

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION**

August 3, 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; 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 July 20, 2010, Regular Session was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Manning, and passed unanimously.
3. **APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS**
 - A. **Ralph Stephens: Leash Law.** Ralph Stephens, citizen who lives in Melody Lakes Subdivision, appeared before the Board and said that there are many dogs running loose in his neighborhood; that he can't walk his dog; that when he calls Animal Control, nothing is done because the dogs aren't there when Animal Control shows up; that within the last month, he took dogs to the animal shelter and found the worker asleep with his feet on the desk at 9:45; and that something needs to be done about all the dogs running around.
 - B. **Nancy Willard: Leash Law.** Nancy Willard, citizen who lives in Melody Lakes Subdivision, appeared before the Board and said there is a rottweiler dog across the street from her rental property and that she can't even cut the grass because of the dog; that she has had to hire someone to cut the grass; and that the dog is located across from 1175 Melody Drive.
4. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **Hardage Road.** Chairman Lange said that Commissioner Wyatt had made a motion during the July 20 meeting and that Commissioner Whearley had tabled the issue until this meeting in order to get more information. Commissioner Wyatt said that his motion still stands, that he wants to be able to move forward with condemnation proceedings at the appropriate time on the property for which owners will not give the necessary right of way; that one of the property owners will probably never sign and another owns basically one side of the road. There was discussion, after which Chairman Lange called for a second to the motion. There being none, the motion failed for lack of a second.
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Reappointment to West Central GA Region 7 EMS Council.** Chairman Lange said that the term of David McCall expired June 30, 2010; that the new term is July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2012; and Mr. McCall has agreed to reappointment should the Board decide to do so. The motion to reappoint David McCall to the West Central GA Region 7 EMS Council for the term ending June 30, 2012, was made by Commissioner Manning, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.
 - B. **Reappointment to Public Improvements Authority.** Chairman Lange said that the term of Charles Blair expired June 30, 2010; that the new term is July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2013; and the Mr. Blair has agreed to reappointment should the Board decide to do so. The motion to reappoint Charles Blair to the Public Improvements Authority for the term ending June 30, 2013, was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.
 - C. **Request for Tax Refund: Marshall McLemore.** Chairman Lange said that a request had been made by Marshall McLemore for a refund of \$186.05

because the camper, on which the taxes had been paid, was located in Alabama and taxes should not have been paid in Georgia; that the Board of Tax Assessors and the Tax Commissioner agree with the request. The motion to approve the refund of \$186.05 was made by Commissioner Manning, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.

- D. **Error & Release Request: P. Killingsworth.** Chairman Lange said that an Error & Release request had been received indicating that the Digest total of \$440 had been changed to zero due to the mobile home being removed from the property in the fall of 2009. The motion to approve the Error & Release request was made by Commissioner Manning, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.
- E. **Zoning Text Amendment.** Commissioner Wyatt said that the Board amended the Zoning Ordinance last fall to change the districts in which Taxidermist is permitted from C-1, C-3 and C-4 to A-1, M-1 and M-2 with a Special Use Permit; that because Taxidermist is not always combined with Deer Processing, it should be allowed in commercial districts; and that he would like to start the process to amend the Zoning Ordinance to allow Taxidermist to also be in C-1, C-3 and C-4 with a Special Use Permit. Following discussion, the motion to move forward with the Zoning Ordinance amendment process was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Whearley, and passed unanimously. Chairman Lange asked Nancy McMichael, County Clerk, to provide the minutes from the public hearings during which this matter was discussed. [Note: Excerpts from minutes during which this matter was discussed were e-mailed to the Board.]

6. **COUNTY MANAGER**

- A. **Leash Law: Research Status.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that the Board had directed him to find out if other counties prohibit animals running at large county-wide or in specific areas; that the prohibition in the majority of the counties is county-wide; that there are some counties that specify subdivisions, in particular Wayne County. Discussion included that most complaints regarding animals/dogs are from citizens who live in subdivisions; that very few are received from citizens in the rural areas; that the Board has had two readings regarding proposed changes; and that there are other areas of the Ordinance that probably need to be changed as well. Following discussion, consensus was for the County Manager to determine the additional changes and report back to the Board.
- B. **Bid Award: Thermal Imaging Camera.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that in last year's budget, each fire department was given \$7,715 toward the purchase of fire equipment; that bids were requested for a thermal imaging camera for the Shiloh VFD; that four bids were received from the same company, Georgia Fire & Rescue Supply, ranging from \$5,120 to \$12,000, but that only the highest bid met specs; that the Assistant Fire Chief of the Shiloh VFD has recommended the bid be awarded for the high bid; and that it is recommended that the bid be awarded for \$12,000 with the difference of \$4,285 to be paid by either the Shiloh VFD or the Town of Shiloh. The motion to award the bid to Georgia Fire & Rescue Supply in the amount of \$12,000, subject to the balance being paid by Shiloh VFD or the Town of Shiloh, was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Manning, and passed unanimously.
- C. **Resolution: Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) Adoption.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that when the County renewed its health insurance with Blue Cross Blue Shield, the Board also approved entering into an HRA whereby employees and spouses would be reimbursed up to \$500 once their deductible was met; that this Resolution is for the purpose of adopting the HRA plan; and that copies of the Plan Document as well as the Summary Description had been provided. The motion to approve the Resolution was made by Commissioner Whearley, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously. (The Plan Agreement, to which the Resolution refers, can be found in "Contracts &

Agreements” as C&A #10-25, and the Summary Description, to which the Resolution refers, can be found in “Miscellaneous Documents” as MD #10-05.)

- D. **Courthouse Parking Lot Renovation.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that the Courthouse parking lot was constructed in 2003 and is now in need of renovation to include patching/repairing, resealing, restriping, etc. Discussion included that funds are available for the renovation from the 1999 SPLOST; that originally, the 1999 SPLOST included funding for the construction of a parking deck at \$1,500,000; that it was determined a parking lot with almost as many spaces as the proposed parking deck could be constructed for a not-to-exceed price of \$250,000, and the Board, by Resolution, exercised its discretion to make adjustments to the SPLOST to allow the construction of the parking lot; that at this time, approximately \$203,588 remains in the parking lot SPLOST fund; that another Resolution would be needed for the purpose of using some of the funds for the proposed renovations; and to consider a slight alteration to allow better access from Highway 27 to the small parking lot behind the Commissioners’ office. Following discussion, there were no objections from the Board to move forward on the project to include the Resolution and the bidding/proposal process.
- E. **Ambulance Bid and Thumpers Purchase.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that when an ambulance is ordered, it takes anywhere from 9 to 12 months to receive it; that it is being requested that bids be requested for a new chassis on which the “box” section of an old ambulance (M5) would be mounted; and that the funding for same would come from the 2004 SPLOST. Regarding the thumpers, Mr. Bridges said that it is being requested that two be purchased at a cost of \$16,080, but would not be bid out because they are single-source, and that the funding for same would also come from the 2004 SPLOST. David McCall, EMS Chief, was in attendance and explained how the Thumpers work. Following discussion, the motion to approve going forward with the bid process for a new chassis on which the box of an old ambulance (M5) would be mounted and using 2004 SPLOST funds was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Whearley, and passed unanimously. Regarding the thumpers, the motion to approve the purchase of two Thumpers at a cost of \$16,080 using 2004 SPLOST funds was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Whearley, and passed unanimously.
- F. **Appropriated Funds FY 10/11.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, reviewed the list of appropriated funds and said that the starred items are related to the fire training building. The motion to approve the appropriated funds list was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Whearley, and passed unanimously.
- G. **Business After Hours.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, advised the Board that the next Chamber of Commerce’s Business After Hours will be held at the Harris County Airport on Thursday, September 9 at 5:30 PM.
- H. **Water System Update.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, advised the Board that there will be a Work Session on Tuesday, September 7, starting at 6 PM, regarding the proposed water system upgrades.
- I. **City Inmates.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, in response to a question from Commissioner Loudermilk, advised the Board that there will be a Work Session on Tuesday, August 17, starting at 6 PM, for the purpose of discussing the recent memo from Sheriff Jolley regarding City Inmates.
- J. **Community Center/Recreation Park Site Plan.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that copies of the new Recreation Park Site Plan had been provided to the Board as well as copies of the plan for the Community Center (located in the new Recreation Park). He also shared a drawing of the Site Plan showing the initial project, which consists of the Community Center with the appropriate parking and driveway access to same. He asked that the Board contact him with any issues they may have with the

Site Plan or Building Plan. There were no objections.

- K. **Pool Status**. Danny Bridges, County Manager, in response to a question from Commissioner Manning, reported that revenues are on track; that we should reach the goal he had originally set; that the pool will be open until August 9, closed for a week, and then open only on weekends, with the last day open being Monday, September 6 (Labor Day).

7. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

- A. **Agreement: Third Amendment - Secretary of State (re: Bar Code Scanners)**. John Taylor, County Attorney, said that this document is the third amendment to an agreement with the Secretary of State regarding voting equipment; that this amendment is regarding bar code scanners, which the County has received and has in its possession; and that he recommended approval of same. 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 #10-26.)

8. **ADJOURNMENT**. There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Manning, seconded by Commissioner Whearley, and passed unanimously.

J. Harry Lange, Chairman

Attest:

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk