

**Baldwin County Commissioners
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
October 20, 2015
6:00 p.m.**

A Public Hearing on the proposed abandonment of Emerald Way North and the Regular Meeting of the Baldwin County Commissioners was held Tuesday, October 20, 2015, at 6:00 p.m., Baldwin County Courthouse, Suite 319, 121 North Wilkinson Street, Milledgeville, Georgia with Chair Sammy Hall presiding.

Members Present: Emily C. Davis
Tommy French
Sammy Hall
Henry Craig
John Westmoreland

Also Present: David McRee
Ralph McMullen
Cindy Cunningham
Dawn Hudson

Call to Order of Public Hearing

Chair Sammy Hall called the Public Hearing to order at 6:00 p.m. He stated the purpose of the hearing is to receive public comment on the proposed abandonment of Emerald Way North, NE. He stated the County received a notice from two property owners requesting the abandonment of Emerald Way North from the intersection of the right-of-way for Erin Shores Drive, NE to the Baldwin County Line. He stated a legal notice has been published in the newspaper, and property owners have also been notified. Mr. Hall opened the floor for public comment. He asked those making comments to limit their remarks to two minutes.

Mr. Ernie Wetzler who owns property along Emerald Way North addressed the Board requesting the closure of Emerald Way North NE from the intersection with Erin shores Dr. NE to the County Line. He stated that through power of attorney he is also representing property owner Gary Whitlock who is requesting the road closure as well. Mr. Wetzler stated the property has become a "dumping" site due to unlimited access. He said the land is in conservation, and there are no plans for development. He stated he would place a gate at point of closure and allow Georgia Power access to the property.

Chair Hall stated a letter of opposition to the proposed road closure has been received from Adirondack Timber Company that owns a large tract of land on Emerald Way North. The timber company contends that access provided by Emerald Way North NE is vital to the sustained management and market value of the timberland parcel.

County Manager Ralph McMullen reported waterlines located on the property will be cut off and the hydrants moved.

There were no further comments on the proposed road closure.

Vice Chair Emily C. Davis made a motion to adjourn the public hearing at 6:10 p.m. Commissioner Henry Craig seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Call to Order

Chair Hall called the October 20, 2015, Regular Meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Emily C. Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2015 Regular Meeting and September 29, 2015 Called Meeting as submitted. Commissioner Henry Craig seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Proposed Abandonment of Emerald Way North

Chair Hall stated a public hearing was held, and this matter will be considered at the next Regular Commission Meeting.

FY 2016 Budget Request for State Court Judge

Chair Hall stated State Court Judge Thrower addressed the Board at the Work Session regarding his FY 2016 budget request. Finance Director Dawn Hudson presented information on the State Court Judges' Salary Computation. She stated the part-time State Court is established by local legislation, and the salary is set by local law.

Commissioner Henry Craig stated this matter should be addressed through the County budget process as other departments. He requested the County Manager and Finance Director make recommendations for the upcoming budget.

Development Authority Update and Agreement between Baldwin County and Development Authority

Executive Director Matt Poyner provided an update on Development Authority activities for 2nd & 3rd quarters. He discuss services being provided by Georgia Tech for existing businesses; best practices network; industry appreciation day; manufacturing council; industrial park clean up; new signage; upgrades to median; ingress and egress to industrial park; Georgia Ready for Accelerated Development; new project activity; website upgrades and an announcement in the coming weeks for a new company to locate here.

Mr. Poyner presented an intergovernmental agreement between Baldwin County and the Development Authority for payment of one-half of the principal and interest on the note for the improvements at the industrial park. He stated this agreement is the same as previous agreements for the promissory note dated October 30, 2007, in the principal amount of \$750,000 and as modified by the agreements in 2010, 2011 and 2013.

Finance Director Hudson stated the payment is currently in the County budget.

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to approve the intergovernmental agreement as presented. Commissioner Tommy French seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

A copy of the agreement is herewith attached and made an official part of the minutes at pages _____ and _____.

Central State Hospital Local Redevelopment Authority Budget Request

Chair Hall stated this item was discussed at the Work Session. He stated this matter will be handled through the County budget process.

Grant Applications

Finance Director Dawn Hudson presented the following grant applications:

DOT Section 5311 Transit Grant Application – Finance Director Hudson presented a Resolution authorizing the submission of the application for Section 5311 transit

services. She stated legal requirements have been met for the application, and no comments were received on the proposed application.

She stated the proposed budget for the July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017 year is \$104,370 less 10% fare offset of \$10,437. The budget is a 50-50 split with DOT and County funding of \$46,966.

Chair Hall stated for the record that he does not feel this is a cost effective program, and he feels the fee should be raised or ridership should be increased.

Finance Director Hudson stated the Board's approval is needed for the Resolution for submitting the application, authorizing the Chair to execute all grant related documents and assuring the compliance with requirements and assurances.

County Manager McMullen reported efforts are being made for coordination of services with other providers such as DHS.

Vice Chair Emily C. Davis made a motion to approve the Resolution for submission of the DOT Section 5311 Rural Transit application. Commissioner Tommy French seconded the motion and it passed by the following vote.

Aye: Davis, French, Craig, Westmoreland

Nay: Hall

A copy of the Resolution is herewith attached and made an official part of the minutes at pages _____ and _____.

Accountability Courts Funding Committee Grant Applications – Finance Director presented two applications for submission to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. The Adult Treatment Court Collaborative is requesting approval to apply for supplemental funding under the Accountability Court Program FY '16 Supplemental Solicitation. The Family Treatment Court is also requesting approval to apply for supplemental funding under this program. The County would serve as fiscal agent for both, if funded. She stated there will be no county funding; 10% match will be provided through existing DATE funds account for the ATC grant application, and a match waiver will be submitted for the FTC grant application.

Vice Chair Davis made a motion to approve the Adult Treatment Court Collaborative and the Family Treatment Court applications as presented. Commissioner Henry Craig seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Department of Justice Grant Award

Finance Director Hudson presented a grant award in the amount of \$13,170 for the Sheriff's Office respiratory equipment.

Vice Chair Davis made a motion to accept the grant award as presented. Commissioner Henry Craig seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

County Manager's Report

County Manager McMullen presented an update on the Veterans Sidewalk. Mr. McMullen reported letters have been sent to property owners for construction easements, and the project will be put out for bid once easements are obtained.

Mr. McMullen reported the First Annual Employee Appreciation Day will be held December 18th at the Recreation Department.

A Round Table discussion will be held on the Middle Georgia Region TSPLOST on December 10th at 5:30 p.m.

Old Business

There was no old business to come before the Board

New Business

There was no new business to come before the Board.

Public Comment Period for Non-Agenda Items

Mr. Jason Byram addressed the Board requesting permission to fish in the pond located on Development Authority property. Attorney McRee stated the Development Authority Board would be the body to authorize this.

Commissioner Henry Craig suggested that the County send a letter to the Development Authority requesting that citizens be allowed to utilize the pond.

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to direct County Attorney McRee to prepare a letter to the Development Authority on this matter. Commissioner John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Emily C. Davis made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Tommy French seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sammy Hall
Chair

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk