

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION**

June 2, 2009

7:00 PM

Commissioners Present: J. Harry Lange, Charles Wyatt, Joey M. Loudermilk, Joe F. Manning.
Commissioner Absent: 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.** The motion to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2009, Regular Session was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Manning, and passed unanimously.
3. **APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS**
 - A. **Betty Lawrence: Water Works Bill/Issues.** Betty Lawrence was in attendance to discuss the water bill issues for 133 Terry Lane in Fortson. Ms. Lawrence said that no one has lived in the house since June; that she turned off the water at the meter in August; that she did not have the service terminated; that she pays her water bill on time; that she turns the water back on when she is at the house; that the September 08 bill of \$362.68 is not possible because she could not have used that much water (73,300 gallons); that two plumbers have checked her line and have found no leaks; that she has no outside faucet; that for anyone to use her water, they would have had to break into the house to use the faucets; that her neighbors keep an eye on the house and let her know if anything occurs; and that she has talked to the Water Department, but is told there is nothing wrong with the meter. Following a brief discussion, consensus was to table this matter until the June 16 meeting and to have Jeff Culpepper, Water Works Director, at that meeting.
4. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **Appointment to Family & Children Services.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, asked that this be tabled to the June 16 meeting so that the individual interested in the appointment, who lives in the Ellerslie/Waverly Hall area, can have a chance to review what this appointment will entail. There were no objections to tabling this appointment until June 16.
 - B. **Decision re: Application of Davis Broadcasting for Special Use Permit for Radio Tower Structure on 50.169 acres of Parcel 0103, Map 100, LD 17, LL 196, zoning district A-1, current use agricultural; property owned by MeadWestvaco and located on west side of the Talbot County line and just north of Muscogee County.** Chairman Lange said that the Public Hearing had been held and closed during the May 19 meeting but that action regarding a decision had been tabled to this meeting. He asked John Taylor, County Attorney, if the County's ordinance permitted the Board to allow a variance in this matter. Mr. Taylor said that the ordinance does not allow a variance by the Board, and that Chris Brazell, representing the applicant, has proposed the possibility of the property being leased, rather than subdivided. Mr. Taylor said that could be done, but should the Board approve the Special Use Permit, conditions should be placed on same to the effect that if and when title to the subject property is ever acquired by Davis Broadcasting, or another individual or company, for the purpose of utilizing same in any way, the acquisition of which would result in the subdivision of the property from the parcel in which it is currently included, it would have to comply with Harris County's regulations in force at the time as it relates to property subdivision. He said that if the property is leased and not subdivided, access to the property would not be required from a public road in the County. Because Mr. Brazell was not present to hear a motion by the Board, action was tabled to the June 16 meeting.
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Public Hearing: Budget FY 09/10 (General Fund, Small Funds, Solid Waste, Water Works).** Chairman Lange called the Public Hearing to order and asked Danny Bridges, County Manager, to review the proposed budgets.

General Funds. Mr. Bridges said that changes, as a result of the Budget Work Sessions, include that Department 7 (Clerk of Superior Court) has been reduced a few dollars due to office equipment repairs being moved; that the holiday pay for Departments 10, 11, 13, and 15 have been adjusted; that in Department 34, the funding for Family & Children Services has been corrected to reflect the amount they requested; that the total dollars for Department 36 (Fire Services) has not changed,

but the arrangement has; and that as a result of all these changes, Contingency (Department 35) has been reduced.

Water Works. Mr. Bridges said that there are no increases in the rates for Water Works.

Solid Waste. Mr. Bridges said that the rates for Solid Waste remain the same as last year (when they were adjusted).

Airport. Mr. Bridges said that hangar revenue should begin in January, or even earlier, and expenses include a mower for grass cutting, and the General Fund provides \$50,000 for Airport support. He then gave the Board a brief update on the status of the Airport projects.

Small Funds. Mr. Bridges said that there have been no changes since the discussion during the Budget Work Sessions.

There being no further comments or questions from the Board, Chairman Lange asked if anyone in attendance had any comments or questions. There being none, he closed the Public Hearing and said that the second Public Hearing and Adoption are scheduled for the June 16 meeting.

- B. **Resolution: Transmittal of Comprehensive Plan Community Agenda Portion to DCA.** The motion to approve the Resolution to transmit the Community Agenda portion of the Comprehensive Plan to the DCA was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.
- C. **Resolution: Re-Adoption of Joint Solid Waste Management Plan.** The motion to re-adopt the Joint Solid Waste Management Plan so that the dates will correspond to that of the Comprehensive Plan (2009-2019) was made by Commissioner Manning, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.
- D. **Error & Release Requests.** Chairman Lange read the Error & Release Requests as follows:

- (1) Dunlap, Michele, c/o Knight: Digest total of \$16,674 corrected to zero (mobile home added to homestead digest for 2009)
- (2) Georgia Power Company: Digest total of \$15,206 corrected to zero (duplicate bill)

The motion to approve both Error & Release requests was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.

6. **COUNTY MANAGER**

- A. **One Georgia Award Announcement in Brunswick.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, advised the Board that the OneGeorgia announcement concerning the Daehan Grant will take place soon in Brunswick.
- B. **Media Com: Request for Refund.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that Media Com has requested a refund in the amount of approximately \$40,000 since they have been charging customers 2% but remitting 5% to the County since July 2008. He said that he has asked for evidence regarding same, which will be given to John Taylor, County Attorney, to review before any refund is made.
- C. **Chattahoochee Judicial Council Grant: Act as Fiscal Agent.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that the Chattahoochee Judicial Council is applying for a grant and that Judge Allen has asked that Harris County act as the Fiscal Agent for same should the grant be awarded. He said there would be no cost to the County to act as Fiscal Agent. The motion for the County to act as Fiscal Agent for the grant was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.
- D. **Authorize Depositing Unlimited Funds in Georgia Banks.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that during the March 3, 2009, meeting, the Board authorized the County to deposit up to \$250,000 in any Georgia bank; that the \$250,000 is what is covered by the FDIC; and that some banks have offered to collateralize deposits; and that it is now being requested that the County be permitted to deposit unlimited funds into any Georgia bank. The motion to approve the request was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.

7. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

- A. **DOT Agreement: Industrial Connector Road (Plant & Base Mix) [PR000-S010-00(937)]**. John Taylor, County Attorney, reviewed the agreement contract, said that it seemed to be the usual DOT agreement, that it was for 1.34 miles for the plant and base mix regarding the road in the Northwest Harris Business Park, and that he recommended approval of same. The motion to approve this agreement was made by Commissioner Manning, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #09-30.)

8. **OTHER**

- A. **Stop Sign on West Bon Acre Road**. Chairman Lange asked if the stop sign on West Bon Acre Road at the old railroad crossing was still in place. Danny Bridges, County Manager, indicated that he was not sure, but would check.
- B. **Railroad Tie Removal on Railroad Recreation Trail**. In response to a question from Chairman Lange, Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that as far as he knew the removal of the old railroad ties from the Railroad Recreation Trail right of way is still in progress.
- C. **Proclamation Proposal to No Longer Purchase GM or Chrysler Vehicles**. Commissioner Wyatt proposed that the County adopt a yet-to be-written proclamation to be sent to the State and ACCG to no longer purchase vehicles manufactured by General Motors or Chrysler as a result of the recent federal bail-out to these auto manufacturers. There was no consensus regarding this matter.
9. **ADJOURNMENT**. There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Manning, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.

J. Harry Lange, Chairman

Attest:

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk