bidder for a motor grader for the Transportation Department (See Exhibit #2009-60). Chairman Nevil called on Mr. Couch to discuss this item. Mr. Couch stated that this item was deferred from the last meeting, and recommended executing the original buy back provisions for the older tow motor graders for cash flow purposes. After further discussion, Commissioner Thompson offered a motion to authorize the County Manager to execute a purchase order to Yancey Brothers for a Caterpillar 950 H wheel loader and to Industrial Tractor Company for a John Deere 672 G motor grader. Commissioner Rushing seconded the motion, and it carried with a 3 to 2 vote. Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Rushing, and Commissioner Jackson voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Tankersley and Commissioner Simmons voted against the motion. Chairman Nevil asked Transportation Director Eddie Smith to keep detailed records of the performance of his equipment, so that in the future the Board will have facts and figures they can use to make equipment purchase decisions.

Chairman Nevil stated that the third item of Business was the discussion of Amendments to the Financial Policies. Mr. Couch stated that an amendment to the Financial Policies was proposed for the purposes of establishing improved and more finite procedures for the administration of grants. Mr. Couch stated that while the previous policies provided minimal guidance with regard to pre-award and post-award grants management, an FY 2008 audit note determined that the County was not doing a good job of managing record keeping and follow-up for the grants.

Chairman Nevil stated that the fourth item of Business was the discussion of Computer and Telecommunications Policies Amendments. Mr. Couch stated that the

purpose of the changes to the policy relates primarily to telecommunications and specifically to the proposed cell phone allowances originally approved. After further discussion, Staff Attorney Jeff Akins asserted that the County Auditor, Richard Deal, stated that the employee can submit the front page of their cell phone bill and receive a non-taxed reimbursement every month or quarterly. Mr. Akins stated that the language, "allowance or reimbursement", was used to make future amendments to the policy unnecessary if it was ever determined that an allowance was preferable to a reimbursement. Mr. Couch stated that this item would be added to the June 16th Consent Agenda for approval, and would be effective on July 1st.

Chairman Nevil stated that the fifth item of Business was the discussion of Personnel Policies Amendment. Mr. Couch informed the Board that the Employee Committee asked for consideration to reinstate the former sick leave policies of the county pertaining to accrual and caps. Mr. Couch stated that the former policy allowed employees to accumulate ten hours of sick leave per month after five years of service were completed, whereas now the employee only accumulates eight hours. Mr. Couch also stated that there may not have been a cap, where now the County has a cap of 960 hours, where any hours accumulated after 960 hours can be converted at a 4 to 1 rate to annual leave, or where exceptional attendance can be converted at a 2 to 1 conversion if approved. On behalf of the Employee Committee, Andy Waters stated that the former sick leave policy did not have a cap, and after 19 years of service and not abusing the sick leave policy, that he had not reached the cap. Commissioner Thompson and Simmons agreed that amending the sick leave policy should be added to a future agenda for consideration. Chairman Nevil asked Mr. Couch to provide the Board with a cost estimate or projection to determine the future impact on the budget. Mr. Couch stated that he would probably add this item to the Agenda for the first meeting in July after a fiscal analysis has been completed.

Chairman Nevil stated that the sixth item of Business was the discussion of the 2002 SPLOST Reallocation. Mr. Couch stated that the reallocation of the 2002 SPLOST is a two-step iteration, and that the first step is to zero balance certain categories that technically overspent the allocated amounts. Mr. Couch stated that the second step is to re-allocate undesignated funds that represent interest income earned since collection

began in 2002. Mr. Couch reviewed several of the projects and equipment included in the re-allocation, and discussed funding carpeting for the Library, the Ag Arena not to exceed four million dollars, and Public Safety and Recreation equipment.

Chairman Nevil called for a five minute recess.

The meeting was reconvened, and Mr. Couch continued to discuss the re-allocation of 2002 SPLOST funds in regards to Public Safety Equipment, the animal shelter, proposed Recreation Projects, Community Facilities, and Administrative Annex. Mr. Couch stated that if the Board had any changes or questions, to contact him.

Mr. Couch stated that the seventh item of Business was the discussion of the Service Delivery Strategy (SDS) Amendments. Mr. Couch stated that the SDS is now technically a part of the comprehensive planning process, and that the SDS is only changing in form and updating current conditions. Mr. Couch stated that there are no changes in substance. Planning and Development Director Andy Welch stated that a Solid Waste Agreement and an Annexation Agreement was added, the Fire Agreement form was changed, and adding the services provided by the smaller cities. Without hearing any questions or comments, Mr. Couch stated that he would proceed with the next item of Business.

Mr. Couch stated that the final item of Business was the discussion of the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Couch stated that the Board should review Chapter 3, Chapter 4, and Chapter 5. Mr. Couch explained chapters 3, 4, and 5, and why these chapters are important. Mr. Couch also discussed the Coastal Master Plan, and how it relates to the County's Comprehensive plan. After further discussion, Mr. Couch stated that it is important for the Board to be aware of the changes that the Coastal Master Plan will bring in July 2011. Without hearing any questions or comments, Mr. Couch moved on to the next item of Business.

The next item on the Agenda was Commission and Staff Comments. Mr. Couch stated that Tax Assessor John Scott and Tax Commissioner James Deal informed him that his revenue projects were incorrect, and that he needs to add \$783,000.00 of revenue to the budget. Chairman Nevil and Mr. Couch discussed the short-fall of the Hospital Authority account, and Commissioner Tankersley asked if the Hospital Authority would consider giving a grant to the County to purchase a new ambulance. Clerk of the Board

Maggie Fitzgerald reminded the Board about the Special Called Meeting to be held at 6:00 p.m. to discuss potential litigation.

Mr. Couch stated that the Executive Session was not necessary, and that he did not mind discussing the Development Authority's Board Appointments in open session. Ms. Fitzgerald stated that she spoke to Peggy Chapman, and discussed the application process for individuals interested in serving on Boards and Committees. Chairman Nevil stated that he also spoke to Mrs. Chapman about the application and nomination process, and encouraged the Board to submit their suggestions for Development Authority Board Members to Mrs. Chapman, Mr. Couch, Ms. Fitzgerald, or Deputy Clerk Christy Strickland. After further discussion, Public Safety Director Ted Wynn informed the Board that today the ISO started the review of the County's Fire Department. Commissioner Tankersley, Mr. Couch, and Mr. Wynn discussed how to cut costs for the design and building of a new animal shelter.

Chairman Nevil asked for any further comments from the staff or Board. Hearing none, Commissioner Simmons offered a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Tankersley seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

J. Garrett Nevil, Chairman

Attest: Maggie Fitzgerald, Clerk of the Board