

January 13, 2014
Statesboro, GA

Special Called Meeting

The Board of Commissioners met for a Special Called Meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the North Main Annex. Chairman Nevil welcomed guests and called the meeting to order. Vice-Chairman Simmons 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: Commissioner Ethridge (came in at 5:45), Vice-Chairman Simmons, Chairman Nevil, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Thompson and Commissioner Gibson. The following staff were present: County Manager Tom Couch, County Attorney Jeff Akins, Developmental Services Director Andy Welch, Transportation Director Dink Butler, Chief Accountant Whitney Richland, Elections Supervisor Patricia Lanier Jones.

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

Chairman Nevil asked for public comments from the audience at large or in writing. Hearing none, he moved on to the next item on the agenda.

Chairman Nevil stated there were no items under the Consent Agenda and moved on the first item under New Business for Discussion/Action: Cost Estimates for the New Annex Building. He called on County Manager Tom Couch to initiate discussion on the matter. Mr. Couch stated he had sent out to the Commissioners cost estimates from Lavender and Associates on original cost and value engineering cost. He stated he had met with Lavender and Associates and feels that the original cost and the value engineering cost estimates are accurate. Mr. Couch stated that John Lavender of Lavender and Associates is present to explain and answer any questions. Mr. Lavender passed out the Schematic Design Budget (See Exhibit # 2014-002) and went over the procedure of how the costs are given. He stated that the numbers on the costs are accurate and if the costs needed to be decreased the square footage will need to be reduced. Mr. Lavender introduced Mr. Warren Holland who will be

the Construction Site Manager (CSM) for the site. Mr. Kevin Palmer of Palmer & Associates went over the design and stated he concurred with what Mr. Lavender had stated and to decrease the cost it would mean reducing the square footage. Commissioner Thompson asked what the budget was for the annex building. County Manager Tom Couch stated it was approved for approximately 2.2 million dollars. He stated that the building is a very efficient use of space, but the Board would need to decide where the funds would come from to pay the additional cost. Commissioner Rushing asked if there were some bond proceeds that could be used. Mr. Couch stated there are some bond proceeds but that would be a last resource to use. Commissioner Ethridge stated the budget was originally was 2.2 million and asked where the difference is coming from. Mr. Lavender stated that the cost of the project increased due to costs going up since the original budget was established. He stated that once the design is completed he could get the hard bids which would give a more definite estimate of the cost. Chairman Nevil asked when the design was expected to be finished. Mr. Palmer stated it should not take more than four (4) more weeks. Mr. Lavender stated once that is done then he would solicit bids. After additional discussion, Chairman Nevil stated they would wait to receive the final estimate after the bids are received. No action was taken on the matter.

Chairman Nevil asked for any general comments or statements from the Commissioners. Commissioners Ethridge, Simmons, Rushing, Thompson and Gibson thanked Lavender and Associates and Kevin Palmer for attending the meeting for the discussion.

Chairman Nevil asked for comments from the staff. Mr. Couch stated he had handed out preliminary drawings of the logo for the water tank (See Exhibit # 2014-003). He stated the water tank is being constructed and a decision needs to be made soon. After some discussion, the Commissioners agreed for Mr. Couch to proceed with getting a design for it and bringing it back to the Board for review. Hearing nothing further, he asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Rushing offered a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Simmons, and Commissioner Ethridge voting in favor of the motion.

J. Garrett Nevil, Chairman

Attest: Christy Strickland, Clerk of the Board