

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION**

June 15, 2010

7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present: J. Harry Lange, Joey M. Loudermilk, Joe Manning, Patrick Whearley, Charles Wyatt. Staff Present: Daniel B. Bridges, County Manager; Jeff Todd, Acting County Attorney in the absence of John Taylor; 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 June 1, 2010, Regular Session was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed with four in favor (Loudermilk, Wyatt, Lange, Manning), no opposition, and one abstention (Whearley, due to his absence from the June 1 meeting).
3. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Reappointment: Department of Family and Children Services (DFACS).** Chairman Lange said that DFACS has requested that Rita Farless, whose term expires June 30, be reappointed to another five-year term, and that Mrs. Farless has consented to reappointment should the Board desire to do so. The motion to reappoint Mrs. Farless to another term (July 1, 2010, to June 30, 2015) was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.
 - B. **Financial Statement: April 2010.** The motion to approve the April 2010 Financial Statement was made by Chairman Lange, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.
 - C. **Request for Tax Refund: Snider, Patricia.** Chairman Lange said that a request had been made for a refund of \$191.43 because the boat was sold in January 2009 and the owner failed to contact the Tax Assessor's office regarding same. He said that both the Tax Commissioner and the Board of Tax Assessors disagree with the request. After a brief discussion, the motion to disapprove the request was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Whearley, and passed unanimously.
4. **COUNTY MANAGER**
 - A. **Bid Award: Mower for Recreation.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that bids had been received for a zero turn radius mower for Recreation, as follows:

COMPANY	MAKE/MODEL	BID AMOUNT
Columbus Outdoor Equipment, Columbus, GA	Grasshopper 226V/61	\$ 5,970
Hamilton Equipment, Columbus, GA	SCAG STC61V-27CV	\$ 7,549
Melson Tractor, Opelika, AL	Hustler Fastrak	\$ 6,227
	Hustler Z	\$ 8,395
	Kubota ZG 327-60	not provided
SunSouth, LaGrange, GA	John Deere Z720	\$ 7,400
	John Deere Z920	\$ 8,300

Mr. Bridges said that John Magazu, Recreation Direction, recommends that the bid be awarded to Columbus Outdoor Equipment for the low bid of \$5,970. He also said that the bid amount is within the amount budgeted for FY 10/11. After a brief discussion, the motion to award the bid to Columbus Outdoor Equipment for the bid of \$5,970 was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.

- B. **Agreement: DOT R/W on Mehaffey Road (CR 340) [S012721-PR].** Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that this agreement is regarding the section of Mehaffey Road that is owned and maintained by DOT; that DOT has agreed to pave the road and turn same over to the County to maintain; and that the Board

had previously agreed to do so. He said that the County Attorney will have to certify the right of way for DOT. The motion to approve this agreement was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Whearley, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #10-15.)

- C. **Budget Amendment #3 (FY 09/10)**. Danny Bridges, County Manager, reviewed the budget amendments for FY 09/10. The motion to approve the amendments was made by Chairman Lange, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.

- D. **Agreement: Georgia Forestry Commission re Forestland Assessment Fee**. Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that the info on this agreement was distributed during the June 1 meeting; that it increases the forestland assessment from .04¢ to .10¢, and that it is based on the commercial private forest acres in the County, so it does not include the State Park property nor any development/subdivision in property zoned agricultural. Following a brief discussion, the motion to approve this agreement was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed with four in favor (Wyatt, Loudermilk, Lange, Whearley) and one opposed (Manning). (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #10-16.)

- E. **Ordinance: Flood Damage**. This draft ordinance was provided for the Board to review prior to the first reading on July 6 and the second reading and scheduled adoption on July 20. There was a brief discussion which included that the Ordinance is the result of changes made to the flood maps based on recent LOMAs (Letters of Map Amendment) approved by FEMA. The Board was advised that drafts of the revised maps and copies of the LOMAs were available for review in the Commissioners' Office.

- F. **Addition of Road to Current Paving Contract with Southern Asphalt**. Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that it is being recommended to add Pear Circle to the current agreement with Southern Asphalt so that it can be paved at the same time another road in Pine Lake Subdivision is being paved; that Southern Asphalt will also have to agree to the addition; and that the estimated cost for same is approximately \$14,000. The motion to approve the addition of Pear Circle to the current paving contract with Southern Asphalt was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Whearley and passed unanimously.

5. **PUBLIC MEETING @ 7:15 PM**

- A. **Hazard Mitigation Public Meeting and Adoption Resolution**. Chairman Lange called the public meeting to order and said that this was the second Public Meeting (the first having been held in 2007), regarding the Hazard Mitigation Plan, which is required as a result of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, and must be adopted in order for the County to be eligible for future disaster funds. Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that the County entered into a contract in 2006 with a company to write this plan at a cost of \$12,500, and that the funds for same came from FEMA. Chairman Lange asked Monty Davis, EMA/911 Director, for comments. Mr. Davis said that this Plan is something that the County must adopt if we are to be eligible for FEMA funds in connection with any possible future disaster. Chairman Lange asked if anyone in attendance wished to speak in favor of or in opposition to this Plan. There being none, he closed the Public Meeting and asked for a motion regarding the Adoption Resolution. The motion to approve the Adoption Resolution was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed with four in favor (Wyatt, Loudermilk, Lange, Whearley) and one opposed (Manning). (Hazard Mitigation Plan can be found in "Miscellaneous Documents" file as MD #10-03.)

6. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**.

- A. **Agreement with Georgia Department of Corrections: Inmate Care and**

Custody of State Inmates. Jeff Todd, acting as County Attorney in the absence of John Taylor, said that this Agreement appears to be the usual annual agreement regarding the care and custody of State inmates at the Prison, and that he recommended approval of same. The motion to approve this agreement was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Manning, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #10-17.)

- B. **Agreements with New Horizons: Mental Health Center and Harris-Talbot Service Center (both in lieu of rent).** Jeff Todd, acting as County Attorney in the absence of John Taylor, said that these two agreements were for \$500 each, for a total of \$1,000 a month in lieu of rent, from New Horizons; that the Agreements appear to be the usual annual agreements; and that he recommended approval of same. The motion to approve both agreements was made by Commissioner Manning, seconded by Commissioner Whearley, and passed unanimously. (Documents can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #10-18 for the Mental Health Center and as C&A #10-19 for the Service Center.)

7. **OTHER**

- A. **Agreement: County Manager Second Amendment and Resolution.** Chairman Lange said that during the June 1 meeting, the Board voted to extend the employment term of Danny Bridges, County Manager, one year to January 15, 2013; that such action requires an amendment to the agreement as well as a Resolution; and that both documents were before the Board for action. The motion to approve both the amendment to the agreement and the Resolution regarding same was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously. (Agreement Amendment can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #10-20.)
- B. **Little League Accomplishments.** Commissioner Whearley said that during the recent Little League playoffs Harris County had four teams in the competition; that two teams won, one team lost, and the other team is playing this evening. Commissioner Loudermilk suggested that a Resolution be drafted regarding the accomplishments of the teams, and Commissioner Whearley is to provide the appropriate information for same to the County Clerk, who will prepare the document.

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

- A. **Explanation of Public Hearing Procedures.** Chairman Lange explained the procedures involved with the Public Hearing.
- B. **Application of Harris County Board of Commissioners for a Special Use Permit for the Community Center (Public Building/Government Use, Matrix #121); 23.75 acres zoned A-1 on Georgia Highway 116 at Lower Blue Springs Road, Hamilton.** Chairman Lange called the Public Hearing to order, read the specifics of the application, and asked Danny Bridges, County Manager, for comments. Mr. Bridges said that the Zoning Ordinance requires a Special Use Permit for any public buildings and government uses not specifically listed in the Zoning matrix for any zoned property; that the subject property is zoned A-1 and is centrally located in the County; that even though the posting of a sign is not required for Special Use Permits, a sign was posted on the subject property so that citizens would be aware of this Public Hearing and the proposed use of the property; that the County is planning to locate its Community Center, which is planned to contain a competition pool, several multi-use rooms, and basketball/volleyball courts, on the property; and that the proposed new library, as well as other future public/government building, may also be located on the property. Chairman Lange asked if anyone wished in speak in favor of this application.

Chris Butzon, citizen and member of St. Nicholas Episcopal Church, which is adjacent to the subject property, appeared before the Board and said, speaking as a citizen, that the planned Community Center appears to be something that

will be beneficial to the citizens of the County and he is pleased to see that the Board is looking at the future needs of its citizens and that the funds for the Community Center will not come from County general funds, but from SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax).

There being no further comments in favor, Chairman Lange asked if anyone wished to speak in opposition. There being none, he asked for comments from the Board.

Commissioner Wyatt asked Mr. Butzon, if the church would like to have a trail leading from its property to the proposed building, and Mr. Butzon said, speaking as a member of the church, that he did not believe the church would like such a trail, but that the church would like to have input regarding the final layout of the property. Mr. Bridges said that anyone could comment on the layout of the property, but that plans are to move as little dirt as possible and to plan the buildings in a manner that is conducive to the lay of the land and feasible to the County.

There being no further comments, Chairman Lange closed the Public Hearing and asked for a motion. The motion to approve the Special Use Permit application was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Whearley, and passed unanimously.

9. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**. At 7:42 PM, Chairman Lange made the motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter and real estate acquisition. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Whearley, and passed unanimously.
10. **RESUME REGULAR SESSION**. The motion to resume the Regular Session was made by Chairman Lange, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.
11. **ADJOURNMENT**. There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.

J. Harry Lange, Chairman

Attest:

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk