

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION**

October 17, 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, Dwight Langston led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2017 Regular Session and the October 3, 2017 Work Session was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.
4. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - A. **Bobby Greer: Use of Tennis Courts at Pate Park.** Chairman Lange said that Bobby Greer, tennis instructor, uses County facilities to give tennis lessons; that he was offered a memorandum of understanding regarding the use of the tennis courts at a cost of \$5 per court hour plus \$1.50 per non-county person to whom he gives lessons; and that Mr. Greer turned down the offer and asked to appear before the Board. Bobby Greer distributed information regarding tennis court facilities (Cooper Creek, Double Churches, Lake Bottom, and Idle Hour) in Columbus and Phenix City. He then reviewed the information, which included court fees and usage, and that using the County's tennis courts at \$5 per court hour would cost him around \$3,000 a year, which is not acceptable to him. Discussion included that Mr. Greer has about 60 to 70 clients; that he does not intend to use lighting; and that he would be willing to pay a more feasible fee of around \$300 per year. Following discussion, Chairman Lange thanked Mr. Greer for the information and said that the Board will take everything into consideration.
  - B. **Harris County Chamber of Commerce Status Update: Colin Martin.** Colin Martin, President and CEO of the Harris County Chamber of Commerce, appeared before the Board, gave an update as to the activities of the Chamber and the use of the Hotel/Motel Tax proceeds, and said that the reports required under the agreement with the County will continue to be submitted on time. Chairman Lange thanked Mr. Martin for his comments and said that the Board looks forward to receiving the reports.
  - C. **Fee Schedules: Adoption.** Chairman Lange said that the Board had held two Work Sessions regarding the fees charged by various County departments and said that some fees changed while others did not. The motion to approve the fee schedules was made by Commissioner Woods, and seconded by Commissioner Chewning. Commissioner Langston asked how the information would be disseminated, and Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that the fees would be posted on the website and in each applicable department. Mr. Dowling said that an additional fee, not previously discussed by the Board, had been added to the EMS schedule regarding charging a fee of \$250 when EMS personnel is on the scene for more than 30 minutes and the individual refuses transport to the hospital, when EMS supplies are used and the individual refuses transport to the hospital, and if response is to the same patient in excess of 12 times in a 12-month period and the individual refuses transport to the hospital each of those times with the fee being charged those additional times when the individual refuses transport to hospital. Following discussion, the vote on the motion to approve the fee schedules, but to work on the wording of the added EMS fee, passed unanimously.
  - D. **Financial Statements: May & June 2017.** The motion to approve the financial statements for May and June 2017 was made by Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.
  - E. **Surplus Property & Equipment: Declaration of Surplus.** Chairman Lange said that time to time the County has surplus equipment and property that are no longer needed for County operations, and a list of such has been provided to the Board for approval. The motion to declare the equipment, vehicles and parts as surplus and to authorize the selling of same on GovDeals or other legal means was

made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.

- F. **Sheriff's Office: Computers, Printers & Accessories for Five Vehicles & Budget Amendment #7.** Chairman Lange said that the Sheriff has requested to purchase computers, printers and accessories for five (5) of his department vehicles at an approximate cost of \$20,000 with funds to come from the Drug Abuse Treatment & Education Fund. John Taylor, County Attorney, said that State law sets out what the funds can be used for, that such use must be approved by the governing authority, and that based on state law and the Sheriff's explanation as to the use of the computers, it is his opinion that the use of the Drug Abuse Treatment & Education funds can be used to make the requested purchase. The motion to approve the request was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.

5. **COUNTY MANAGER**

- A. **Proposal Award: Solid Waste Transportation & Disposal and Agreement.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that the County's contract with the City of LaGrange for the transportation and disposal of solid waste expired several years ago, and the County is still using the services of the City of LaGrange; that the rate per ton charged by the City of LaGrange is currently at \$41.18 per ton; that proposals were requested for the service; that two proposals were received on August 22; that the City of LaGrange proposed \$37.00 per ton and Waste Management of Opelika, AL, proposed \$24.85 per ton; and that it is recommended that the proposal be awarded to Waste Management. Following discussion, the motion to award to Waste Management of Opelika, AL, and to approve the agreement regarding same was made by Commissioner Chewning, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously. (Contract document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #17-37.)
- 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 position anticipated start date of January 2, 2018.
  - (2) Accounting Software. Six proposals were received, interviews with the top four companies have occurred, evaluation is underway, and a recommendation to the Board is scheduled for November 7 to award the project. It is estimated it will take eight to ten months from start date to convert data, train individuals, and implement the program.
  - (3) Prison CCTV Security System Update. Project has been designed, bid documents are being prepared and will soon be advertised.
  - (4) 911 Telephone & CAD System. Project is underway, moving smoothly and should be completed by the end of December.
  - (5) LMIG 16 & 17. Projects for resurfacing and paving are underway and progressing smoothly.
  - (6) Hardage Road. Project is going well; water lines are in, paving is underway and it's on target for completion.
  - (7) Airport Terminal Renovation. Project is underway with painting, carpet and moving of doors.
  - (8) Solid Waste Compactors Bid. Currently being advertised, bids are due November 2, and award is expected to be made November 7.
  - (9) Solid Waste Containers Bid. Currently being advertised, bids are due November 2, and award is expected to be made November 7.
  - (10) Solid Waste Transportation & Disposal. Bids were received August 22 and award was made this evening to Waste Away Group, with anticipating start date of November 1.
  - (11) Library. On time, on budget and on target.

- (12) SPLOST Continuation. Second meeting with municipalities took place October 16, revised allocations were emailed today, and County Attorney can begin working on the intergovernmental agreements with the municipalities.
  - (13) Fee Schedules. Board took action tonight to approve the fee schedules, with a slight wording clarification regarding the \$250 charge by EMS.
  - (14) Ellerslie Park. In response to a question from Commissioner Woods, Mr. Dowling said that Public Works is to construct the gravel road as time permits.
  - (15) Tennis Courts. In response to a question from Commissioner Woods, Mr. Dowling said that the bid is being prepared for the resurfacing of the tennis courts at Pate Park and is expected to be released soon.
- C. **Employee Health Fair and Blood Drive**. Randy Dowling, County Manager, reminded all of the employee health fair and blood drive taking place tomorrow at the Community Center.

## 6. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

- A. **Agreement: Traylor Business Services (Personal Property Verification)**. John Taylor, County Attorney, reviewed and discussed the agreement for personal property verification, said that it was the same document as in years past, and that he recommended approval of same. Following discussion, the motion to approve this agreement was made by Commissioner Chewning, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #17-38.)
- B. **Agreement: CJT Software, Inc., for Probate Court**. John Taylor, County Attorney, reviewed and discussed the agreement for traffic case management software for Probate Court, said that most of the Probate Courts in Georgia use that particular type of software, and that he recommended approval of same. The motion to approve this agreement was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Langston. Commissioner Chewning tabled action due to concerns about the cost of the software, capability of the computers, and how it will affect the budget.
- C. **Resolution: Community Center Indebtedness Bond Refinancing**. John Taylor, County Attorney, said that this document is to authorize the refinancing of the Community Center Bond indebtedness and that by doing so, it will convert the bond General Obligation debt for which SPLOST proceeds can be used to pay for same. Bryan Huskey, with Stifel, further explained that seven financial institutions bid on the bond, that JP Morgan had the lowest interest rate at 2.09%; that by refinancing, it will generate cash flow savings; and that payments have been reduced by two years, from 2030 to 2028. Mr. Taylor said that the Public Improvements Authority has approved the resolution; that the bond validation is scheduled for Thursday; that it will be advertised for two weeks; and that it is anticipated to closed on November 9. The motion to approve the Resolution was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.
- D. **Intergovernmental Agreement w/Development Authority, Project & Lease Agreements of Development & Hart Steel, and Warranty Deed to Development Authority**. John Taylor, County Attorney, said that these documents are regarding the location of Hart Steel, Inc., in Hamilton Business Park; that in order for the Development Authority to enter into Project Agreement and Lease Agreement with Hart Steel, the Board must enter into an agreement with the Development Authority as well as execute the Warranty Deed for the three acres on which Hart Steel anticipates constructing a building; that Hart Steel will lease the property for three years, after which they can purchase the property for \$5,000 an acre; that if the lease is assigned or the property sold within one year after being deeded to Hart Steel then Hart Steel will reimburse the County for the cost of the site preparation; and that if construction has not started within one year, the lease will be null and void. Following discussion, the motion to approve the documents was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously. (Agreement, which includes the Project and Lease agreements, can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #17-39, and the Warranty Deed can be found in "Miscellaneous Documents" as MD# 17-09.)

7. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Chairman Lange made the motion, at 8:34 PM, to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel and real estate acquisition or disposition. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Langston and passed unanimously.
8. **RESUME REGULAR SESSION.** The motion to go back into Regular Session was made by Commissioner Chewning, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.
9. **OTHER**
  - A. **Voter Registrar Salary Increase & Budget Amendment #8.** The motion to approve a 5% increase for the Voter Registrar due to an increase in mandated election duties by the State, to be effective the next pay period (which begins October 22), was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously. (The salary increase will result in Budget Amendment #8.)
10. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Chewning, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.

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J. Harry Lange, Chairman

Attest:

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Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk