

April 1, 2014
Statesboro, GA

Regular Meeting

The Board of Commissioners met at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the North Main Annex. Chairman Nevil welcomed guests and called the meeting to order. County Manager Tom Couch 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, Vice-Chairman Simmons, Commissioner Mosley, Chairman Nevil, Commissioner Rushing, and Commissioner Thompson. The following staff were present: County Manager Tom Couch, County Attorney Jeff Akins, Developmental Services Director Andy Welch, Chief Financial Officer Harry Starling, Transportation Director Dink Butler, Chief Deputy Jared Akins, Public Safety Director Ted Wynn, County Engineer Kirk Tatum, Environmental Director Bob Smith, and Chief Accountant Whitney Richland.

Chairman Nevil asked for amendments or modifications of the General Agenda. County Manager Tom Couch stated he would like to recommend adding a Presentation for a Manufacturing Week Proclamation before Public Comments and add Executive Session after Commissioner/Staff Comments. Hearing no further modifications, Commissioner Mosley offered a motion to approve the General Agenda with the modifications requested by the County Manager. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Ethridge, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Thompson, and Commissioner Rushing voting in favor of the motion.

Chairman Nevil asked for any public comments from the audience at large or in writing. Dr. Ruth Green was present to speak about some concerns she says that her and many people have. She addressed the comments from Commissioner Thompson had in the paper February 20, 2014 concerning her Letter to the Editor. Dr. Green addressed the concerns with the minutes and having them recorded, she stated Commissioner Thompson stated they had looked into a video room but she says that is not needed with the technology such as phones and tablets that record videos. She stated he had stated that he addressed the concerns she brought before the board at the May 21, 2013 meeting but the only thing that was addressed was concerning the Development Authority Board Members not being paid for their services but did not say anything about the benefits they received. Dr. Green stated Mr. Thompson recommended she could submit an application if she would like to serve on a board and that is the only concerns that she had that were addressed. She went over her concerns about the minutes only being minimal, and she had

asked the County Attorney for a copy of the minutes to be submitted to her from the May 21, 2013 but never received. Dr. Green went over the agenda at the May 21, 2013 meeting. She stated she has heard that Dupont is coming to the Highway 301/I-16 and wanted to know if it is true or false. She asked if the Board received what was going to be on the agenda prior to the meeting. Chairman Nevil thanked Dr. Green for her comments and asked if anyone else had any other items/concerns they would like to bring before the board. Pastor Larry Cone stated he lives on Hood Road and the roads are in terrible condition and sometimes impassable. He stated a petition had been filed to have the road paved and wondered how soon that could get done. County Engineer Kirk Tatum stated a petition was filed a couple of years ago but not everyone had signed so he had given it back and the petition had just been received back in his office two weeks ago. He passed out a hand out of the status of the roads that need to be paved (See Exhibit # 2014-043). Chairman Nevil stated he agreed Hood Road needs to be paved but there are several other dirt roads in Bulloch County that need to be paved but it is expensive to pave a road and they would just have to pave what they can when the money is there. Commissioner Thompson stated there are 800 miles of dirt roads in Bulloch County and there are a lot of citizens who would like their roads paved. He stated the major obstacle was to get the petition signed by all of the owners, in which they had done. Mr. Sammy Cone stated he would also like for the County to look at the access at Pulaski Highway and Hood Road and the visibility when you are trying to take a left off of Hood Road. Chairman Nevil thanked everyone for their comments.

Chairman Nevil stated the next item on the agenda was for a Public Hearing on a Proposed Streetlight Tax District for Birdie Court and asked for a motion to open the public hearing. Commissioner Ethridge offered a motion to open the Public Hearing for the Streetlight Tax District for Birdie Court. Commissioner Mosley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Ethridge, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Thompson, and Commissioner Rushing voting in favor of the motion. County Attorney Jeff Akins went over a memo he had submitted to the Commissioners (See Exhibit # 2014-044). He stated there was one (1) resident that had not signed the petition because she did not want to be taxed for the Streetlight District and does not want the lights in her subdivision. He stated Greg Proctor with Excelsior EMC had stated they were providing light for the public right of way and not for individual lots. Ms. Aima Zhang stated she was opposed to the streetlight district she presented a power point presentation of the placements of lights and the reasons why she does not want to have them in then neighborhood (See Exhibit # 2014-045). Mr. Frank Hook was present to speak and stated he was the petitioner for the Streetlight District

and there were eight (8) residents in the neighborhood and at the cul-de-sac it was very dark. He stated the first year he is going to pay the cost of electricity and after that it would be an annual cost of \$84.91 per residence. (Commissioner Thompson left at this time). Hearing no further discussion, Commissioner Mosley offered a motion to close the public hearing for the Streetlight Tax District. Commissioner Ethridge seconded and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Ethridge, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Mosley, and Commissioner Rushing voting in favor of the motion. Chairman Nevil stated if there was no more discussion he would ask for a motion on the Resolution for the Streetlight District. Commissioner Simmons offered to adopt a Resolution to create a Streetlight District for Birdie Court (See Exhibit #2014-046). Commissioner Mosley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Ethridge, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Mosley, and Commissioner Rushing voting in favor of the motion.

Chairman Nevil stated the next item on the agenda was to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: (1) To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 18, 2014; (2) To approve a contract with Southeastern Marketing to provide marketing services for Splash n the Boro (See Exhibit # 2014-047); (3) To Approve a purchase of a Knuckle Boom Loader and Truck from Freightliner of Savannah; (4) To Approve a bid for a 2015 Mack front loader solid waste truck and extended warranty on air conditioning system with Bunch Truck & Equipment (See Exhibit # 2014-048); (5) To Approve a bid for two Caterpillar Tandem Motor Graders. He asked if anyone had any questions or modifications. Commissioner Ethridge asked to move Consent Agenda Item # 3, to approve a Knuckle Boom Loader and Truck, to Item # 1 under New Business and Commissioner Rushing asked to move Item # 5, to approve a bid for two Caterpillar Tandem Motor Graders, to Item # 2 under New Business. Hearing no further modifications, Commissioner Rushing offered a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the modifications. Commissioner Mosley seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Ethridge, Vice-Chairman Simmons, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Thompson, and Commissioner Rushing voting in favor of the motion.

Chairman Nevil stated the first item under New Business was for Discussion/Action to approve a purchase of a Knuckle Boom loader and truck from Freightliner of Savannah. Commissioner Ethridge stated she asked to have it moved from consent to new business to have clarification on the trade-in/buy back. County Manager Tom Couch stated the trade in value is on the boom loader that we currently own and even though Roberts Truck Center came in with the lowest bids they did not meet all the specifications. After some discussion on trade-in and buy backs, Commissioner Ethridge offered a motion to approve the Freightliner of Savannah in the

amount of \$118,365.00 (See Exhibit #2014-049). Commissioner Rushing seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Ethridge, Vice-Chairman Simmons, Commissioner Mosley, and Commissioner Rushing voting in favor of the motion.

Chairman Nevil stated the second item under New Business was to approve a bid for two Caterpillar tandem Motor Graders and called on Commissioner Robert Rushing. Commissioner Rushing stated Commissioner Thompson had to leave early but had asked him to make a statement on his behalf, which was he would like to see the bid awarded to John Deere and keep the competitive bidding in Bulloch County. He also stated that John Deere was \$16,552.00 cheaper with the buy backs. Commissioner Rushing stated he had spoken with Jay Clark with the John Deere Company who would like to address the Board to address some of the concerns. Mr. Clark stated he had not seen the letter (See Exhibit # 2014-050) that was sent out stating John Deere's bull gears wear down easier but because of the use of the grader this one has worn out twice and has cost the county \$3200.00 but John Deere and Flint has paid \$35, 000.00 for cost that were not covered. He stated he had passed out a tabulation of the cost (See Exhibit # 2014-051). County Manager Tom Couch went over the bids that were submitted and what the specifications and options are. He stated he recommended is maintaining the option of allowing us some time before delivery to shop options on financing. Yancey and Flint's rates were good but through the bonds the county may be able to receive a lesser rate. Mr. Clark stated if you pay cash the buyback still is effective. Commissioner Rushing stated to have all the Commissioners here for the vote to defer the meeting. Transportation Director Dink Butler stated due to the roll out time frame he a vote needs to be made. He stated his operators are familiar with Caterpillars and there would be some training time for familiarization for the John Deere graders. After some discussion, Commissioner Rushing offered a motion to approve the bid to Flint Equipment Company in the amount of \$444,304.00 (See Exhibit # 2014-052). Commissioner Ethridge seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Ethridge, Vice-Chairman Simmons, Commissioner Mosley, and Commissioner Rushing voting in favor of the motion.

Chairman Nevil asked for any general comments or statements from the Commissioners. Commissioners Ethridge, Simmons, Mosley, and Rushing, thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication.

Chairman Nevil asked for comments from the staff. Public Safety Director Ted Wynn gave an update on the EMS/Fire Sub Station in Brooklet and on the EMS Collections. Mr. Welch stated that the County Manager Tom Couch rolled off from being President of the City/County Managers Association and there was a presentation recognizing his services in Athens was given the previous week County Manager Tom Couch stated he was planning to have a workshop on

Wednesday, April 9, 2014 at Noon. He asked the Commissioners if to send any items they would like to have discussed to him Chairman Nevil asked if there were any further comments. Hearing none, he stated there was no further business expected for the open session of the regular agenda, and the Board must close the meeting and enter into Executive Session. He stated that at the conclusion of the Executive Session, the Board would reconvene and in all likelihood move for adjournment. Chairman Nevil called for a motion to adjourn into Executive Session in accordance with the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1) and other applicable laws, pursuant to the advice of the County Attorney, Jeff Akins, for the purpose of Consultation with the County Attorney or other legal counsel to discuss pending or potential, litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the county or any officer or employee in which the county or any officer or employee may be directly involved as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1) (See Exhibit #2014-053). Commissioner Simmons offered a motion to enter into Executive Session. Commissioner Ethridge seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Simmons, and Commissioner Ethridge voting in favor of the motion.

Chairman Nevil asked if there were any further comments from the Commissioners or Staff. Hearing none from the Board or Staff, he asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Rushing offered a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Mosley seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Mosley, Vice-Chairman Simmons, and Commissioner Ethridge voting in favor of the motion.

J. Garrett Nevil, Chairman

Attest: Christy Strickland, Clerk of the Board