

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION**

October 3, 2017  
7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present: J. Harry Lange, Jim Woods, Susan Andrews, Martha Chewning, Becky Langston. Staff Present: Randy Dowling, County Manager; John Taylor, County Attorney; Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk.

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chairman Lange called the Regular Session to order.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** At the request of Chairman Lange, John Taylor, County Attorney, led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2017 Regular Session and the September 19, 2017 Work Session was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENT.** Chairman Lange announced that Bobby Haralson had brought a depiction of the Veterans Memorial, which is to be erected in Pine Mountain Valley, for which bricks are being sold to help offset the cost for the memorial; and that anyone desiring to purchase a brick should contact Mr. Haralson.
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - A. **Appointment: Planning Commission.** Chairman Lange said there is a vacancy on the Planning Commission; that the term to be completed expires December 31 of this year; that Commissioner Chewning has as individual to appoint to the vacant position; and that consideration should be given for the appointment to extend through the next term, which would expire December 31, 2021. Commissioner Chewning said that she would like to appoint Matthew Newberry to the Planning Commission and described his background. She then made the motion to appoint Matthew Newberry to the Planning Commission to complete the current term and for the next term, with an expiration date of December 31, 2021. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Woods and passed unanimously.
  - B. **CDBG 2018.** Chairman Lange said it was time to decide if the Board wants to move forward with a CDBG application for 2018; that the RVRC must be notified by October 16 regarding same so that they can begin the process; and that two suggested target areas have been made which are (1) Westgate Circle, Westgate Drive & Lake Drive of Kings Gap, and (2) Pine Lake Subdivision. Nancy McMichael, County Clerk, said that the RVRC recommends the Board choose one target area as priority and the other as secondary so that if the first does not meet the requirements, they can move on to the second location. Commissioner Chewning said that the Kings Gap area currently has a private water system, which is functional but old and needs improvement; and that Pine Lake Subdivision has a greater need. Commissioner Woods said that Pine Lake has issues with culverts and water runoff. Following discussion, Commissioner Woods made the motion to move forward with an application for Pine Lake, as the priority target area, and Kings Gap (Westgate Circle, Westgate Drive and Lake Drive) as the secondary target area. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.
  - C. **GDOT Tentative Allocation for Fencing Installation, Phase I (revised).** Tim Fredlund, of Pond & Company, airport consultant, and Amanda Hill, of MaesAwyr, airport consultant subcontractor, appeared before the Board to explain the revised allocation for the fencing installation project. Discussion included that originally GDOT had allocated federal funds of \$158,986, with \$8,833 state funds, and \$8,832 local match from land donations, for Phase I of the fencing installation; that GDOT has come back and offered state funds of \$150,000, with a \$50,000 local cash match; that with the additional state funds, the total has increased from \$176,651 to \$376,651; that the Board has to option of accepting the additional funding and providing the cash match, or staying with the original amount; and that the funds can possibly be taken from T-SPLOST. Following discussion, the motion to approve the increased state allocation of \$150,000, with a \$50,000 local cash match, for a new total of \$376,651, pending confirmation that T-SPLOST funds can be used for the match of \$50,000, was made by Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.

6. **PUBLIC HEARING @ 7:30 PM**

- A. **Conflict of Interest Forms.** The Conflict of Interest forms were completed at the request of Chairman Lange.
- B. **Request to Withdraw application of SBC Farms, LLC, to Rezone 337.6 acres of a 381.47 acre tract of Map 31, Part of Parcel 032, Land District 19, Part of Land Lots 167, 168 & 169, from A-1 (Agricultural/Forestry) to R-1 (Single Family Residential), current use agricultural/tree farming, proposed use residential; property located at 11911 Whitesville Road, Fortson.** Chairman Lange said that a request had been made by the applicant to withdraw the rezoning application and that the Planning Commission had recommended approval of the request. The motion to approve the withdrawal without time limitation on reapplication was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed with four in favor (Langston, Chewning, Andrews, Lange), no opposition, and one abstention (Woods).

7. **NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)**

- D. **Pond & Company Task Order #1 Change Order: Airport Taxiway Relocation.** Tim Fredlund, of Pond & Company, airport consultant, and Amanda Hill, of MaesAwyr, airport consultant subcontractor, appeared before the Board to discuss the change order in the amount of \$31,274 regarding the Airport Taxiway Relocation. Discussion included that the due to project overruns (\$21,203 in construction inspection and \$10,071 in geotechnical materials testing), mainly due to weather conditions that delayed the project; that GDOT is in concurrence with the increase and has already paid out 95% of the project overruns (\$20,142.85), which leaves \$1,060.15 as the County's share; and that the geotechnical overruns cost will be reimbursed to the County in the next contract at 100% with land donation included. Following discussion, which included that the funds can be taken from Airport Capital Outlay, the motion to approve Change Order #1 to Task Order #1 was made by Commissioner Chewning, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #17-34.)
- E. **Pond & Company Task Order #5: Airport Layout/Master Plan Services.** Tim Fredlund, of Pond & Company, airport consultant, and Amanda Hill, of MaesAwyr, airport consultant subcontractor, appeared before the Board to discuss the proposal to provide drawings and narrative report to identify improvements at the Airport for a 20-year period at a cost of \$49,989. Discussion included that the cost will eventually be reimbursed by GDOT, but may take a few years. Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that these funds have been budgeted. Following discussion, the motion to approve Task Order #5 was made by Commissioner Chewning, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #17-35.)
- F. **Pond & Company Task Order #6: Airport Entrance Road Design.** Tim Fredlund, of Pond & Company, airport consultant, and Amanda Hill, of MaesAwyr, airport consultant subcontractor, appeared before the Board to discuss the proposal to undertake the design for the realignment and construction of the primary Airport entrance road at a cost of \$29,952. Discussion included that not only will construction plans be designed, but the necessary contract documents for bidding are included and that it's possible the project could be completed by June 30, 2018. Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that these funds have been budgeted. Following discussion, the motion to approve Task Order #6 was made by Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #17-36.)
- G. **Georgia Historical Markers.** Chairman Lange said that the County had received an email regarding a historical marker maintenance program and requesting the name of a contact in the County who could assist in this endeavor, and Linda Straub has graciously accepted the responsibility.

8. **COUNTY MANAGER**

- A. **Grant Application Authorization: Land & Water Conservation Grant for Rails to Trails Project.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, explained that Georgia DNR had announced the availability of grants to be used toward rehabilitation of

outdoor recreation facilities; that the maximum grant award is \$100,000, which would require a match of \$100,000; that with such a grant, the Railroad Recreation Trail could be extended another .9 miles from where the current TE Grant will end; and that authorization to submit an application is requested with the match, should the grant be awarded, taken from T-SPLOST funds. Following discussion, the motion to approve the submission of a grant application was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Chairman Lange, and passed unanimously.

- B. **Project Updates.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, brought the Board up to date on various projects, as follows:
- (1) Recreation Director Position. Advertisement for the position is underway with a deadline of November 6 and an anticipated start date of January 2, 2018.
  - (2) Accounting Software. Six proposals were received, interviews with the top four companies are underway with the last scheduled for October 6, with a recommendation to the Board on October 17 for awarding the project.
  - (3) Prison CCTV Security System Update. Project was awarded to Rosser International and is going well.
  - (4) Radio System. Discussion is underway with appropriate parties to come to an agreement regarding same.
  - (5) 911 Telephone & CAD System. Project is underway and moving smoothly.
  - (6) Rails to Trails Project. Engineering still underway with funding possibly available during Winter 2017.
  - (7) LMIG 16 & 17. Projects for resurfacing and paving are underway and progressing smoothly.
  - (8) Hardage Road. Project is going well; water lines are in and paving is underway.
  - (9) Airport Fencing Design Project. Project is underway with completion expected in mid-November.
  - (10) Airport Access Road Design Project. Board approved the task order for this project tonight.
  - (11) Library. Interior painting is taking place, AC to be switched on for whole building by Friday, and the project continues to be on time and under budget.
  - (12) SPLOST Continuation. The next meeting with the municipalities is scheduled for Monday, October 16, at 5:00 PM.
  - (13) Fee Schedules Update. The Community Development fees were discussed during the preceding Work Session; all fees will be before the Board on October 17 for action, and if approved, will be effective January 1, 2018.
  - (14) SPLOST. Slight decrease from July but higher than same time last year.
  - (15) LOST. Slight decrease from July but higher than same time last year.
  - (16) Building Permits. Decrease from July to August, but September rebounded with 30 permits.
  - (17) Solid Waste Tonnage. Slight increase over previous month and over same time last year.
7. **COUNTY ATTORNEY.** John Taylor, County Attorney, had no business to discuss with the Board this evening.
8. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Chairman Lange made the motion, at 8:22 PM, to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel and litigation matters. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Langston and passed unanimously.
9. **RESUME REGULAR SESSION.** The motion to go back into Regular Session was made by Chairman Lange, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**. There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Chewning, seconded by Chairman Lange, and passed unanimously.

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J. Harry Lange, Chairman

Attest:

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Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk