

HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
December 16, 2008
7:00 PM

Commissioners Present: J. Harry Lange, Charles Wyatt, Joey M. Loudermilk, Joe F. Manning, Patrick Whearley. Staff Present: Daniel B. Bridges, County Manager; John M. Taylor, County Attorney, Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk.

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chairman Lange called the Regular Session to order.
2. **MINUTES**
 - A. **Regular Session of December 2, 2008.** The motion to approve the minutes of the December 2 Regular Session was made by Commissioner Manning, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed with four in favor (Manning, Wyatt, Lange, Whearley), no opposition, and one abstention (Loudermilk - not in attendance).
 - B. **Called Session of December 9, 2008.** The motion to approve the minutes of the December 9 Called Session was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.
3. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **Radio System.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that the Board had been asked to review the radio system upgrade information; that the recommendation was to go with Option #2-A at a cost of \$119,250; that payment for same would be made during the next budget; and he asked the Board for its decision. There was discussion regarding reprogramming of radios, particularly the emergency (public safety) radios, with the consensus that Mr. Bridges is to let the Board know what radios are to be reprogrammed (in about 6 to 8 months). The motion to approve Option #2-A was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Manning, and passed unanimously.
 - B. **VFD Training Facility.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, reminded the Board that the funds are in place for the VFD Training Facility (\$110,000 County appropriate funds, \$30,000 VFD funds, \$10,000 current County budget), but that a decision is needed regarding the location of the structure and it has been recommended that same be located behind the new Hamilton VFD Station (located on Georgia Highway 116 on County property) because of water and sewer/septic availability at the Station. The motion to approve the location of the VFD Training Facility behind the new Hamilton VFD Station was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Whearley, and passed unanimously.
 - C. **Water Lines: Lickskillet Road (from Blanton Creek Park to Highway 103) and Calhoun Road.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that the Board had been asked to review the cost estimates provided by Jeff Culpepper, Water Works Director, concerning the two water lines; that there have been several requests from citizens on those roads for same; and that the work could be done by Water Works personnel because of the slow-down in normal work loads. The motion to approve the water lines for Lickskillet Road (approximate expenses of \$45,000) and Calhoun Road (approximate expenses of \$100,000) was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.
4. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **FY 07/08 Audit.** Jay Pease, of Robinson, Grimes & Co., was in attendance and reviewed the 07/08 audit and responded to questions from the BOC. Following discussion, the motion to approve the Audit for FYE June 30, 2008, was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.
 - B. **Driveways on Railroad Right of Way.** Commissioner Wyatt said that he has received phone calls from individuals concerning the upgrade of their driveways (mainly removing the "hump" caused by the rail line), which cross the railroad right of way the County recently acquired, once the ties and rails are removed and from individuals who currently share a driveway but want to have separate driveways. Discussion included that once the ties and rails are up, the company doing so will pack down the ballast, which will reduce the height of some of the driveways, and to smooth out any areas; that any upgrades would be borne by the property owners; and that anyone wishing to put in a new driveway would bear the cost for same. Following discussion, John Taylor, County Attorney, was directed to draft a document

regarding requirements concerning improvements/upgrades to include meeting all County and State regulations regarding same. Claudia Hodge, citizen who lives at 3859 Highway 27 (across from Billy's IGA), asked to speak and was granted permission by the Board. Ms. Hodge said that she was concerned about the improvement of her driveway because of the large hump where it crosses the rail line.

B. **Not On Digest (NOD)**. Chairman Lange said that one NOD had been received, as follows: Walton, Robert J. - Digest total of zero has been changed to \$10,243 for the purpose of adding the mobile home to the pre-bill mobile home digest. The motion to approve this NOD was made by Commissioner Manning, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.

C. **Error & Release Requests**. Chairman Lange read the Error & Release requests, as follows:

- (1) Cornerstone Baptist Church: Digest total of \$43,354 corrected to zero (exempt church property)
- (2) Davis, Elaine R. (060-008): Digest total of \$74,200 corrected to \$76,140 (combined with another parcel)
- (3) Davis, Elaine R. (060-008B): Digest total of \$3,314 corrected to zero (combined with previous parcel)
- (4) Grant, Douglas M., et al: Digest total of \$80,107 corrected to \$73,102 (house transferred to correct parcel - see #9 below)
- (5) Hamilton Baptist Church: Digest total of \$6,750 corrected to zero (exempt church property)
- (6) Jacob's Qwik Stop: Digest total of \$15,354 corrected to zero (duplicate account)
- (7) Lucas, Mattie L.: Digest total of \$18,101 corrected to \$10,701 (data correction - concerning NOD of Walton)
- (8) Mark Alexander Builder: Digest total of \$87,228 corrected to \$55,660 (duplicate equipment listed)
- (9) Rexrode, Patricia Grant: Digest total of \$17,986 corrected to \$24,991 (house transferred from wrong parcel - see #4 above)
- (10) Walker, Henry L.: Digest total of \$23,945 corrected to \$25,760 (house and four accessory improvements transferred from wrong parcel - see #11 below)
- (11) Walker, Henry L.: Digest total of \$34,839 corrected to \$33,024 (house and four accessory improvements transferred to correct parcel - see #10 above)
- (12) Wood, Karen & Dean: Digest total of \$7,990 corrected to zero (duplicate account)

The motion to approve all 12 of the Error & Release requests was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Whearley, and passed unanimously.

5. **COUNTY MANAGER**

A. **Bid Award: 18 Roads**. Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that two bids were received for work, mainly resurfacing, to be done to 18 County roads, as follows:

Description	CW Matthews Contracting Marietta, GA	Southern Asphalt Columbus, GA
Resurfacing 18 Roads (1.5")	\$ 383,279.05	\$ 400,991.80
Hart Road (2" & Petromat)	\$ 9,603.58	\$ 4,460.08
David Road	\$ 70,360.64	\$ 74,466.16
Striping	\$ 33,740.00	\$ 33,740.00
Tack	\$ 8,082.00	\$ 20,205.00
Stop Bars (on 17 roads)	\$ 2,856.00	\$ 2,856.00
TOTAL	\$ 507,921.27	\$ 536,719.04

Mr. Bridges said that the recommendation is to award the bid to the lowest bidder, that the funds will come from SPLOST, and that the project is to be completed by May 15, 2009. The motion to award the bid to C. W. Matthews for the low bid of \$507,921.27 was made by Commissioner Whearley, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.

B. **Bid Award: Health Department Renovation and Addition (CDBG Project)**. Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that bids were received regarding the renovation of and addition to the Health Department, as follows:

BIDDER	Bid Total
Carlisle Services, Pine Mountain, GA	\$ 379,936.50

Jones, Ethridge & Tomlinson, LaGrange, GA	\$	408,500.00
River City Construction, Midland, GA	\$	346,521.00
Weber Construction, Buena Vista, GA	\$	431,777.00

Mr. Bridges said that the architect, Sam Andras, had recommended the bid be awarded to River City Construction. The motion to award the bid to River City Construction for the low bid of \$346,521 was made by Commissioner Manning, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously. The contract regarding this project will be presented to the Board during its January 6 meeting for approval because of necessary changes.

- C. **Shotgun Team of 4-H and High School.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that the 4-H and High School Shotgun Team had been using the gun club at Callaway Gardens for shooting practice; that the gun club has been closed; that the team would like to use County property located on Lower Blue Springs Road that is about 20 acres and was formerly a landfill; and that John Taylor, County Attorney, would draft the appropriate document regarding same. There were no objections from the Board, and the agreement will be brought back to the Board for approval at a later date.
- D. **Airport Capital Improvements Plan.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that WK Dickson, the County's airport consultant, had prepared a five-year capital improvements plan (CIP) for the airport and that same had to be submitted to the State. He suggested minor changes to the CIP, as follows: move Taxiway Relocation from 2010 to 2011, move 500' Runway Extension from 2012 to 2014, move Construction of (second) 10-Unit T-Hangar from 2013 to 2012, and move Safety/Security Fencing from 2014 to 2013. Following a brief discussion, the motion to approve the CIP with the suggested changes was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Manning, and passed unanimously.
- E. **Public Hearings Scheduled for 9-1-1 Fee Increase and VoIP Fee Implementation.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that two public hearings will be held during the January 6 meeting concerning the increase of the 9-1-1 cell phone fee from \$1.00 to \$1.50 and the charging of a 9-1-1 fee of \$1.50 for internet phone services; that both fees are allow by State law; and that the fees are for the maintenance and operation of the 9-1-1 equipment.
- F. **Sign Ordinance Amendment.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that there has been some discussion about amending the ordinance regarding signs that are changed by remote control to be changed a certain number of times a day, which would continue the prohibition of scrolling message signs that can be distracting to drivers. Discussion included that such signs should be limited to changing three times a day. Following discussion, John Taylor, County Attorney, was directed to draft an amendment to allow such signs to be changed once every eight hours.

6. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

- A. **Rail Line Property Swap: Quit Claim.** John Taylor, County Attorney, said there was a brief discussion during the December 9 called meeting concerning the rail line as it goes over the mountain whereby it may not lie within the right of way the County recently acquired from the railroad, but that a closer search of deed records had been conducted and showed the right of way is correct, but that the rail line itself is not in the right of way; and that the problem can be remedied by the execution of a Quit Claim Deed. Following discussion, the motion to execute the Quit Claim Deed, once it is prepared, was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.
- B. **Request for Executive Session.** John Taylor, County Attorney, requested an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter.

7. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.** The motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter was made at 8:06 PM by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.

8. **RESUME REGULAR SESSION.** The motion to go back into Regular Session was made by Chairman Lange, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.

9. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Manning, and passed unanimously.

J. Harry Lange, Chairman

Attest:

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk