

March 19, 2013
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 Thompson gave the invocation and the pledge of allegiance.

Ms. Christy Strickland, Clerk of the Board, performed the roll call of the commissioners and staff. The following commissioners were present: Chairman Nevil, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Ethridge, Commissioners Rushing, Commissioner Thompson and Vice-Chairman Gibson. The following staff were present: County Manager Thomas Couch, County Attorney Jeff Akins, Chief Financial Officer Harry Starling, Transportation Director Dink Butler, Human Resources Director Maggie Fitzgerald, Public Safety Director Ted Wynn, and 911 Addressing Coordinator Shannon Mixon.

After Roll Call, Chairman Nevil asked for amendments or modifications of the General Agenda. Hearing none, Commissioner Ethridge offered a motion to approve the General Agenda as presented. Commissioner Rushing seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Mosley, and Commissioner Ethridge voting in favor of the motion.

Next, Chairman Nevil called on Public Safety Director Ted Wynn for a presentation concerning 911 addressing in Bulloch County. Mr. Wynn gave a PowerPoint presentation on issues and concerns about structures not being properly marked and the inconsistency with road names throughout the county. He stated this can be the difference between life and death. Mr. Wynn stated there is not a quick resolution to the problem but would like to adopt an ordinance so that if a structure is not properly marked where it can be seen by Public Safety Vehicles then they would be cited and taken to Magistrate Court. He asked if it was agreed on by the Commissioners he would like to meet with County Attorney Jeff Akins and County Manager Tom Couch and bring back a proposal with the changes to the ordinance. County Manager Tom Couch thanked the Public Safety Department for a well put together presentation. The

Commissioners stated they would like to see an Ordinance brought back for them to review.

Next, Chairman Nevil called on Coastal Regional Commission Director Allen Burns for a presentation concerning Aging Programs. Mr. Burns stated they are in the midst of sequestration which they would like to speak about. He also stated the federal funds would be running out at the end of the month, and he is hoping for a compromise, but there are still two (2) weeks left in the month. Mr. Burns stated the majority of their funding is from local dues which consists of ten (10) counties and is approximately \$640,000, which is matched by federal fund for an annual budget of approximately \$16 million. He believes there are going to be some issues at the federal level and sequestration is a good indication on what is to come. Mr. Burns stated they are broken into four (4) area: Planning, Transit, Economic and Aging Services in which the only area that is going to have a tremendous impact is the Aging Services. He called on Director of Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Ms. Dion Lovett to explain more about the situation. She gave a background on AAA and stated they contract out with different services for meals, benefit counseling, grooming, etc. Ms. Dion stated one of the big services they offer is "Money Follows"; this is a program transitioning a person from an Institution to a home. She stated the person is allowed up to \$30,000 for a year which is used to help them with a variety of different services. Ms. Dion stated Bulloch County has an AAA Advisory Board which helps keeps up with the needs and issues going on within the Community; the Board consists of three (3) member: Pearl Brown, Margie Peavey-Shuman, and Dr. Roger Branch. She stated that across the region they are going to lose \$463,000 in funds for population and in Sequestration they are losing an additional \$210,000. Ms. Dion stated they are working diligently to make sure they can maintain as many services as possible. She stated Bulloch County's budget is currently \$106,000 most of which goes to Concerted Services and Nightingale Services which provide services to the seniors. She stated next year it will reduce to \$94,000 which will reduce many services. Ms. Dion stated she is not present to ask for money, but she just wanted to give an update on what is going on and thank everyone for their support.

Next, Chairman Nevil asked for public comments from the audience at large or in writing. There was no one present for public comments and nothing had been submitted in writing.

Chairman Nevil stated that the next item on the Agenda was to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: (1) to approve the minutes of the Workshop held on February 28, 2013 and Regular Meeting held on March 5, 2013; (2) To approve an amendment to the Personnel Policy Employee Handbook (See Exhibit # 2013-025); (3) To approve the appointment of Laura Hendley to the Statesboro Library Regional Board. Commissioner Mosley offered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Ethridge seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Mosley, and Commissioner Ethridge voting in favor of the motion.

Without any items of Old Business Chairman Nevil stated the first item under New Business was for Discussion/Action to approve a county contract with the Department of Transportation (DOT) for the widening of AJ Riggs Road. Chairman Nevil called on County Manager Tom Couch to initiate discussion. Mr. Couch stated the road work began two (2) years ago with a commitment from the DOT for \$1.4 million dollars for road work in Gateway Industrial Park, and there is a balance of \$700,000 which DOT has given the County an opportunity to use. He also stated that there is a \$1.3 million grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) that is to be used for this AJ Riggs Project. Mr. Couch stated they would like to execute the contract and use the DOT money for the widening of A.J. Riggs Road. He stated that there are still some issues that need to be worked through, but he requested to be able to go forward with the contract. After hearing no further discussion, Commissioner Thompson made a motion to approve the contract with the DOT for widening of AJ Riggs Road in the amount of \$700,000 (See Exhibit # 2013-026) Commissioner Gibson seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Mosley, and Commissioner Ethridge voting in favor of the motion.

Next, Chairman Nevil asked for any general comments or statements from the Commissioners. Commissioner Ethridge, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner

Rushing, Commissioner Thompson and Commissioner Gibson thanked the Public Safety Department for a wonderful presentation and for all their hard work. Chairman Nevil suggested it would be a great fundraiser for someone to sell address signs.

Next, Chairman Nevil asked for comments from the Staff. County Manager Tom Couch stated at 2:00 P.M. the first Sewer/Water Technical Committee meeting would be held. He also said he hoped to have a workshop soon to update the Board on what had been found by Mr. Barnhart concerning the road paving.

Chairman Nevil 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 Gibson seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Mosley, and Commissioner Ethridge voting in favor of the motion.

J. Garrett Nevil, Chairman

Attest: Christy Strickland, Clerk of the Board