

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION**

May 17, 2011
7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present: J. Harry Lange, Joey M. Loudermilk, Becky Langston, Jim Woods, 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 May 3, 2011, Regular Session was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed with four in favor (Loudermilk, Wyatt, Lange, Woods), and one abstention (Langston, who was not in attendance during the May 3 meeting).
3. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Error & Release Requests.** Chairman Lange read the Error and Release request as follows:
 - (1) Bronson, Jerry: Digest total of \$5,200 corrected to zero (military; claims residence in Florida)
 - (2) Brown, Charles L.: Digest total of \$12,520 corrected to zero (boat located in Rabun County)
 - (3) Mayo, Mary Lou Estate, c/o P. Gaurangi: Digest total of \$1,051 corrected to zero (mobile home removed from property November 2010)
 - (4) McCutchen, Jeannette: Digest total of \$880 corrected to zero (mobile home dismantled in October 2010)
 - (5) Rice, Erin R.: Digest total of \$3,872 corrected to zero (military; claims residence in Florida)
 - (6) Talley, Willie C., Estate: Digest total of \$1,040 corrected to zero (mobile home dismantled spring 2010)

The motion to approve these six Error and Release requests was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.
 - B. **Budget Public Hearing I: FY 11/12.** Chairman Lange called the Public Hearing to order and asked Danny Bridges, County Manager, to review the budget. Mr. Bridges said that the budgets include the General Fund, Solid Waste, Small Funds, Airport and Water Works. In review of all but the Water Works budget, Mr. Bridges said that the budget does not call for any anticipated increase in the millage rate or the amount of taxes collected; it includes no new employees and no lay-offs, but it does include a half year for the Community Center (expected to open in January 2012) at a little over \$100,000, and a 3% increase for employees. He said that the proposed budget is \$15,125,743, which is less than in 2009; and that if the Community Center and the salary adjustment are not counted, the actual operating expenses has actually gone down. Chairman Lange asked if there were any comments or questions from those in attendance regarding the proposed budget. In review of the Water Works budget, Mr. Bridges said that appropriated funds have been deleted; that the budget reflects a \$31,000 deficit in expenses over revenue; that while there is no increase in rates this year, it will be tough not to have an increase next year; that the fund balance is the lowest it has been in years; that a small net cash and a large deficit is expected this year; that a big change in income over the years is due to lack of growth and to customers using less water than in the past; and that even though the cost of purchasing water from Columbus is high, we are selling that water. Chairman Lange asked if there were any questions or comments from those in attendance regarding the proposed budget. There being none, he closed the Public Hearing and said that the second Public Hearing and adoption is scheduled for the June 7 meeting.
 - C. **Valley Partnership Joint Development Authority: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).** Chairman Lange said that the MOU reflects a change in how the amount the County pays to the Valley Partnership; that we currently pay \$1.00 per capita based on the census every 10 years, but that is changing to the population estimate that is made every two years; that Harris County has been paying a little over \$23,000 and will now start paying a little over \$32,000; that the other change is that while the Valley Partnership will still continue to provide basic services at no extra charge, there will be charges for various additional services;

that the County does get a lot of assistance for what it pays to the Valley Partnership; and that the Valley Partnership now has a person whose job is primarily dealing with Harris County and West Point. The motion to approve the MOU was made by Chairman Lange, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" as C&A #11-18.)

4. **COUNTY MANAGER**

- A. **COPS Grant**. Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that the Sheriff has applied for a grant to pay the salary for two deputies for three years, but with that, the County would be obligated to pay the salary for the fourth year and beyond. Following discussion, the motion to approve the addition of two deputy slots in the Sheriff's Office pending the award of the COPS grant was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed with four in favor (Loudermilk, Langston, Lange, Woods) and one opposed (Wyatt). (Document can be found in "Miscellaneous Documents" file as MD #11-03.)
- B. **Columbus Board of Health Agreement: Primary HIV Medical Care for Jail Inmates**. Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that this agreement is necessary in order to provide medical care for Jail inmates with HIV. Following discussion, consensus was that because the Board must approve and execute the agreement, that it should be included as a party to the agreement, and to indicate that the renewal is automatic on July 1 of each year. The motion to approve this agreement with the changes was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" as C&A #11-19.)
- C. **Tax Assessor Server**. Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that the County's IT provider has recommended that the Tax Assessor's server be replaced; that they were able to get the server back up and running, but the Tax Assessor's office was down for two days due to server issues. Discussion included that this does not have to be bid out because the equipment will be built and installed by the County's IT provider. The motion to replace the server as proposed, with the funds to come from Contingency was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.
- D. **Medical Insurance Renewal: Blue Cross/Blue Shield**. Danny Bridges, County Manager, explained the four choices regarding medical insurance renewal to include that with the current deductible of \$1,500/\$4,500, once the employee or dependent has met and paid the deductible, the County reimburses the employee/dependent up to \$500 from the HRA that was implemented last year; that the HRA was funded for \$51,200 and it is estimated that only \$8,200 will be used leaving a balance of \$43,000 to carry over for this year; that the renewal for the same plan will increase by 9.47%; that there are three other alternatives to the renewal and he recommends the deductible be increased to \$3,000/\$9,000 with the County reimbursing the employee/dependent up to \$2,000 from HRA once the deductible is met; to increase the HRA funding by \$82,960 (for a total of \$125,960); and to not increase the premium paid by the employee. He said that he is looking into having a volunteer health assessment for employees, the cost of which would be funded through an ACCG health promotion grant, and that as an incentive to get employees to participate, giving those employees a \$50 gift card, but that he will come back to the Board concerning the health assessment at a later date. Following discussion, the motion to approve alternate #3 of the medical insurance renewal with Blue Cross/Blue Shield, as described, was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #11-20.)
- E. **Piedmont Subdivision**. Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that Piedmont Subdivision is zoned Resort; that the developer desires to subdivide a 10-acre parcel reflected on the Master Plan as future development; that this particular 10-acre parcel is surrounded by other residential properties; and that he wanted the Board to be aware of this matter before they start getting phone calls because the subdivision of the parcel can't be done until the developer amends the Master Plan, unless the Board wants to waive the Ordinance requirement. Consensus was to uphold the requirement as set out in the Zoning Ordinance regarding properties zoned Resort.
- F. **McGuire Buildings**. Danny Bridges, County Manager, reminded the Board that in February there was discussion regarding a company (McGuire Buildings) that wanted to locate in the Hamilton Business Park on five acres between Highway 116 and the Animal Shelter, which would require the property to be deeded to the

Development Authority, that the company wanted some type of tax abatement, and that the Board approved moving forward with the deed to the Development Authority. He said that there has been some negotiation in that the company now does not want any tax abatement, wants to purchase seven acres with the first year getting the building constructed and the following five years in which to pay \$5,000 an acre. Following discussion, the motion to move forward with the revised plan was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Chairman Lange, and passed unanimously.

G. **JCI Expansion.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, reminded the Board that part of the JCI expansion project included the completion of the road between JCI and Daehan; that until the results of the OneGeorgia application are known, the road improvement cannot be accomplished; that JCI has hired 100 of the projected 175 new employees; that JCI will be shutting down a week in June in order to move equipment to the new section; and that ingress and egress for employees will be difficult due to the current road configuration. In that regard, Mr. Bridges said that he would like permission to start the bid process for the road improvement so that when the OneGeorgia grant is awarded, we will be ready to start the road project without delay. Following discussion, there were no objections to moving forward with the bid process.

H. **Road Improvement Plan.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, advised the Board that he was in the process of preparing the 2011 Road Improvement Plan and asked that if there were any particular roads the Board wanted to have considered for the Plan to let him know as soon as possible.

5. **COUNTY ATTORNEY.** John Taylor, County Attorney, said that he had no business to discuss with the Board.

6. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.

J. Harry Lange, Chairman

Attest:

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk