

The Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia met in Official Session on Wednesday, July 2, 2003, at 3:30 p.m. in the public meeting room of the Fayette County Administrative Complex, 140 Stonewall Avenue, Fayetteville, Georgia.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Greg Dunn, Chairman
Linda Wells, Vice Chair
Herb Frady
Peter Pfeifer
A.G. VanLandingham

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: William R. McNally, County Attorney
Carol Chandler, Executive Assistant
Peggy Butler, Executive Assistant

Chairman Dunn called the meeting to order, offered the Invocation and led the Pledge to the Flag.

PRESENTATION BY JIM RICHEY, ACTING DIRECTOR OF THE GEORGIA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY, OF AN OVERVIEW OF THE REGIONAL TRANSIT

ACTION PLAN (RTAP): Mr. Richey said he wanted to talk about three issues that GRTA was moving forward with. He said the first issue was the Traffic Operations Task Force, the second issue was the Regional Transaction Plan and the third issue was a Regional Van Pool Partnership t he would like to propose between GRTA and Fayette County. He said they had been working closely with the governor's office and Governor Purdue was beginning to focus on transportation issues. He said the key factors the Governor wanted to stress were cost effectiveness, efficiency, and effectiveness in dealing with traffic congestion.

Mr. Richey said the Traffic Operations Task Force recognized the problem in traffic operations was there were more than 3,000 traffic signals in the area. He said many of the signals did not operate efficiently due to poor maintenance, lack of signal timing, and not adequate dedicated funding. He said this was not an uniform problem across this region. He said some of the jurisdictions did excellent jobs with the operations of the traffic signal systems while they have had to pay for improvements from the state and federal levels in other areas.

He said part of the problem in traffic operations was the number of agencies involved in traffic signal operations and maintenance. He said some advantages in improving traffic operations were increased system capacity, improved travel time, reduced stop and delay, significant fuel savings and public satisfaction. He said traffic signals needed to be optimized every few years. He said it must be a recurring contribution. He said the purpose of the Traffic Operations Task Force was to create a higher profile for the value and need of traffic systems operation improvements and to accelerate action. He said there were some lump sum appropriates through the Georgia Department of

July 2, 2003
Page 2

Transportation to improve the timing and addition of features to signals. He said they would be looking at projects and benchmark how each country performed in traffic signal operations.

Chairman Dunn said there was a list of counties that were involved in the traffic signal operations and maintenance. He asked what that meant. He said Fayetteville, Peachtree City and Fayette County had been involved in trying to resignal their lights. He said because they were not on that list it should not imply that they did not care about signalization. Mr. Richey said he did not know why Fayette County was not on the list. He said the intent was to list all agencies and organizations who had any control of the traffic signals and he said Fayette County had significant control over traffic signals and traffic operations.

Mr. Richey said next he wanted to talk about the Regional Transit Action Plan. He said this draft plan was shared with the Governor and the Governor said he was ready to endorse it and to move forward with the regional plan for public transportation services. He said they would build cost-effective public transportation. He said the Regional Transit Action Plan was a blueprint for a seamless and integrated public transportation network for the region. He said it would be the transit element for the 20/30 plan. He said it had been developed jointly with the Federal Government as well as state agencies, counties, transit operators and business interests. He said in the year 2000 80% of the traffic was congested travel and 20% of the travel was in uncongested conditions. He said transit travel needed to be used to help with levels of congestion. He said the Regional Transit Plan was intended to be just a piece of the Regional Transportation Plan. He said highways and additional funding for highways would be a major part of the overall Regional Transportation Plan.

Mr. Richey said if MARTA was expanded into the seven corridors of the region it would cost about 16 ½ billion dollars - about 126 million dollars a month. He said if the same service was done with light rail transit it would be about five ½ billion dollars and bus rapid transit with high occupancy vehicle lanes would reduce the cost for about 2.8 billion dollars for these seven corridors. He said cost effectiveness in terms of passengers carried by bus rapid transit would be \$5.30 per passenger carried as compared to heavy transit which would be \$23.60 per passenger carried.

He said the plan had nine steps. He said he wanted to discuss a few of these steps. The first step was to preserve and maintain the existing transit services. MARTA carries about 500,000 customers a day. He said MARTA's rail line was built with four billion dollars of public funds. MARTA currently needed about 600 million dollars in track, signals and stations-just the basic infrastructure of this transit operation.

He said expansion of local transit services was needed. He said local transit services would be needed in all thirteen counties in the coming years.

July 2, 2003
Page 3

He said the next part of the plan was the regional express bus service. He said through the year 2006 it was expected to have 25 routes with the regional express bus service. He said the service would expand to 30 routes after 2006 with services in Fayette County. This service was expected to carry about 15,500 daily riders.

He said the transit expansion was planned across the region in the seven corridors-I85 both north and south, I75 north and south, I20 east and west, the Georgia 400 corridor. He said as the extensions were planned, GRTA proposed they all be bus rapid transit extensions and that no further heavy rail extensions be built in the region.

He said he had a suggestion as to how to build a partnership between Fayette County and the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority for appropriate public transportation services in Fayette County. He said there were van pools already operating from Fayette County. He said GRTA would like to work in partnership with Fayette County to expand the number of van pools. He said GRTA would like Fayette County to raise the awareness of van pooling within Fayette County. He asked Fayette County to consider the establishment of a coordinator, an existing employee within the County, to help GRTA establish van pools. He said this coordinator would help locate park and ride lots and be a contact person for citizens in the County to work and talk with to see what vans are operating and what van pools could be formed.

Mr. Richey closed his presentation by asking the Board of Commissioners if they had any questions.

Commissioner Frady confirmed that GRTA needed 600 million dollars for MARTA. Mr. Richey said MARTA had been under-investing in routine maintenance. He said a need for 600 million dollars had been cited.

Commissioner VanLandingham stated if GRTA relinquished everything they had to MARTA it would carry all participants into the MARTA group which he did not feel ready to do. He said he feared MARTA and GRTA might become one entity and responsibility for MARTA would have to be assumed. Mr. Richey said he did not feel GRTA and MARTA would merge.

Chairman Dunn said he was glad GRTA was not in favor of expanding heavy rail. He said the Board had to be dully cautious. He said he did not want the Fayette citizens to pay for something they had nothing to do with or something they did not cause. He said he feared bureaucracy would come up with a transportation plan and Fayette County would be made to be part of it because Fayette County was part of ARC. He said anything now that would directly tie Fayette County to the MARTA system would not be something in the interest of this county.

Commissioner Wells thanked Mr. Richey for his time and his attitude. She said before the Board was told they would do exactly what they were told to do. She said she appreciated the fact that he was much more amenable to working with the Fayette Board of Commissioners on a local level.

PRESENTATION BY LYN REDWOOD FROM THE FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH OF AN OVERVIEW OF VARIOUS NEEDS FOR SPACE FOR THE PHYSICAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES: Lyn Redwood, Board of Health for Fayette County, stated she came before the Board as a representative for Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse. She said during last year's budget hearing a number of staff members presented their concerns about additional staff and space needs that they felt were not being met.

She said the first needs that were presented were the needs in Physical Health. The second was the need for staff and space for Environmental Health and the third request was for additional programs and space for Mental Health programs currently in the county.

She said in Physical Health in an 8-year period of time patient visits had doubled. She said clinic visits had become more complicated and lengthy. She said Physical Health staffing was low in comparison to Coweta and Henry Counties. She said Fayette County staffing had remained the same since 1996 in spite of the doubling of clinic visits and a tripling of the Women In Children (WIC) caseload. She said the existing conference room was serving as an office two days a week and exam rooms were serving as offices for the nurses. She said patients were not being seen in a timely manor because of these problems.

She said Environmental Health had added several programs over the past few years. Two programs were the West Nile Program and the Swimming Pool Inspection Program. She said no staffing or additional space was added for these programs. She said continued growth in the county had increased septic tank permits and food service inspections with no increase in space or staff. She said new regulations and technology had made it necessary for staff to undergo additional training and certification that took time and staff away from their jobs.

She said the Mental Health Department provided services to Fayette County citizens through the Fayette Counseling Center and Fayette Developmental Disabilities Service Center. She said the Counseling Center could only provide limited services to children and adolescents. She said they had proposed a day program that would run three hours after school. She said there was also an unmet need in the county for an adult day care treatment program. She said the mental health department had proposed an adolescent and adult day care program that could run concurrently since the services would overlap due to the times of day each program would be utilized.

Fayette Development Disabilities Services reported they had 2,456 children, ages 3 to 21, in the school system that received special education services. She said there were 400 children enrolled in the public school system that could transition into the services over the next several years. She said at a Needs Assessment Meeting it was noted that the age, location and layout of the current building could not meet the needs of the Fayette County citizens.

She said Fayette County Physical, Environmental and Mental Health facilities were in jeopardy of not being able to meet the needs of the Fayette County citizens due to inadequate physical facilities and current staffing levels. She said predicted growth in the county, along with increasing public health needs from infectious and biological agents, the complexity of health care needs and the increasing rates of mental and developmental disability was further reducing the already scarce public health resources.

She said the county was not getting adequate support from the state and the state was not receiving adequate support from the Federal government. She said we needed to be creative in meeting the future needs of the citizens in Fayette County.

She said one possibility was to locate the environmentalists out in the community. She said another possibility was to approach the Fayette County Board of Education to see if they had any space in the old high school building to utilize for the after school counseling program. She said another possibility was to approach Fayette Community Hospital to develop a partnership program for space or health needs. She said another avenue for financial help would be a matching grant. She said they needed to work with the community for support.

Chairman Dunn said he wanted to thank Ms. Redwood for serving as an active member of the Board of Health and appreciated her input. He said the state and federal government had cut their budget for these health programs. He said these programs were supposed to be funded by the state but the state did not want to give more money. He said the county could not buy buildings for state programs. He said many of these programs were funded by McIntosh Trail and the Board of Commissioners had approved everything they asked for in their budget. He said the County approved \$113,750 for the Counseling Center and \$40,000 for the Developmental Center. He said they also approved more space for the Health Department.

Commissioner Wells thanked Lyn Redwood for bringing these problems to light. She said she would like to offer her assistance in helping write or research a grant for the Developmental Service Center. She said she hoped the community would also come to the aid of these services.

Request from property owners in Kenley Park that the Board consider allowing the streets in their development, Alconbury Court and Kenley Drive, to become private streets:

A copy of the request and petition, identified as "Attachment No. 1", follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof. Charles Gisler presented a Platt with an air park outlined. He said the strip was between two roads, Alconbury County and Kenley Drive. He said there were nine lots that had been sold to private owners. He said the people who bought in this area bought because of the air strip. He said the problem was the hangers were on the outside of the streets and the runway was on the inside of the streets. He said the problem lies in getting the plane from the hanger to the runway. He said the property owners were told by the developer that the roads were private roads and when all of the lots were sold they would be deeded to the property owner's association which owned the runway. He said the property owners found out later that these roads were dedicated to the County years ago. He said under the code the Commissioners can abandon these roads to the homeowner's association if it was determined that the roads had ceased to be used by the general public and served no substantial public purpose. He said these streets did not lead anywhere, they were completely surrounded by private property owned by the nine property owners and the homeowners association which owned the runway. He said these roads did not provide any benefit to the general public. He said there was no substantial purpose that could ever be served by these roads in that they could never go anywhere. He said it was possible for the Commissioners to determine that these roads were abandonable.

He said by statute and code there must be some benefit to the County to surrender these roads. He said one benefit would be the County would no longer have an obligation to maintain the roads or the right of ways. He said as the land became private property there should be tax on the property payable to the County.

He said the property owners were concerned about moving the aircraft across the public street to the runway because there was always a potential that a citizen could get hurt. He said it was impossible to get insurance to cover the planes while they were on a public road.

Chairman Dunn asked how had the owners been getting insurance up to now. Mr. Gisler said for the period the plane crossed the road that it was not covered. He said there was not an insurance company that would cover a plane on a public road.

Commissioner Frady asked Attorney McNally if there was any problem abandoning a road to a homeowner's association rather than an individual property owner. Attorney McNally suggested if the road was to be abandoned it should be abandoned to each of the land owners.

Commissioner Wells stated that when a road was abandoned and it became private property the County would not provide animal control in that area. She said there would also not be police or sheriff patrol. Mr. Gisler said they understood that. He also said they understood there would be no road maintenance.

July 2, 2003
Page 7

Commissioner Frady made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Vanlandingham, for the County Attorney to research the process of transferring the streets in Kenley Park from public to private roads. Motion carried 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA: Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Frady, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

SHOCKLEY PLUMBING - BID AWARD FOR ANNUAL WATERLINE EXTENSION: Approval of recommendation by Tony Parrott, Water Systems Manager, to award the annual waterline extension contract to the low bidder, Shockley Plumbing, Inc., for \$792,200. A copy of the memo, identified as "Attachment No. 2", follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

ARAMARK UNIFORM SERVICE - BID AWARD TO PURCHASE UNIFORMS: Approval of recommendation by Tim Jones, Purchasing Director, to award the purchase of uniforms to the low bidder, Aramark Uniform Service, for \$1,345. A copy of the memo, identified as "Attachment No. 3", follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

CINTAS - BID AWARD FOR UNIFORM RENTAL: Approval of recommendation by Tim Jones, Purchasing Director, to award the rental of uniforms to the low bidder, Cintas, for the total weekly charge of \$837.25. A copy of the memo, identified as "Attachment No. 4", follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

TAX REFUND TO JOHN WIELAND HOMES: Approval of recommendation to approve a request for a tax refund to John Wieland Homes in the amount of \$155.32 for the year 2001.

TAX REFUND TO FAYETTE HEARING AID SERVICES: Approval of recommendation to approve a request for a tax refund to Fayette Hearing Aid Services Inc. in the amount of \$129.84 for the year 2002.

MINUTES FROM JUNE 12, 2003: Approval of minutes of the Board of Commissioners meeting held on June 12, 2003.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Members of the public are allowed up to five minutes each to address the Board on issues of concern other than those items which are on the evening's agenda.

NONE

July 2, 2003
Page 8

STAFF REPORTS:

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Attorney McNally requested an executive session to discuss two legal items.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham, to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss two legal items. Motion carried 5-0.

LEGAL: Attorney McNally discussed a legal item with the Board.

The Board took no action on this matter.

LEGAL: Attorney McNally discussed a legal item with the Board.

Motion was made by Commissioner Frady, seconded by Commissioner Wells, to authorize Attorney McNally to proceed in this matter. Motion carried 5-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION AFFIDAVIT: Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Executive Session Affidavit affirming that two legal items were discussed in Executive Session. The motion carried 5-0. A copy of the Executive Session Affidavit, identified as "Attachment No. 5", follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Dunn adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Peggy Butler, Deputy Clerk

Greg Dunn, Chairman

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia, held on the 6th day of August , 2003.

Peggy Butler, Deputy Clerk