

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION**

June 16, 2009

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**. The motion to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2009, 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).
3. **APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS**
 - A. **Lisa Wright: Road Name Change**. Lisa Wright, citizen, appeared before the Board regarding her petition to change the name of R. D. Brown Road to Kent's Place Road. She said that she had submitted a petition, with four signatures, six weeks ago; that she understands the County's policy is to require signatures of 80% of the property owners; that no one lives on the road; that on the other properties there is a run-down house and a trailer that is falling in; that when her son died, she decided to start a family cemetery; and that as an alternative to renaming the whole road, it might be possible to just rename the portion that abuts the first four parcels. Ms. Wright showed maps of the properties abutting R. D. Brown Road; pointed out the parcels for which she has signatures on her petition; pointed out the parcels for which she is unable to obtain signatures; and cited some County roads with two names. Discussion included that R. D. Brown Road is a dead-end road; that the other two-name County roads are the result of roads being connected either in a "T" or joined together to form a "loop" many years ago. Following discussion, the motion to approve changing the name of the full length of R. D. Brown Road to Kent's Place Road was made by Commissioner Loudermilk and seconded by Commissioner Whearley. The motion to approve failed by a vote of two in favor (Loudermilk, Whearley) and three opposed (Lange, Manning, Wyatt).
4. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **Betty Lawrence: Water Works Bill/Issues**. Chairman Lange said that this matter has been moved to the July 7 meeting because the results of the meter test have not yet come back.
 - 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; that action regarding a decision had again been tabled to this meeting since Chris Brazell of EMC, who represented the applicant during the initial Public Hearing, was not present during the June 2 meeting. He then asked John Taylor, County Attorney, if any additional discussion had taken place regarding the proposal of a long-term lease, as relayed to Becky Gray, Zoning Tech, by Chris Brazell, of the subject property. Mr. Taylor said that further discussion had not taken place, and explained that a long-term lease would not require the subdivision of the property, which, in turn would not violate the County's ordinance; that with a long-term lease, access to the property would not be an issue; and said that if the Board approved the Special Use in connection with a long-term lease there should be a condition 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. Gregory Davis, of Davis Broadcasting, appeared before the Board and said that as far as the initial conversation with MeadWestvaco, and now, it is his understanding that MeadWestvaco is not interested in a long-term lease. Commissioner Wyatt suggested that Mr. Davis get title to a 50 foot wide access from Ridgeway Road in Harris County to the subject property along the pipeline easement for the power plant; that while the road would need to be reflected on the property plat in order to meet the County's ordinance requiring access to a public road, it would not have to be used for access to get to the property. Mr. Davis said that he would pursue the acquisition of the 50 foot wide access as suggested, but would need time. Consensus was to table

action to the July 21 meeting.

- C. **Appointment to Family & Children Services.** The motion to appoint Rita Farless to complete the term of Lillian Johnston, who resigned, was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Manning, and passed unanimously. The term from Mrs. Farless will expire June 30, 2010.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **Public Hearing II: Budget FY 09/10 (General Fund, Small Funds, Solid Waste, Water Works, Airport).** Chairman Lange called the Public Hearing to order and asked Danny Bridges, County Manager, to review the proposed budgets. Mr. Bridges said that no changes have been made since the first Public Hearing; that there is only one new employee (Recreation) and that the Finance Officer will be working four days a week rather than three. Discussion included that salary increases will be made based on evaluations by supervisors as well as the employee's use of sick leave and vacation, and that no employee will receive an increase of over 5%; and that the budget is .8% less than the current year's budget. Chairman Lange asked if anyone in attendance had any questions or comments. There being none, he closed the Public Hearing.
- B. **Adoption of Budget FY 09/10.** The motion to approve the General Fund, the Small Funds, the Solid Waste, the Water Works, and the Airport budgets as presented was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Chairman Lange, and passed unanimously. [Note: Included with adoption are the annual agreements with New Horizons for the Harris-Talbot Service Center and the Mental Health Center regarding maintenance costs in lieu of rent. Said documents can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #09-32 (Service Center) and C&A #09-33 (Mental Health).]
- C. **Financial Statement: April 2009.** The motion to approve the April 2009 Financial Statement was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Chairman Lange, and passed unanimously.
- D. **Error & Release.** Chairman Lange said that an Error & Release request had been received regarding Richard G. Thweatt, digest amount of \$4,529 corrected to zero, due to the account not being deleted in 2008. The motion to approve this Error & Release was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Whearley, and passed unanimously.
- E. **Appointment to Family & Children Services.** Chairman Lange said that Marion Rutledge has resigned from the Board of Family & Children Services; that her term will expire June 30, 2012; and that it has been recommended that Charles Trammell be appointed to complete Mrs. Rutledge's term. The motion to appoint Charles Trammell to the Board of Family & Children Services to complete Mrs. Rutledge's term, which expires June 30, 2012, was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.
- F. **Reappointment to West Central GA Region 7 EMS Council.** Chairman Lange said that the term of Jimmy Carver expires June 30, 2009, and that it is being recommended that Mr. Carver be reappointed for the term ending June 30, 2011. The motion to reappoint Jimmy Carver to the West Central GA Region 7 EMS Council for the term ending June 30, 2011, was made by Commissioner Manning, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.

6. **COUNTY MANAGER**

- A. **Budget Amendments #3 (FY 08/09).** Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that action regarding most of the amendments had already taken place during Commission meetings and that the other amendments were to make sure departments did not go over budget. The motion to approve the Budget Amendments was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Chairman Lange, and passed unanimously.
- B. **Audit Extension.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that it is being requested that the County extend its contract with Robinson Grimes & Company for the auditing of the County's financial statements; that Robinson Grimes is very familiar with the County's documents; that we have a choice of extending the contract one, two or three years; that the last time we extended the contract, we chose two years, rather than three, and if we had chosen three years, the last year of that extension, which is the first year of the proposed extension, would have been cheaper. Following a brief discussion, the motion to extend the contract with Robinson Grimes for two years was made by Commissioner Manning. The motion failed by lack of a second. The motion to extend the contract with Robinson Grimes for three years was made by

Commissioner Whearley, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #09-31.)

- C. **Bid Award: Fortson Road Improvements.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, reminded the Board that DOT had indicated it would not resurface Fortson Road until the County made repairs to various sections of the 4.3 miles of roadway; that the County went out on bid and received two bid, as follows:

COMPANY	BID AMOUNT
C. W. Matthews, PO Drawer 970, Marietta, GA	\$ 235,281.60
Southern Asphalt, PO Box 8091, Columbus, GA	\$ 253,222.00

The motion to award the bid to C.W. Matthews in the amount of \$235,281.60 was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Whearley, and passed unanimously.

- D. **Waverly Hall: Building Permits & Inspections.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that the Town of Waverly Hall wants to amend the Intergovernmental Agreement it has with the County; that it wants to issue building permits and perform building inspections; and that it wants the County to continue with the Planning & Zoning matters to include map and text amendments as well as Code Enforcement. Following discussion, John Taylor, County Attorney, was directed to amend the agreement and bring it back to the Board during the July 7 meeting for action.

7. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

- A. **Request for Executive Session.** John Taylor, County Attorney, requested an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters and real estate acquisition.
8. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.** The motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters and real estate acquisition was made at 7:50 PM by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.
9. **RESUME REGULAR SESSION.** The motion to go back into Regular Session was made by Commissioner Manning, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.
10. **PERSONNEL/SALARY CHANGES.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, reminded the Board that Alex Haden had been officially appointed to the position of Warden by the Georgia Department of Corrections; that due to Mr. Haden's position as Warden, he would like to increase Mr. Haden's salary from approximately \$40,000 to \$47,500; that he would like to split the job title of "Warden/Public Works Director" into "Warden" and "Public Works Director"; that the positions of Warden and Public Works Director should be moved from a Grade 43 to 47; that he would like a new job title of "Building Inspection Director" for the Community Development Department with a Grade of 45; that he would like to appoint Mike Rucker as Building Inspection Director and increase his salary from approximately \$33,500 to \$40,000; that the salary changes would be effective July 1, 2009; and that with these changes, these employees would not receive an additional salary increase (based on evaluation, see 5A above). The motion to approve the changes as requested was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Chairman Lange, and passed unanimously.
11. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Manning, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.

Attest:

J. Harry Lange, Chairman

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk