

HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
January 16, 2007
7:00 PM

Board Members Present: Daniel B. Bridges, J. Harry Lange, Joe F. Manning, Patrick Whearley, Charles Wyatt. Staff Present: Carol A. Silva, County Manager; John M. Taylor, County Attorney; Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**. Chairman Bridges called the Regular Session to order.
2. **MINUTES**. The motion to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2007 Regular Session with the proposed change was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.
3. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **Solid Waste Management Plan Update**. Carol Silva, County Manager, said that, as directed, she contacted Allen-Smith Consulting to see if they could perform the update, but they can't; that she also contacted Carter & Sloope Engineering Consultants and GEC regarding the update, but they can't do it either; and that it looks like the RDC is the County's only choice. The motion to approve the agreement for the Regional Development Center to perform the County's Solid Waste Management Plan Update, which is due by June 30, 2007, was made by Commissioner Manning, seconded by Commissioner Lange, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #07-03.)
 - B. **Insolvents List**. Carol Silva, County Manager, said that the Tax Commissioner's staff had researched the names on the list which were of concern to the Board, and that those, in addition to the other names on the list, cannot be collected from. The motion to approve the insolvent list of 33 names was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Lange, and passed unanimously.
 - C. **Radio Communication Upgrade**. Carol Silva, County Manager, said that this was discussed several meetings ago; that the cost for radio communication improvements in the West Point area will be \$6,587.08 and includes reprogramming 10 radios which are for the deputies who patrol in that area; that First Communications feels this will solve the problem with non-communication in the area. Chairman Bridges said that if it works out we can look at programming additional radios because the cost is \$25 per radio, but that he understands if it doesn't work, the County doesn't have to pay the cost. The motion to approve the upgrading was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Commissioner Whearley, and passed unanimously.
4. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **SPLOST 2007 List**. Chairman Bridges asked if there were comments and questions regarding the proposed SPLOST list for 2007. There being none, the motion to approve the list as presented was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.
5. **COUNTY MANAGER**
 - A. **Bid Award: Prison Roof**. Carol Silva, County Manager, said that bids had been requested for the purpose of repairing the Prison Roof; that the roof is leaking so much that inmates have to be relocated; and that only one bid was received from Columbus Roofing in the amount of \$35,105. The motion to award the bid to Columbus Roofing for the bid of \$35,105 was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Lange, and passed unanimously.
 - B. **Bid Status: 911 Building Addition**. Carol Silva, County Manger, said that bids were requested for an addition to the 911/Emergency Services building; that no bids were received; and that upon being contacted, three companies indicated that the holidays interfered with obtaining prices from building manufacturers; and that while one company indicated there were issues with the bonds, three did not. She advised the Board that the project would be re-bid. There were no objections.
 - C. **CDBG Project**. Carol Silva, County Manager, said that this was discussed during the preceding Work Session for the County to proceed with an application regarding the Health

Department since we know what was wrong with the previous application; and that a motion is needed in order for the RDC to proceed with the application process. The motion to approve making application for a grant for the expansion of the Health Department and for the RDC to proceed with same was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Whearley, and passed unanimously.

- D. **Melody Lakes Fire Truck**. Carol Silva, County Manager, said that this matter was to have been included in the past budget process, but was overlooked; that Melody Lakes VFD has requested a fire truck; that a new truck will cost around \$180,000; and that it is recommended that \$90,000 be included in the current budget and the other \$90,000 be included in the upcoming budget. Chairman Bridges made the motion to go out on bid for the truck, take half of the cost from the current year's budget and the other half from next year's budget. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wyatt. There was discussion regarding the budget process, but the motion passed unanimously.
- E. **EMA/911 Truck**. Carol Silva, County Manager, said that during the past year, Monty Davis, EMA/911 Director, was frequently absent; that during those absences, the Assistant Director must respond to EMA/911 emergencies; that a vehicle is needed for that purpose; that there are several vehicles available which could be used for such a purpose: (1) 1994 truck formerly assigned to Building Inspection; (2) a confiscated 1997 Ford F150 that needs some repairs; and (3) the 1986 Blazer formerly assigned to the Tax Assessor's office. Following discussion, the motion to approve using the 1994 truck only as needed for EMA/911 emergencies was made by Commissioner Whearley, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed three in favor (Whearley, Wyatt, Lange), one opposed (Bridges), and one abstention (Manning).
- F. **Tax Assessor Issues: Furniture and ArcEditor**. Carol Silva, County Manager, said that when the Tax Assessor's Office moved into the new section of the Courthouse several years ago, new furniture was not ordered; and that the office has taken in over \$30,000 in conservation breaches. Chairman Bridges said that he visited the Tax Assessor's Office today and is comfortable with the request. He asked Wayne Morris, Tax Assessor, to explain more. Mr. Morris said that the furniture needs includes partitions between the desks to give employees and citizens who may be answering questions, some privacy; that the ArcEditor will save the County money by allowing his office to do the property "splits" in the office rather than having them done by the RDC; that his office has also taken in more than \$6,000 in map sales and \$31,000 from utilities; and that there is enough to cover not only the furniture from Overby's (at \$13,846.20) and the ArcEditor (at \$3,014.76), but also the maintenance of the x-ray scanner (discussed during the preceding Work Session). The motion to approve the furniture purchase from Overby and the ArcEditor software was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.

6. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

- A. **Resolution: Acceptance fo Wood Duck Court (Boyd Branch Subdivision)**. John Taylor, County Attorney, said that the appropriate documents have been submitted; that all are in order; and he recommended the approval of the Resolution. The motion to approve the Resolution to accept Wood Duck Court was made by Chairman Bridges, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.
- B. **Request for Executive Session**. John Taylor, County Attorney, requested an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues and threatened, pending or potential litigation.

7. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**. The motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues and threatened, pending or potential litigation was made at 7:30 PM by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.

8. **RESUME REGULAR SESSION**. The motion to resume the Regular Session was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Lange, and passed unanimously.

9. **OTHER**

- A. **Personnel Change: Administrative Office**. Carol Silva, County Manager, said that a motion and vote are needed in order to change Nancy McMichael's title from County Clerk and Administrative Assistant to Assistant County Manager and County Clerk with an increase from \$44,158 to \$49,000, and that the position stays in the personnel plan. The motion to approve same was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Lange, and passed unanimously.

- B. **Hamilton Business Park.** Commissioner Wyatt said that there are a couple of businesses interested in locating in the Hamilton Business Park and that he would like Carol Silva, County Manager, to proceed with the rezoning of all that business park property to C-4. There were no objections to proceeding with the rezoning process.
- C. **Dollar General.** Chairman Bridges said that he had received a letter from the developer of Dollar General properties regarding the property in Cataula. Discussion included that the letter quotes a price subject to the developer securing a contract with Dollar General; that if a metal building is used, the County will require some type of masonry or architectural block on the two sides facing the two public roads; and that the sign for the Methodist church currently in place must remain; and that the property needs to be maintained in a neat and orderly manner so that it doesn't become an eyesore like other Dollar General locations. Mr. Taylor said all that could be included in the contract. He then described the process, which would include a contract between the developer and the Development Authority, contingent upon the developer having a lease with Dollar General; an intergovernmental agreement between the Commissioners and the Development Authority to convey the property to the Development Authority for the specific use, subject to the contract; after which the Development Authority will sell the property for the price specified in the agreement; and that the agreement will include how and what the Development Authority can do with the money, subject to the Commissioners' approval. He will contact the developer's attorney regarding the transaction. He then discussed various problems that could arise depending on the manner in which the property is conveyed.
- D. **Employee Holiday.** Commissioner Whearley said that he would like for employees to have their birthdays off. Carol Silva, County Manager, said that the Department Heads are in favor of this additional benefit because they discussed it during their most recent monthly meeting. Commissioner Whearley then made the motion to add birthday as an additional holiday for employees and to amend the Personnel Policy to reflect same. Commissioner Wyatt seconded the motion, and said that it should be retro-active back to January 1. Following discussion, consensus was that it not be retro-active back to January 1, and Commissioner Whearley said that the change would be effective today. The motion passed unanimously. (The amended Personnel Policy will be brought back to the Board for approval at a future date.)
- E. **Purchase of Ford Expedition.** Commissioner Wyatt made the motion to purchase a Ford Expedition at a cost of \$25,054 for Building Inspection with funds coming from Contingency. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lange and tabled by Commissioner Manning.
10. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Commissioner Whearley, and passed unanimously.

Daniel B. Bridges, Chairman

Attest:

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk