

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION**

January 7, 2014

7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present: J. Harry Lange, Joey M. Loudermilk, Becky Langston, Jim Woods, Charles Wyatt. Staff Present: Greg Wood, County Manager; John Taylor, County Attorney; Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk.

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chairman Lange called the Regular Session to order.
2. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2013, Regular Session, was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.
3. **ORGANIZATION OF COMMISSION**
  - A. **Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and Appointment of County Attorney and County Clerk.** The motion to re-elect and re-appoint the individuals in the current position (Harry Lange as Chairman, Joey Loudermilk as Vice-Chairman, John Taylor as County Attorney, and Nancy McMichael as County Clerk) was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.
4. **OLD BUSINESS**
  - A. **Christmas Gift to Employees.** Chairman Lange said that action on the motion made by Commissioner Wyatt and seconded by Commissioner Woods to give all County employees (part-time and full-time) a one-year family membership to the Community Center, or to extend their current membership for one year, as a Christmas gift, was tabled to this meeting pending more information. Discussion included that the cost for a family membership is \$125; that the approximate cost will be more than \$36,000; and that some employees may not want a membership but would prefer to have the cash. Following discussion, consensus was to have a survey performed with the results provided during the January 21 meeting.
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - A. **Financial Statements: July & August 2013.** Commissioner Langston tabled action until the January 21 meeting pending information that is forthcoming. There was no discussion other than the September financial will be on the next meeting for approval as well, and that the October financial should be included in the meeting packet for approval during the first meeting in February.
  - B. **Division of Melody Lakes VFD Stipends for FY 13/14 Among Fire Departments.** Commissioner Langston said that the Council of Fire Chiefs has requested that the stipend budgeted for Melody Lakes VFD, which disbanded in September, be divided among the 11 fire departments. Discussion included that Melody Lakes VFD had not requested its stipend for July, August and September, so there is a full year of stipend money budgeted at \$3,184 per quarter for a total of \$12,736 to divide among the 11 volunteer fire departments; that this would be a temporary increase and not continue into the next budget year; and that Commissioner Langston had confirmed three times that this is what the Council of Fire Chiefs had recommended. Following discussion, the motion to divide the quarterly stipend that had been budgeted for the Melody Lakes VFD for FY 13/14 among the 11 fire departments was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.
  - C. **Qualifying Fees.** Chairman Lange said that the State law requires the Commissioners to set the qualifying fees for elected officials and to publish same no later than February 1 of any year in which a general primary, nonpartisan primary or general election is to be held; and that the fees are 3% of the base salary of Commissioners and 3% of the gross salary paid in 2013 for School Board members. The motion to

set the qualifying fees at \$315 for Commissioners and \$72 for School Board Members was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.

- D. **Request for Tax Refund: Norman Bone, II.** Chairman Lange said that Norman Bone, II, had requested a tax refund in the amount of \$135.75 because he had sent in the tag renewal prior to the due date but did not own the vehicle on the due date, and that the Tax Commissioner agreed with the request. The motion to approve the refund of \$135.75 was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.
- E. **Resolution: Commending Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) on its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.** Chairman Lange read the resolution commending ACCG for its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The motion to approve the Resolution was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Chairman Lange, and passed unanimously.

6. **COUNTY MANAGER**

- A. **Insurance: Fully Insured vs. Self Insured and Broker RFP.** Greg Wood, County Manager, reminded the Board that during a previous meeting, the Board had discussed fully insured and self insured medical insurance, but that no direction had been given or a decision made regarding same. Discussion included that because of the Affordable Health Care Act (AHCA), aka Obamacare, and the many issues that may arise from same, it might be in the best interest of the County to remain fully insured and look at being self insured in a year or so.

At this point, Chairman Lange recessed discussion in order to hold the advertised public hearing.

7. **PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:30 PM**

- A. **Explanation of Public Hearing Procedures.** Chairman Lange explained the procedures involved in the Public Hearing.
- B. **Application of Harris County Board of Commissioners to Amend the Text of the Zoning Ordinance, Article IV, Section 2, Pages CDA 19 & 25, in order to allow Deer & Game Processing and Taxidermist in the same zoning districts with a Special Use Permit.** Chairman Lange called the Public Hearing to order, read the specifics of the application, said that the First Reading of the amendment had been held before the Planning Commission, who recommended approval of the text amendments, and said that the County Planner had also recommended approval. In response to a question from Chairman Lange, Tracie Hadaway, County Planner, said she had no additional comments regarding the text amendments. Chairman Lange asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or in opposition to the amendments. There being none, he closed the Public Hearing and asked for a motion. The motion to approve the text amendments to allow Deer & Game Processing and Taxidermist in the same zoning districts with a Special Use Permit, was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.

8. **COUNTY MANAGER (CONTINUED)**

- A. **Insurance: Fully Insured vs. Self Insured (continued).** Chairman Lange resumed the discussion regarding insurance. Consensus was that in light of the possible problems with the AHCA to continue with being fully insured. The motion to continue with being fully insured was made by Chairman Lange, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously. There was discussion regarding issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a new broker/consultant or continuing with the current broker/consultant, and Commissioner Wyatt tabled any action regarding the broker/consultant and the RFP until the January 21 meeting.

9. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Commissioner Wyatt made the motion at 7:42 PM to go into Executive Session for the discussion of potential litigation and a personnel matter. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk and passed unanimously.
10. **RESUME REGULAR SESSION.** The motion to go back into Regular Session was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Chairman Lange, and passed unanimously.
11. **OTHER**
  - A. **Road Surveys Status.** In response to a question from Commissioner Wyatt regarding the status of the road surveys for the 11 County roads, Nancy McMichael, County Clerk, said that due to the inclement weather we have been having, additional time has been given to the surveyors to complete the work.
  - B. **AWOS Status.** In response to a question from Commissioner Wyatt regarding the status of the AWOS for the Airport, Greg Wood, County Manager, said that we are in negotiations with Callaway Gardens about the need for additional approach area.
  - C. **Walking Trail (Railroad Recreation Trail) Status.** In response to a question from Commissioner Wyatt regarding the status of the Walking Trail, Chairman Lange said that it is hoped that paving will be started in the spring, and Greg Wood, County Manager, said that he understands that we are currently awaiting the receipt of funding, but will check on the status.
  - D. **Koch/JCG Foods.** In response to a question from Commissioner Wyatt, Greg Wood, County Manager, said that the Work Session with Koch/JCG Foods is scheduled for 6:00 PM on February 4.
12. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Chairman Lange, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.

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J. Harry Lange, Chairman

Attest:

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Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk