

March 15, 2016
Statesboro GA

Regular Meeting

The Board of Commissioners met at 8:30am 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 Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Olympia Gaines, Clerk of the Board, performed the roll call of the commissioners and staff. The following commissioners were present: Chairman Nevil, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Mosley, and Commissioner Ethridge, and Commissioner Simmons. The following staff was present: County Manager Tom Couch, County Attorney Jeff Akins, Assistant County Manager Andy Welch, Chief Accountant Kristie King, County Engineer Kirk Tatum, Solid Waste Director Fred White, Transportation Director Dink Butler, Public Safety Director Ted Wynn, Management Analyst Cindy Steinmann, County Engineer Kirk Tatum, Building and Facility Director Bob Hook, Accountability/Treatment Court Director, Karen McClain, Deputy Warden Wayne Smith, and Chief Deputy Jarred Akins.

Chairman Nevil asked for changes or modifications to the General Agenda. Mr. Couch asked to modify the agenda by adding Potential Litigation to the Executive Session. Commissioner Gibson offered a motion to approve the General Agenda with the modification requested by Mr. Couch. Commissioner Ethridge seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Simmons, and Commissioner Ethridge all voting in favor of the motion.

Chairman Nevil called for public comments from the audience at large or in writing. Shelia Gordon expressed her concerns with the effect of taxes levied for educational purposes on the disabled. She stated she would like Bulloch County to consider tax exemptions similar to that of Chatham County and the City of Savannah School District for disabled individuals to offset the cost of taxes levied for educational purposes. Mr. Couch stated that such an exemption would have to be approved by the Georgia General Assembly through the enactment of local legislation applicable to Bulloch County. Mr. Couch stated that Bulloch County's legislative delegation in the General Assembly would probably want input from the Board of Education before enacting

such an exemption. He stated that the Board of Commissioners and the Board of Education would need to be cautious and measure all the ramifications concerning the taxes levied before approaching the General Assembly about such an exemption, and this deliberation could take several months. Chairman Nevil recommended that Mrs. Gordon discuss this issue with the Board of Education.

Marilyn Deloach expressed her concerns with the litter located on Amanda Road and Youngblood Road and the possibility of getting Amanda Road paved. She suggested the County install litter signs to help deter littering. Mr. Butler informed Mrs. Deloach that the litter had been picked up, but he will have a crew go back out to address additional litter concerns. Mrs. Deloach also mentioned concerns with a semi trailer being parked on Amanda Road. Chief Deputy Akins recommended she talk with the code enforcement agent Mr. Bobby Ivey. Chairman Nevil thanked both Mrs. Gordon and Mrs. Deloach for their comments and input.

Chairman Nevil stated the next item on the agenda was a presentation by Bill Tyson with the Ag Extension Office. Mr. Tyson introduced the new 4-H Coordinator Victoria Tillery. Chairman Nevil thanked and congratulated Ms. Tillery on her new position and the accomplishments of the 4-H program.

Chairman Nevil stated the next item was approval of the Consent Agenda as follows: (1) to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting and Executive Session held on March 1, 2016; and (2) to approve the carpet replacement for areas in the Extension Service and Rural Development offices at the Agri Business Center (See Exhibit #2016-25). Without further discussion, Commissioner Mosley offered a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Simmons, and Commissioner Ethridge all voting in favor of the motion.

Chairman Nevil stated the first item under New Business was for Discussion and/or Action to approve the FY2017 Mental Health Court Grant application. Chairman Nevil called on Mr. Couch to initiate discussion on this item. Mr. Couch stated the Mental Health Court is filing its annual grant application to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. Because of the required grant amount and the proposed increase in the budget, the County financial policies require Board approval for the application. Mr. Couch stated acceptance of the award is not binding until an award agreement is approved. Mrs. McClain stated the grant deadline is next

week and she is asking for \$195,772. The state requires a 10% cash match from local sources. In previous years Judge Woodrum has requested a waiver of the 10% cash match due to the in-kind services provided by the County and the waiver requests have been approved.

Mrs. McClain stated the program currently has 19 participants with 4 additional prospects in the review stage. She stated whenever they reach the threshold of 20-25 participants, the program requires an onsite case manager. Mrs. McClain stated she is requesting permission from the state funding committee to add a case manager as an employee of the program; however, she is not sure what the state funding committee will approve. She is requesting approval from the Board to file a supplemental grant application for this position. Mrs. McClain stated they have received \$5,500 in contributions/grants from other resources. After some discussion, Commissioner Ethridge offered a motion to approve filing the FY2017 Mental Health Court Grant application. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Simmons, and Commissioner Ethridge all voting in favor of the motion.

Chairman Nevil stated the second item under New Business was for discussion only concerning a Groundwater Permit for the City of Pembroke. Mr. Couch stated the City of Pembroke has requested permission to file a groundwater permit inside of Bulloch County on Ash Branch Church Road. He stated with the new well, the City will be able to serve about 10% to 20% more than what they currently serve. Mr. Couch stated he would like to discuss with EPD the impact it would have for Bulloch County. After some discussion, Mr. Couch recommended the Board consider taking action on this item as early as the next meeting.

Chairman Nevil called for general comments or statements from the commissioners and staff. The commissioners thanked everyone for attending the meeting and the employees for all they do, thanked Mr. Tyson and Ms. Tillery for their work at the Ag Extension, and wished Commissioner Thompson and his wife a happy anniversary. Commissioner Mosley stated that he is thankful that Bulloch is a great county and place to live. Commissioner Thompson thanked Solid Waste, the Road and Transportation Departments, Mr. Couch and Mr. Wynn for the work on the Advisory Committee for Animal Adoption at the Animal Shelter. Jennifer Durham, Regional Director of the Statesboro Regional Library informed the Board and Staff of a Community event to be held at the Statesboro Regional Library on April 1st at 6pm.

Hearing no further comments from the Board or staff, Chairman Nevil 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 to discuss Personnel Matters and Potential Litigation. Chairman Nevil called for a motion to adjourn into Executive Session in accordance with the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3 (b) (2), O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1), and other applicable laws, pursuant to the advice of County Attorney Jeff Akins, for the purpose of discussing and deliberating on Personnel and Potential Litigation Matters. Without further discussion, Commissioner Gibson offered a motion to adjourn and enter into Executive Session to discuss and deliberate on Personnel Matters and Potential Litigation (See Exhibit #2016-26). Commissioner Mosley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Ethridge, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Mosley and Commissioner Thompson voting in favor of the motion.

The meeting was reconvened, and Chairman Nevil asked if there were any further comments from the commissioners or staff. Hearing no further comments from the Commissioners or staff, Chairman Nevil asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Simmons offered a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Mosley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with Commissioner Gibson, Commissioner Rushing, Commissioner Ethridge, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Simmons, and Commissioner Mosley all voting in favor of the motion.

J. Garrett Nevil, Chairman

Attest: _____
Olympia Gaines, Clerk