

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION**

January 21, 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 January 7, 2014, Regular Session, was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.
3. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **Financial Statements: July & August 2013.** The motion to approve the financial statements for July and August 2013 was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.
 - B. **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, had been tabled pending the results of an employee survey. There was no discussion, and Commissioner Wyatt withdrew his motion, therefore, no action is necessary regarding this issue.
 - C. **Insurance Broker.** Chairman Lange said that during the last meeting the Board decided to continue being fully insured but took no action regarding retaining the current broker or issuing a request for proposals (RFP) for a broker. With that, he said that he would like to have an RFP prepared for the Board to review during the February 4 meeting.
4. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Sheriff Mike Jolley: Tag Reader Project.** Sheriff Mike Jolley appeared before the Board and said that he would like to purchase two tag readers which will allow his deputies to read vehicle tags; that the results of the reading come from GCIC and NCIC and could include expired tag, expired driver's license, expired insurance, potential warrants, etc.; that two different tag readers were used during a two week period in the fall which resulted in a 1000% increase in uninsured motorist citations, 1000% increase in suspended registrations citations, and 454% in expired tag citations; that the device has two cameras, one each to be mounted in the front and rear of the deputy's car; that the device will not be permanently mounted so it can be moved from car to car as needed; that the deputies tested two different readers and recommended the MPH-900; that he is requesting the Board approve the purchase of two MPH-900 readers at a cost of \$16,112.50 each; and that if those are approved, he will purchase two more from seizures occurring within the next twelve months. Following discussion, the motion to approve the purchase of two MPH-900 tag readers at a cost of \$16,112.50 each from General Fund was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.
 - B. **Pay Scale Analysis for Sheriff's Office.** Sheriff Mike Jolley distributed a copy of the UGA Pay Plan, effective January 4, 2014, which included a pay scale analysis of the Sheriff's Office, and said that he is losing deputies to other areas due to higher pay. There was no discussion or action taken. (Document can be found in "Miscellaneous Documents" file as MD #14-01.)
 - C. **Meeting Schedule Revision.** Chairman Lange said that the annual ACCG Conference will be held April 11 through April 15, with classes ending on the 15th at 3:30, which will make it difficult to make it back in time for the 7:00 Regular Session. Following discussion, the motion to move the April 15 meeting to April 22 was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.

D. **Requests for Tax Refund.** Chairman Lange read the requests for Tax Refunds, as follows:

- (1) Addition, Luke & Catherine M. Swift: Refund amount of \$337.00 due to unpaid late fees of which taxpayer claimed they were unaware. Tax Commissioner disagreed because each tax bill includes an explanation about unpaid balances resulting in late fees and penalties, and that property owner responded only after receiving the intent to file letter. The Board of Tax Assessors also disagreed. Following discussion, the motion to disapprove this refund request was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.
- (2) Boie, Fay H. & Leann Fowler: Refund amount of \$200.00 due to fees/penalties on an unpaid 2012 tax bill because of memory issues. Tax Commissioner disagreed, and a recommendation from the Board of Tax Assessors is not applicable to this request. Following discussion, the motion to disapprove this refund request was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Chairman Lange, and passed with four in favor (Wyatt, Lange, Langston, Loudermilk) and one opposed (Woods).
- (3) Defrene, Naaman & Merilee W.: Refund amount of \$35.70 due to payment being received late because property owner failed to mail prior to having cancer surgery. Tax Commissioner agreed because this is for a 2013 tax bill. A recommendation from the Board of Tax Assessors is not applicable to this request. Following discussion, the motion to approve this refund request was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.
- (4) Harris, Michael: Refund amount of \$317.50 due to wrong map number being on tax bill and paying it; and did not pay another bill that was labeled with the previous owners name because he thought it had been paid. Tax Commissioner agreed because the 2012 tax bill was paid and because the same map/parcel number was on both tax bills. The Board of Tax Assessors agreed. Following discussion, the motion to approve this refund request was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.
- (5) Johnson, Kenneth: Refund amount of \$70.08 due to tag being renewed before the due date and then sold by inheritance to new owner (resulting in duplicate payment). Tax Commissioner agreed, and a recommendation from the Board of Tax Assessors is not applicable to this request. Following discussion, the motion to approve this refund request was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.
- (6) Kelly, David N. & Carolyn R.: Refund amount of \$81.32 due to having purchased one of two lots and paying taxes on both lots. Tax Commissioner agreed, and the Board of Tax Assessors disagreed because owner paid nearly \$30,000 more than the tax value on the one lot. Following discussion, the motion to approve this refund request was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.
- (7) Mitchell, Judy M.: Refund amount of \$85.00 due to late fees and service charges on 2012 tax bill. Tax Commissioner disagreed because numerous letters were mailed with no response until the intent to levy letter was sent. A recommendation from the Board of Tax Assessors is not applicable to this request. Following discussion, the motion to disapprove this refund request was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.

E. **Financial Statement: September 2013.** The motion to approve the financial statement for September 2013 was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Chairman Lange, and passed unanimously.

5. **COUNTY MANAGER**

A. **Personnel Issue: Tax Commissioner's Office.** Greg Wood, County Manager, said that Vickie Jamerson, Tax Commissioner, would like to change one of her part-time slots (Wanda Bates) to full-time; that she would like to cross-train this particular person to fill-in when others are out; and that her other part-time person will have her hours reduced to 24. In response to questions, Vickie Jamerson, Tax Commissioner, said that her office is sometimes short-handed due to vacation or illness; that she wants to keep three employees in the motor vehicle area, particularly during lunch; that the employee will be cross-trained to work in both the property tax and motor vehicle areas; and that the wait time in motor vehicles can vary depending on the citizen's needs, but usually five to 30 minutes. Following discussion,

the motion to change one part-time position to full-time for the remainder of this fiscal year (ending June 30, 2014) was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.

- B. **Open House/Rabies Clinic at Animal Shelter**. Greg Wood, County Manager, said that the Harris County Humane Society is interested in coordinating a rabies clinic/open house at the Animal Shelter. The Board took no official action, and the consensus was in favor of having such an event at the Animal Shelter.
 - C. **Agreement with Caterpillar/Yancey: Backhoe Loader for Public Works**. Greg Wood, County Manager, said that Public Works is in need of a Backhoe Loader; that the buyback agreement is the same as similar previous agreements with Caterpillar/Yancey; that it is for a 416F Backhoe Loader with a purchase price of \$70,709, a repurchase price (in five years) of \$45,000, and a trade in (a 2005 416D) of \$27,500, leaving \$43,209 to finance with monthly payments of \$789.27. Following discussion, the motion to approve this buyback agreement was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in “Contracts & Agreements” file as C&A #
6. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**. John Taylor, County Attorney, had no business to discuss with the Board this evening.
7. **OTHER**
- A. **Lickskillet Bridge Renaming**. Commissioner Wyatt said that there is a bridge near an old store that used to be called Lickskillet Store that crosses Mountain Oak Creek; and that he would like to name the bridge “Billy Wynn, Sr., Bridge” in honor of Billy Wynn, Sr., who is deceased and who was instrumental in the organization of Antioch Volunteer Fire Department. He then made the motion to name the bridge, located at Lickskillet Road over Mountain Oak Creek, “Billy Wynn, Sr., Bridge”. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.
 - B. **Cline’s Crossroads**. Commissioner Wyatt said that the intersection of SR 103 and SR 219 near Hunters Pub has, for years, been known as Cline’s Crossroads, and he would like to have DOT install the appropriate signage on each side of the intersection, for a total of four (4) signs, showing the name “Cline’s Crossroads”. He then made the motion for same. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.
8. **ADJOURNMENT**. There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.

J. Harry Lange, Chairman

Attest:

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk