

HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR SESSION

October 16, 2012

7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present: J. Harry Lange, Becky Langston, Jim Woods, Charles Wyatt. Commissioners Absent: Joey M. Loudermilk. Staff Present: Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk. Staff Absent: Daniel B. Bridges, County Manager; John M. Taylor, County Attorney. Also Present: Bryan Forsyth, sitting in for John Taylor.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** . Chairman Lange called the Regular Session to order.

2. **MINUTES** . The motion to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2012, Regular Session was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously .

3. **APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS**

A. **Joe Ligon: Speed Limit on West Bon Acre Road** . Joe Ligon, citizen who lives on Jones Road, appeared before the Board and asked that the speed limit on West Bon Acre Road be increased from 35 to 45 mph from the three-way stop at Jones Road to Fortson Road; that the three way stop needs better pavement marking; and that the passing signs are unnecessary. Chairman Lange said that

the passing signs are the result of a planned project during which asphalt overlay would have obliterated the passing lines. Following discussion, consensus was that the passing signs could probably be removed; that the white lines at the three way stop should probably be widened; and that DOT will be contacted regarding the change in the speed limit.

4. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. **Appointments to be Made** . Chairman Lange said that appointments are needed to the Valley Partnership Joint Development Authority and the Department of Family and Children Services.

(1) **Valley Partnership Joint Development Authority** . Chairman Lange said that the names of Brian Williams and Ben Williams were suggested for the appointment to the VPJDA to complete the term of Lynda Dawson, who resigned. The motion to appoint Ben Williams to the VPJDA was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously. The term of Mr. Williams will expire May 30, 2014.

(2) **Department of Family & Children Services** . Chairman Lange said that Rita Farless, who resigned from this board, had indicated that she had a replacement recommendation, but that name has not yet been provided, and that Commissioner Loudermilk had indicated he had an individual in mind for the position. Action was tabled due to Commissioner Loudermilk's absence.

B. **Agreement w/DOT for Airport Engineering Assistance for Taxiway Relocation** . Chairman Lange said that the Board had approved this agreement as to form on July 3, but the dollars figures in same have changed; that this agreement shows the County's share as \$3,873 rather than \$5,000 and the State's as \$3,875 rather than zero. The motion to approve the agreement was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #12-25.) Also, Chairman Lange indicated there had been a recent meeting with the airport consultant, and everything is on track for the improvements.

C. **Airport Open House** . Commissioner Wyatt said that the Chamber of Commerce will be hosting an Open House at the Airport on Tuesday, October 23, at 5:00 PM; that owners of private planes will have their planes at the Airport and will be offering rides to people in attendance; and that the County should help pay for the fuel used for the rides. He then made the motion that the County pay up to \$300 for fuel costs of the planes used to provide the rides. The motion was seconded by Chairman Lange and passed unanimously.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Financial Statements: July & August 2012** . The motion to approve the July and August 2012 financial statements was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.

B. **Appropriated Funds 2013** . The motion to approve the appropriated funds as provided was made by Commissioner Woods,

seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.

C. **Appointments/Reappointments to be Made** . Chairman Lange said that appointments or reappointments needed to be made regarding positions on the Board of Zoning Adjustments and the Housing Authority.

(1) **Board of Zoning Adjustments** . The term of Chris Butzon expired September 30 and Mr. Butzon has consented to reappointment should the Board choose to do so. Chairman Lange said that Mr. Butzon, while not a resident of District 4, has been the appointment of District 4 for some time. He then made the motion to reappoint Mr. Butzon to the Board of Zoning Adjustments. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wyatt and passed unanimously. Mr. Butzon's new term will expire September 30, 2016.

(2) **Housing Authority** . The term of Pat Lowman expires October 31, and Mrs. Lowman does not wish to be reappointed. Mrs. Lowman represents the Waverly Hall area, which is in Commissioner Loudermilk's district, and because of his absence, action was tabled.

D. **Insolvent List: September 2012.** The motion to approve the insolvent list as presented was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.

E. **Request for Tax Refund: Cauthen, Shona C** . Chairman Lange said that Shona C. Cauthen had requested a hearing regarding her request for a tax refund in the amount of \$248.77. He

said the reasons given are that she did not receive any bills; that the (tax) office was sending bills to the wrong person and address; and that she did what she was told to do the day she paid the taxes and paid for the title to be transferred. He said that the Tax Commissioner had disagreed with the request because this is a mobile home; that the property tax office was not notified of a new owner; that the title had not been changed; and that a return had not been filed with the Assessor's office. He said that the Board of Tax Assessors also disagreed with the request. He then asked Ms. Cauthen for comments. Ms. Cauthen said that the \$248.77 is the penalties, interest, and other costs associated with a fifa on the property; that when she paid to transfer the title, she visit two or three offices, and she produced an original title from the State of Georgia showing the title had been transferred in April 2010. Following discussion, the motion to approve the request to refund \$248.77 was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously. Ms. Cauthen asked if the refund could be applied to the 2012 taxes. Chairman Lange said that the County Clerk would find out about that and let Ms. Cauthen know.

F. **First Right of Refusal of Property Adjacent to the Water Works on Highway 315.** Chairman Lange said that Dean Ginn is in the process of purchasing property near the Water Works on Highway 315, but that it has been determined that the County has the first right of refusal on the property. He asked Mr. Ginn for comments, and Mr. Ginn said that the closing on the property is scheduled for tomorrow (October 17); that the acreage in question is .81 acre; and that he would like the Board to make a decision as to whether or not the County is interested in purchasing the property. Following discussion, the motion to rescind the first right of refusal on .81 acre of Land Lot 212 of the 18 th Land District (and identified as Parcel One-B on a plat prepared by Ramon K. Haralson dated October 8, 2012) was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by

Chairman Lange, and passed unanimously. Nancy McMichael, County Clerk, was directed to send Mr. Ginn a letter rescinding the first right of refusal on the property.

G. **Agreement w/DOT for SR 315 @ SR 85 Intersection Improvements (Project #S013026-PR)** . Chairman Lange said that this agreement is for the improvements at the intersection of Georgia Highway 315 and Georgia Highway 85 in Ellerslie and that this is the usual DOT agreement document. The motion to approve this agreement was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in “Contracts & Agreements” file as C&A #12-26.)

6. **COUNTY MANAGER** . No discussion due to absence of County Manager.

7. **COUNTY ATTORNEY** . No discussion due to absence of County Attorney.

8. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION** . The motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion personnel issues was made by Chairman Lange, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.

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

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

J. Harry Lange, Chairman

Attest:

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk