

**MINUTES
BIBB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MAY 16, 2006
6:00 P.M.**

The regular meeting of the Bibb County Board of Commissioners was held in the Commission Boardroom on Tuesday, May 16, 2006 at 6:00 p.m.

Board Members present: Chairman Charles W. Bishop, Vice Chairman Samuel F. Hart, Sr., Commissioner Elmo A. Richardson Jr., and Commissioner Joe O. Allen.

Commissioner Bert Bivins, III was absent. *Page 7 and pages 2 & 3.*

Staff present: Mr. Virgil Adams, County Attorney; Mr. Ken Sheets, County Engineer; Mr. Doug Furney, Director of Lake Tobesofkee; Ms. Deborah Martin, Finance Director; Mr. Bill Johnston, Director of Buildings & Properties; Mrs. Barbara Wood, Public Affairs Officer; Mr. Tommy Brown, Director of Human Resources; Mrs. Shelia Thurmond, Clerk of the Board; Mrs. Janice Ross, Board of Commissioners; and Ms. Kari Johnston, Grant Resources Administrator.

News Media: None.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Chairman Bishop recognized Reverend Trey Davis, III, Assistant Pastor, The World of Faith, Inc., and asked everyone to stand for the Prayer for the Day. Chairman Bishop asked Rev. Davis to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chairman Bishop announced that Budget Hearings for the FY 2007 budget will begin on Monday, May 22nd at 9:00 a.m. and run through Friday, May 26th in the Commissioners Boardroom. He announced that Tuesday, May 30th will be reserved for unfinished business. He further announced that the Commissioners will hold a pre-budget retreat on Friday, May 19th at 9:00 a.m. at Lake Tobesofkee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Richardson, seconded by Commissioner Hart and carried, the Minutes of the Regular meeting of May 2, 2006 were approved as written.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:

Chairman Bishop summoned Ms. Karen Barnes into the Boardroom and then presented her, alongside the other Commissioners, with a Certificate of Service Award and Pin for ten years of service to Bibb County, all of which has been in the Commissioners Office. Being caught off guard, Ms. Barnes, after gathering her composure, stated that she has

enjoyed working in the Commissioners Office for the past ten years and that she learned a lot about politics and government and that she hopes to continue working in the Commissioners Office for many more years to come.

At this time, Chairman Bishop called on the Commissioners to join in the presentation of Resolutions and watches to the following County Retirees:

Ms. Betty Howells, retired March 1, 2006 (12 years, five months in Juvenile Court)
(Presentation made by Commissioner Richardson)

Ms. Mattie Thomas, retired May 1, 2006 (27 years, two months in the Tax Commissioner's Office) (Presentation made by Vice-Chairman Hart)

Mr. Ronnie Byron, retired April 1, 2006 (31 years, five months in Juvenile Court)
(Presentation made by Commissioner Allen)

Brief remarks were made by each of the retirees.

Chairman Bishop recognized and welcomed Ms. Johnnie Mae Dawkins and Ms. Nettie Thomas (Kings Park) Mr. Donald Richardson, Jr., Mr. Ben Pittarelli (ACCG) Ms. Hazel Giddens, and Dr. Lindsay Holliday.

Dr. Holliday addressed the Board by stating that he wanted to bring the Board's attention to an article in Saturday's newspaper entitled, "Woman suing Bibb for flooding," and also a letter to the Editor in Sunday's newspaper written by him, entitled, "Why those GDOT studies defy reality." Dr. Holliday continued with the following comments which are verbatim:

"Stantec Engineering, on Forest Hill Road, recently made a nice little sum of money doing a storm water study which they triggered by saying that the runoff on Forest Hill Road might be 30% greater. Well, that's reasonable considering that Forest Hill Road is going to be more than twice as wide. And if it indeed is that much it would torpedo the project or make it that much more difficult to build. So, they said, 'well let us have a look at it.' Well, after spending a lot more taxpayers' dollars, they found out that it was really just a miniscule 0.4%, a very conveniently small amount which was welcomed news to the Georgia Department of Transportation, Moreland Altobelli, who subcontracts with Stantec for the Macon-Bibb Road Program. The taxpayers have been made aware that already \$1.5 million has been spent on Forest Hill Road for studies alone. No right-of-way has been purchased, not one bit of concrete has been poured. \$1.5 million for a project that a super majority of Macon's citizens are against. And a super majority of the City Council is against it. Let me show you a quick example why my neighbors believe to be the GDOT studies defy reality. At my property, this road is now 22' wide. After construction and a new road and sidewalks will be 54' wide, and this at the narrowest part of the new project. The paving here will be 150% wider than it use to be. There are parts of the project that are going to be 300% wider. So, you can see that Stantec's first estimate of 30% bigger, 30% more runoff was too low and their conclusion of 0.4% is really, totally absurd. Stantec's calculations remind me of the true story of engineers who prove that bumblebees can't fly. I think you've all heard about that. You look it up on the internet, you can see the various stories of who that's accredited to, but we know that bumblebees can fly. So the moral of this story is that engineers can misapply their equations if they want to. Sometimes they do it by accident, sometimes they do it on

purpose. Stantec must have laughed all the way to the bank. In addition to their errors in calculating quantity, Stantec did not consider the degradation of the water quality due to the total loss of the umbrella trees and the grassy swell filters. The designs for Forest Hill Road, if it's built as designed, any 5th of an inch or moderate rainfall, it's that asphalt that goes now into a storm pipe and directly into my creek, and it's going to put these oil slicks in my creek, oil that never reaches the creek now. Voters are getting fed up with our local, state and federal elected officials, allowing our tax dollars to be misused for studies like those done at Forest Hill Road. Concerning Ms. Busby, who has said she will sue, I highly recommend you settle with this lady because if required, I will testify to what's going on with Bibb County Engineering. The kind of things that have been okayed in the past, and I've got personal experience with several things. Going back to the storm water detention pond that failed in my neighborhood and dumped a bunch of stuff on my land on Forest Hill Road, off of Lichelle Court, about ten years ago. And I've got all the documents on that thing. So, believe me, this gal can not only win the actual damages she's asking for, but I would encourage her to ask for more, punitive damages, because time and time again, I've come up to you and told you about faulty engineering. The roundabouts issue is another thing where your Engineering Department is not in tuned with known federal standards for roundabouts. They are out of date and you've only got one engineer up there you three depend and the missing one depends on engineers for expertise. And you assume they are giving you the correct data when you ask them, "hey, is this storm water calculation correct; are roundabouts really good or bad?" What if they're giving you bad information? I've been telling you they've been giving you bad information. I've provided proof via federal documents; I've paid for an international expert on roundabouts to come here. They consistently told you what I'm telling you now and the engineers you'll listening to, they misled you and it's up to you. You know, you're going to have to defend your decisions and I think it's pretty clear that, so far, you've made some decisions based on very, very bad data, clearly bad. Thank you."

Commissioner Richardson asked Dr. Holliday, "exactly what is your profession."

Dr. Holliday responded, "I'm a general dentist,"

Chairman Bishop thanked Dr. Holliday for his comments.

REFERRALS:

The following item was referred to the Engineering/Public Works Committee:

Petitions from Rob Ballard, Placemaker, LLC, for the registration of Carillon Court and Carillon Lane (*located in Providence Subdivision*) as public roads of Bibb County.

RECORD AND INFORMATION:

Monthly departmental reports and agency activities received for record: Clerk of State Court.

ACTION:

2. The Committee recommends that the Chairman be authorized to sign the quit claim deed conveying property on Bass Road as follows:

- Tract 1 consisting of 2.209 acres to Frances G. Piper Family Limited partnership and Gay P. Gwinner as Trustee of the Allee Gwinner Charitable Remainder Unitrust; and
- Tract 2 consisting of 1.298 acres to Bass Road Development, LLC as Successor to Horseshoe, LLC.

The Committee further recommends that the County accept corrective deeds to reflect changes in the placement of the right-of-way.

On motion of Commissioner Richardson and carried, the before mentioned recommendation was ratified.

3. The Committee recommends that the request of Sam Hollis and John Saikas for a variance in pavement width of 24 feet on the interior roadways in Camden North subdivision be approved subject to the pavement width in the roundabouts remaining at 24 feet.

AMENDMENT

Commissioner Richardson offered an Amendment that the pavement width in the roundabout continues at 24 feet rather than 28 feet.

On motion of Commissioner Richardson and carried, the **Amendment** was approved unanimously.

On motion of Commissioner Richardson and carried, the before mentioned recommendation was approved as presented.

4. The Committee recommends that the request of the Department of Transportation that Bibb County quit claim a portion of Lamar Road that is to be relocated be approved and that the Chairman be authorized to sign said quit claim deed conveying the tract consisting of approximately 5.039 acres.

On motion of Commissioner Richardson and carried, the before mentioned recommendation was approved as presented.

5. The Committee recommends approval of Budget Modification No. 23 for the Macon-Bibb County Road Improvement Program.

On motion of Commissioner Richardson and carried, the before mentioned recommendation was approved as presented.

6. The Committee recommends that the petition to register Barrington Hill Drive, from Foster's Green Drive westerly for a distance of 1400 L.F., be approved and that said road be placed on the Official Road Register for maintenance by Bibb County forces.