

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR SESSION**  
January 15, 2008  
7:00 PM

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER**. Chairman Bridges called the Regular Session to order.
2. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**. The motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters was made at 7:01 PM by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.
3. **RESUME REGULAR SESSION**. The motion to go back into Regular Session was made at 7:12 PM by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Lange, and passed unanimously.
4. **ANNOUNCEMENT**. Commissioner Lange, in the form of a motion, announced that Daniel B. Bridges is and be selected as the finalist in the Board's search for a County Manager, and that the County Manager will be chosen at a public meeting no sooner than 14 days from today. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wyatt and passed with four in favor (Lange, Wyatt, Manning, Whearley, no opposition, and one abstention (Bridges)).
5. **MINUTES**. The motion to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2008, Regular Session was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Lange, and passed unanimously.
6. **ORGANIZATION OF COMMISSION**.
  - A. **Election of Chairman**. Commissioner Wyatt nominated Commissioner Lange as Chairman. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Manning and passed with four in favor (Wyatt, Manning, Lange, Whearley), no opposition, and one abstention (Bridges).
  - B. **Election of Vice-Chairman**. Commissioner Whearley nominated Commissioner Wyatt as Vice-Chairman. The motion was seconded by Chairman Lange and passed with four in favor (Whearley, Lange, Manning, Wyatt), no opposition, and one abstention (Bridges).
  - C. **Appointment of County Attorney and County Clerk**. The nomination to reappoint John M. Taylor as County Attorney and Nancy D. McMichael as County Clerk, was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Whearley, and passed with four in favor (Wyatt, Whearley, Lange, Manning), no opposition, and one abstention (Bridges).
7. **OLD BUSINESS**.
  - A. **Rezoning and Special Use Permit Schedules for 2008**. Chairman Lange said that during the January 2 meeting, only the first line of each schedule had been approved pending date corrections and that a motion is needed to approve the complete schedules at this time. The motion to approve both the Rezoning and the Special Use Permit schedules was made by Commissioner Manning, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.
8. **NEW BUSINESS**.
  - A. **Volunteer Fire Department Issues**.
    - (1) **Radio Proposal**. Jack McClung, newly elected Chairman of the Council of Fire Chiefs, appeared before the Board to explain the radio proposal the CFC had requested from Dean's Commercial Two-Way. Chief McClung said the proposal was to install and maintain two VHF repeaters linked to the main fire repeater (on the mountain) which would allow three VFDs to have good radio coverage in the west and southwest portions of the County; that the coverage is guaranteed by Dean Ginn, owner; that there would be a cost of \$1,200 to \$1,500 for an FCC license, and a 24-month lease at a cost of \$300 per site, or \$600 per month. Discussion included that the two additional frequencies would have to be programmed into the radios, at this time estimated to be 200, at an estimated cost of \$25 per radio; that obtaining the FCC license could take three to six months; and that no other company was asked for a proposal. Consensus was that because the FCC license would take so long, the costs could probably be included in the upcoming 08/09 budget, and that the exact number of radios could be determined at that time. The motion to approve going forward with the FCC licensing process

was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Bridges, and passed unanimously.

- (2) **Budget Items.** Jack McClung, newly elected Chief of the Council of Fire Chiefs (CFC), appeared before the Board to discuss the possibility of combining the budgeted \$75,000 for PPEs and SCBAs with the budgeted \$25,000 for thermal imagers. Chief McClung said that the VFDs want clarification regarding how the funds could be spent and the procedures regarding same. Commissioner Bridges said that the idea was to see what each VFD needed and to purchase those items. Discussion included that while the VFDs would like to order, pay and be reimbursed for items, the County has to follow the bid process; that three VFDs have specific SCBAs for which there are only two providers and which cannot be integrated with other SCBAs; that the CFC should provide a list of the needs of each VFD so that the County can request bids; and that to avoid future problems, the CFC needs to discuss uniformity among the different departments in equipment so that everyone is familiar with the same equipment. The motion to approve combining the \$75,000 and the \$25,000 for the needed equipment was made by Commissioner Bridges, seconded by Commissioner Whearley, and passed unanimously.

- B. **Bid Award: Ambulance Remount.** David McCall, EMS Chief, appeared before the Board and said that bid requests were sent to four companies for the remount of a 1994 International McCoy Miller module to 2008 4300 LP International Chassis; and that two companies responded, as follows:

	Fire Fighting Innovations Peachtree City, GA (local)		Peach State Ambulance Tyrone, GA (local)	
Chassis	\$	68,684	\$	68,634
Remount	\$	67,680	\$	37,100
Subtotal	\$	136,364	\$	105,734
Options		\$ (3,000)	Power windows/doors, Motorized Mirror Heads, Bendix AD-IP Air Dryer and DV-2 Moisture Ejector, Tailpipe Exits Streetside	\$ 1,210
BID	\$	133,364	\$	106,944

Chief McCall said that he would like the bid to be awarded to Peach State Ambulance for \$105,734 plus the \$1,210 options for a total of \$106,944. The motion to award the bid to Peach State for the bid of \$106,944 was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Manning, and passed unanimously.

- C. **Bid Award: Off-System Safety Project.** Nancy McMichael, County Clerk, said that bids had been received for the placement of striping, pavement marking, raised pavement markers and warning signs on 57.012 miles of County roads, as follows:

COMPANY	BID AMOUNT
Mid-State Striping, Macon, GA	\$ 140,092.50
Peek Pavement Marking, Columbus, GA	\$ 140,938.00

Mrs. McMichael said that the Mid-State's bid included "type 3" signs, while Peek Pavement's bid included "type 9" signs, and Jimmy Evans, Public Works Director, said that "type 9" is more reflective than "type 3", and that DOT has indicated the bid should be awarded to Mid-State Striping (funding for the project is through DOT). The motion to award the bid to Mid-State Striping for the low bid of \$140,092.50 was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Whearley, and passed unanimously.

- D. **Bid Award: Heavy Duty Commercial Washer & Dryer for Prison.** Nancy McMichael said that bids were received for a heavy duty commercial washer and dryer for the Prison; that bid requests were sent to four companies, but only one was received in time for the bid opening; that because the Prison has one washer down and another one leaking water, she had obtained approval from three Commissioners to go ahead and order the washer and the dryer; and that the vote tonight is to ratify the award of the bid to the single bidder, Tri-State Technical Services of Waycross, Georgia, and that the price for the washer is \$7,377, for the dryer is \$3,097, for the freight is \$430, for a total bid of \$10,904, which is \$404 over the amount budgeted, but that the Prison budget has enough funds to take care of the difference. The motion to award the bid to Tri-State Technical for the bid of \$10,904 was made by Commissioner Whearley, seconded by Commissioner Bridges, and passed unanimously.

- E. **Setting Qualifying Fees.** The motion to set the qualifying fees regarding county offices for the upcoming election was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Whearley, and passed unanimously. The fees for 2008 are:

Position	Base/Preceding Salary	Qualifying Fee
Chief Magistrate	\$ 49,721.70	\$ 1,492
Clerk of Superior Court	\$ 49,721.70	\$ 1,492
Commissioner	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 315
Probate Judge	\$ 49,721.70	\$ 1,492
School Board Member	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 72
Sheriff	\$ 59,328.83	\$ 1,780
Tax Commissioner	\$ 49,721.70	\$ 1,492

F. **Animal Control Committee.** Chairman Lange said that during the Work Session on January 2, there was discussion regarding having a committee to look at animal control issues, to get public input regarding same, and to come up with recommendations for the Board to consider, and that each member of the Board was to recommend an individual from their district to be on the committee. Consensus, following discussion, was that the specific issue for the committee to look at is a leash law, particularly in subdivisions. Regarding committee membership, Commissioner Manning recommended Steve Davis, Commissioner Whearley recommended Scot Hanley, and Commissioner Wyatt recommended Barbara Wyatt. There was a brief discussion regarding the nomination of Mrs. Wyatt with John Taylor, County Attorney, noting that there was nothing illegal about it because the committee is an ad hoc committee with no powers or authority. Commissioner Wyatt also recommended that Nancy McMichael, County Clerk, due to her familiarity with the current Animal Control Ordinance, head up the committee, and that Clyde Geter, III, Animal Control Officer, also be on the committee. There were no objections to any of the recommendations. Chairman Lange and Commissioner Bridges did not have recommendations, but will have such at the next meeting. Chairman Lange said that the individuals so named this evening would be on the committee, and that others would be added at the next meeting. The possibility of having one or two “at-large” positions will be discussed later.

G. **Error and Release Requests & NOD**

- (1) **Error & Release Requests.** Chairman Lange read the Error & Release requests as follows:
  - (a) Davis, Anita K.: Digest total of \$2,400 corrected to zero (billed to wrong owner).
  - (b) Strong, Jerry W. & Glenda T.: Digest total of \$800 corrected to zero (combined with another parcel)
- (2) **NOD.** Chairman Lange said that the NOD is for the Harris County Commissioners with a zero digest total corrected to \$2,400 [see number (1)(a) above] and he noted that this property is exempt from taxes because it is owned by the County.

The motion to approve the two Error & Release requests and the one NOD was made by Commissioner Bridges, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.

H. **Financial Statement: November 2007.** The motion to approve the financial statement for November 2007 was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Whearley, and passed unanimously.

I. **Library: Lights with Motion Detectors.** Nancy McMichael, County Clerk, reported that someone had broken into the Library last night (January 14), broke the back window, and went in only to disorganize records; that as far as she knew, nothing had been stolen; and that it is being requested that lights with motion detectors be installed in the rear of the building and inside at a cost of between \$300 and \$400. The motion to approve the lights with motion detectors, as requested, with the funds coming from Contingency was made by Commissioner Whearley, seconded by Commissioner Bridges, and passed unanimously.

J. **Hunting in FDR State Park Update.** Nancy McMichael, County Clerk, reminded the Board that this matter had been briefly discussed during the January 2 Regular Session and that there will be a public hearing on Thursday, January 17, at the Middle School. She said that she had been contacted by a representative of the Georgia DNR who wanted the Board to know there were individuals in favor of hunting on the park, and that as a result, as of 6:45 this evening, she had received 260 e-mails from hunters in favor of same. Chairman Lange said that Commissioner Wyatt and possibly Commissioner Whearley would be attending the public hearing and will give a report to the Board at the next meeting regarding same. There was discussion regarding the Board supporting whatever the Georgia DNR thinks is best, and consensus was to wait until the public hearing is held and the report to the Board is made at the next meeting.

- K. **Agreement: AT&T Cable Relocation on Monument Road over House Creek.** Nancy McMichael, County Clerk, said that AT&T had submitted an agreement regarding the relocation of telephone cable on Monument Road over House Creek and requesting payment of \$45,849.53 prior to proceeding with the project. Jimmy Evans, Public Works Director, said that DOT has already let the project and AT&T is waiting on the County. The motion to approve the agreement and the payment of \$5,849.53 was made by Commissioner Whearley, seconded by Commissioner Manning, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #08-02.)
- L. **Georgia Power Property Donation Documents: Harrisville Road.** Nancy McMichael, County Clerk, reminded the Board that in October 2007 it had approved an amendment to the lease with Georgia Power regarding property on Harrisville Road on which a Convenience Center is located and that the amendment was to increase the acreage to 1.97 acres for the purpose of locating a fire station on the same site. She said that the donation documents are to deed the 1.97 acres to the County. After a brief discussion during which John Taylor, County Attorney, reviewed the documents, the motion to approve the documents and accept the donation of the property was made by Commissioner Whearley, seconded by Commissioner Bridges, and passed unanimously. Commissioner Wyatt said that the plat shows an open well, and Jimmy Evans, Public Works Director, was asked to determine if the well was, in fact, open, and if so, to fill same. (Documents can be found in "Miscellaneous Documents" file as MD #08-04.)

9. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

- A. **First Reading: Ordinance to Establish and Create the Office of County Manager.** John Taylor, County Attorney, reviewed and explained the various parts of the Ordinance to include that the County Manager is an "at-will" employee of the Board; that a contract is required; that the County Manager must live in the County, will have the supervision of County policy matters, and is required to post a bond; and the duties and responsibilities of the position. Chairman Lange asked if anyone in attendance had any comments or questions regarding same. There being none, Chairman Lange said that the Second Reading with possible action would take place during the February 5 meeting. Nancy McMichael, County Clerk, asked if the job description for the County Manager should be amended to include the additional duties and responsibilities reflected in the Ordinance, and Chairman Lange said that the job description should be amended.
- B. **Resolution: Amend Local Rules of Order.** John Taylor, County Attorney, said that during the January 2 meeting, the Board discussed having the agenda approved prior to each regular meeting, and that he had prepared a Resolution regarding same for the Board to consider. He then reviewed the Resolution, which included the preparation of the agenda by the County Clerk, the approval of the agenda prior to each regular meeting, and the possible use of a consent agenda should the Board want to have same. Nancy McMichael, County Clerk, said that item #9 on the current Rules of Order reflects that Special Use Permit hearings are conducted at 10:00 AM, which is the time such hearings were held when the Board had day meetings, and should be corrected. The motion to approve this Resolution and to include the correction of the time regarding Special Use Permit hearings was made by Commissioner Manning, seconded by Commissioner Bridges, and passed unanimously. (In addition to the Resolution, the revised Rules of Order can be found in the "Miscellaneous Documents" file as MD #08-05.)

10. **OTHER**

- A. **Development Authority Training.** Commissioner Whearley asked if the members of the Development Authority had received the required training. Nancy McMichael, County Clerk, said that all members of the Development Authority have undergone the required training, with the exception of one member who will be attending the required training in May.
- B. **Development Authority Actions.** Commissioner Whearley asked how active is the Development Authority in bringing prospects to the business park. The response included the Development Authority is an extension of the County government, is allowed by Legislation to assist in economic development, can do things that a County government cannot do (buy and sell property without having to go through the bid process, issue industrial revenue bonds), is a financing vehicle regarding economic development; that while the Authority has been around for a while, it has only been the last couple of years that it has been active; that the Authority has not had any money to operate with, which is changing, and can't spend funds without the approval of the Board; that while it is not of matter of letting the Authority bring prospects to the business park, it is more of a matter of how many people are going to talk to any business, particularly regarding the Kia suppliers because there needed to be uniformity as to what was being told to the different companies; that the Authority has been kept informed as to what has

been going on with the business park property because when the time is appropriate, the Authority has to make the deal on the property; and that as far as bringing other prospects in now, the Authority is encouraged to do so and will soon have the funds and materials for such purpose, but that even when a prospect is brought it, there must be a single contact to avoid conflicting statements. Chairman Lange, who represents the Board on the Authority, said that the Authority needs to develop rules of protocol regarding what is done once prospects are brought to the table.

- C. **Economic Development Marketing Package and Video**. In response to a question from Commissioner Wyatt, Commissioner Bridges said that the marketing video will be shown at the annual Chamber of Commerce meeting on January 24, but that the stationery has not been printed. He said that if it were not for Lynda Dawson, we would not be where we are regarding the marketing and video.
11. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**. The motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing real estate acquisition and personnel matters was made at 8:17 PM by Chairman Lange, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.
12. **RESUME REGULAR SESSION**. The motion to go back into Regular Session was made by Chairman Lange, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.
13. **SPLOST**. Commissioner Bridges said that County's current SPLOST will expire in December, and the Board needs to discuss same so that the referendum can be on the ballot in November. He said that he and Nancy McMichael, County Clerk, will discuss what is needed and make suggestion, and that the requests from the cities have been received.
14. **ADJOURNMENT**. There being no further business, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Bridges, 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