

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION**

July 17, 2012  
7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present: J. Harry Lange, Becky Langston, Joey M. Loudermilk, 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 July 3, 2012, Regular Session was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.
3. **APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS**
  - A. **Thomas Champion: Produce Stands and Intersection of SR 354 @ SR 18.** Thomas Champion, citizen who lives at 15725 Georgia Highway 18, Pine Mountain, appeared before the Board and requested that the Board consider changing the zoning to allow produce stands or sales in more areas. He also said that when the intersection of SR 354 and SR 18 was improved, the Georgia DOT left the area in a poor state; that the ditches are extremely deep and poorly graded; and that 15 foot hills were put in front of some properties. Mr. Champion submitted his written concerns (document can be found in "Miscellaneous Documents" files as MD #12-09). Chairman Lange thanked Mr. Champion for his comments.
4. **OLD BUSINESS**
  - A. **Second Reading: Application for Temporary Special Event Alcohol License by Coweta Falls Steeplechase, dba Steeplechase at Callaway, on Saturday, November 3, at 214 Nelson Road, Pine Mountain.** Chairman Lange said that this was the Second Reading of this application and that during the First Reading there was discussion concerning the required letter from the property owner; that Callaway Gardens has now sold the property and the new owner has submitted a letter of authorization. He asked Fred Dodelin, applicant for Coweta Falls Steeplechase, for any comments, and Mr. Dodelin's only comment was to request that the application be approved. Chairman Lange asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or in opposition to this application. There being none, he asked for a motion. The motion to approve this application was made by Commissioner Langston and seconded by Commissioner Woods. Discussion included the concern of Commissioner Wyatt regarding the zoning of the property; that when the amendment to the alcohol license was adopted by the Board, zoning was not part of the amendment. Following discussion, John Taylor, County Attorney, said that he would review the Alcohol Ordinance amendment regarding zoning. Action was tabled to the August 7 meeting.
  - B. **Millage Rate Called Meeting Rescheduled.** Chairman Lange announced that the Called Meeting to set the Millage was originally scheduled for Monday, July 23, at 5:30, but has been rescheduled to Monday, July 30, at 5:30, in the Conference Room of the Commissioners' Office.
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - A. **Prison Inmate Health Care Proposals.** Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that proposals were received in connection with Prison Inmate Health Care; that the current provider is Southern Health, and while their proposal is \$900 lower than the next lowest proposal, there have been ongoing issues with their service; and that Warden Alex Haden has recommended changing to another. The proposals were as follows:

COMPANY	PROPOSAL AMOUNT
Correct Health, Stockbridge, GA	\$ 112,355.00
QCHC (Quality Correctional Health Care), Birmingham, AL	\$ 100,951.18
Southern Health Partners, Chattanooga, TN	\$ 100,045.80
Transform Health Rx, Statesboro, GA	\$ 105,350.00

Mr. Bridges said that Warden Haden would like to change the Prison Inmate Health

Care to QCHC for the proposal amount of \$100,951.18. The motion to change to QCHC and to authorize the County Manager to execute the contract was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed with four in favor (Wyatt, Woods, Lange, Loudermilk) and one opposed (Langston). (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #12-15.)

- B. **Resolution: Open Records Officer.** Chairman Lange said that this Resolution will appoint a specific individual, in this case Nancy McMichael, County Clerk, as the Open Records Officer in light of the recent changes to the Open Records Act, which specifies that the time period for response does not start until the request is received by the Open Records Officer. The motion to approve this Resolution was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.
- C. **Resolution: Approval of Executive Session Minutes.** Chairman Lange said that this Resolution will determine the method in which the minutes of Executive Session are approved, as a result of recent changes to the Open Meetings Act; that such minutes will remain unavailable, unless they are subpoenaed for inspection by an appropriate court, with the exception of real estate acquisition matters which are open to the public after the acquisition is completed; and that the method of adoption will be during the next following Executive Session. The motion to approve this Resolution was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.
- D. **Ordinance Amendments Regarding Signs.** Chairman Lange said that Derick Moxley had appeared before the Board during the July 3 meeting regarding the reduction of the time in which electronic message signs can have the message changed. Commissioner Wyatt suggested that such signs be permitted to change no less than every 90 seconds. There were no objections to the suggestion. Commissioner Wyatt then made the motion to move forward with the amendment process to allow such signs to change no less than every 90 seconds. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk and passed unanimously.
- E. **Recreation Concerns.** Commissioner Wyatt asked Commissioner Langston for a report on the Recreation Board, and Commissioner Langston responded by asking what kind of report. Commissioner Wyatt said he was concerned about the action taken against a spectator at a recent Little League game that took place in Columbus; that the other person involved had admitted that he threw the first punch; and that there are rumors that the Recreation Board is going to take action to ban the individual for life from Recreation activities. Commissioner Langston responded by saying that the Recreation Board has not meet since the incident occurred, but will be having its regular meeting on Wednesday, July 25, at 7:00 PM, at the Community Center, and she invited Commissioner Wyatt to attend to make his concerns known. Commissioner Wyatt made the motion to dissolve the Recreation Board, and the motion died for lack of a second.
- F. **Recreation Board Ordinance, By-Laws, and Appendices.** These draft documents were distributed to the Board for review. Nancy McMichael, County Clerk, requested that the Board let her know of any changes or clarifications so that such can be revised; that the Ordinance is scheduled to come back to the Board on August 7; that the By-Laws and Appendices are scheduled to go before the Recreation Board for review and possible approval at their next meeting on July 25; and that after the Recreation Board has approved those documents, they will come back to the Board for approval.
- G. **Local Excise Tax on Energy Used in Manufacturing.** Chairman Lange said that laws have changed and that effective January 1, 2013, there will be a statewide sales tax exemption for energy used in manufacturing. Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that the County has possibly four manufacturing businesses in the County; that the sales tax those businesses currently pay can't be determined; and that based on what he knows of his previous employer, it may be that the County could lose \$20,000 a year on the four businesses. Following a brief discussion during which it was suggested that this tax could be part of the current LOST negotiations, it was determined that more information is needed before the Board can decide to move forward with implementing a new local option sales tax for such energy use. Commissioner Woods asked that this topic be discussed with the municipalities during LOST negotiations to see where they stand, and Mr. Bridges said that he would make certain it was discussed as requested.

H. **Rocky Branch Hunting Club**. Commissioner Wyatt distributed a copy of a half-page ad from the current Georgia Outdoors Now magazine regarding the Rocky Branch Hunting Club located in the County and said that the property is not properly zoned. He requested that proper action be taken by personnel to have the property rezoned to CORD. (Document can be found in "Miscellaneous Documents" file as MD #12-10.)

6. **COUNTY MANAGER**

A. **Patching of Hopewell Church Road and West Bon Acre Road**. Danny Bridges, County Manager, said that GDOT will be improving portions of Hopewell Church Road and West Bon Acre Road and the patching of same, which is usually paid for by the County, is necessary; that the patching estimate of \$197,000 has been provided by the company that will be doing the work for GDOT; that he has requested GDOT also provide an estimate; and that because of the estimates the County will probably have to go out on bid for the patching.

B. **Health Promotion & Wellness Grant Award**. Danny Bridges, County Manager, announced that the County applied for and has again received a \$2,500 incentive grant to expand employee health promotion services.

7. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

A. **DOT R/W Agreement: SR 315 @ SR 85 (S013026-PR)**. John Taylor, County Attorney, said that this is the usual DOT right-of-way agreement covering the improvements to the intersection of SR 315 at SR 85. He briefly reviewed the document and recommended approval of same. The motion to approve this agreement was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #12-16.)

8. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**. The motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of real estate acquisition was made at 8:08 PM by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.

9. **RESUME REGULAR SESSION**. The motion to go back into Regular Session was made by Chairman Lange, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.

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

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J. Harry Lange, Chairman

Attest:

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Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk