

HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
November 20, 2012
7:00 P.M.

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER**. Chairman Lange called the Regular Session to order.
2. **MINUTES**. The motion to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2012, Regular Session was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.
3. **APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS**
 - A. **Marcus Carter: Recreation Playing Facilities**. Marcus Carter, citizen of Waverly Hall, appeared before the Board, distributed information, and proposed that the County consider altering uses of the Soccer Fields so that the Football League could utilize same, in addition to other suggestions. Chairman Lange thanked Mr. Carter for his presentation and information, which the Board will take under consideration regarding recreation facilities. (Document can be found in "Miscellaneous Documents" files as MD #14-12.)
4. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **Request for Tax Refund: Peed, Teresa J.** Chairman Lange said that this request had been tabled during the November 5 meeting pending verification of due and purchase dates; that the amount requested is \$166.21; that the tag was paid on August 29, the car sold on September 24, and that the tag was actually due on September 27; and that the Tax Commissioner has agreed with the request. The motion to approve this refund request was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.
 - B. **Amended & Restated 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan & Resolution Authorizing Same**. Chairman Lange said that this matter had been tabled from the November 5 meeting and that Christine Bone, the County's VALIC representative, was present to discuss the changes and amendment. Ms. Bone reviewed each of the changes that took place in 2007 but not acted on at that time and responded to questions from the Board. The motion to approve the Amended & Restated Plan and the Resolution Authorizing same was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Miscellaneous Documents" file as MD# 15-12.)
 - C. **Koch Foods Gas Line**. Commissioner Wyatt said that he asked this to be placed on the agenda because he has received many phone calls about the County committing \$250,000 toward the construction of a natural gas line. He also said that 90% of the employees at Koch's (fka Cagle's) are not County residents; that people who live in the area don't want the increased production; and neither the County or Pine Mountain Valley water systems can withstand the additional water needed to increase production. Chairman Lange said that he had asked about the water early on in the discussion with Koch and was told that there would not be a need for additional water, but that he has asked the question again and has not yet received an answer.

Chairman Lange said that several individuals had signed up to speak about this matter.

B. J. Baxley, citizen who lives on Highway 354 in Pine Mountain Valley, appeared before the Board and said that the chicken plant has been in the area for many years, that no one living in the area was contacted about the possible expansion; that to give \$250,000 toward a gas line is ludicrous; that there are already 25 chicken trucks per day in addition to the trucks that take the chicken product out and carcass remains away; that there is enough trash from the employees now because he has to constantly pick up the trash that is thrown out and ends up in his yard; that trash is always along the state roads from Shiloh to Hamilton; that the traffic with shift changes will only increase; that he does not think it is feasible for the County to commit the funding toward the natural gas line; and that he does not want to the plant to expand its production. In response to a question, Mr. Baxley said that he lives a little over one mile from the plant.

Bill Grantham, citizen who lives on A Circle in Pine Mountain Valley, appeared before the Board and said that he lives closer to the plant than Mr. Baxley; that the Commissioners should be more considerate of the people who live near the chicken plant and that he does not want the plant to expand.

Ronnie Baxley, citizen who lives on Highway 354 in Pine Mountain Valley, appeared before the Board and said that he is also concerned about the increase in traffic and trash; that he cannot understand the commitment of \$250,000 toward the natural gas line; that the plant already uses propane gas and converting over doesn't make much sense; and that with increased production, the noise and odors will only increase. In response to a question, Mr. Baxley said that he lives a little over a mile from the plant.

Don Craighton, citizen who lives on Highway 116 in Pine Mountain Valley, appeared before the Board and said that the distance he lives from the plant is the time it takes to drink a beer and throw out the can as you go toward Hamilton; and that he does not think the County should commit \$250,000 toward the gas line.

Bobby Haralson, citizen who lives in Pine Mountain Valley, appeared before the Board and said that he has lived in the area 77 years and the plant has been there 75 years; that many people in the area have worked at the plant; that he is a retired DOT transportation engineer; that the increase in traffic will cause problems; and that the intersection of Highway 27 and Highway 116, where the chicken trucks turn, needs to be improved.

Bill Searcy, citizen who lives on J Street in Pine Mountain Valley, appeared before the Board and said that his backyard is adjacent to the chicken plant; that his quality of life will be affected by increased products; that the County needs to look after the people who live in the area; and that he is opposed to the expansion of the plant.

Doug Moye, citizen who lives on Highway 116 in Pine Mountain Valley, appeared before the Board and said that he lives 300 yards from the plant; that the County should not give that kind of money for gas line; and that he should not have to put up with the traffic problems and odors from the plant.

Chairman Lange thanked the citizen for their comments.

- D. **Melody Lakes Dam**. Chairman Lange brought the Board up to date of the status of the issues regarding the Melody Lakes Dam and said that once a determination is made as to what needs to be done, it may be that necessary to have a flood model done, which will cost approximately \$7,500, but the matter will be brought back to the Board before moving forward.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **Resignation of Danny Bridges**. Chairman Lange said that he has been notified by Danny Bridges, County Manager, that he will be submitting his resignation effective November 30. The motion to accept, with reluctance, the resignation of Danny Bridges from his position as County Manager effective November 30 and for the Chairman to accept the written resignation upon submission of same was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.
- B. **County Manager Job Advertisement**. Chairman Lange said that in connection with the resignation of Danny Bridges as County Manager, effective November 30, the advertisement for the County Manager position will not be made until after November 30 in local newspapers and on the ACCG website.
- C. **Checking Accounts: Authorize Signers**. John Taylor, County Attorney, said that with the resignation of Danny Bridges as County Manager, authorized signers on various checking accounts is required; that it has been recommended that Harry Lange be added to the accounts on which Mr. Bridges was a signer; and that Jennie Shelhorse, former Finance Officer, be replaced by Wendy Cole, current Finance Officer. The list of accounts is as follows:

Lange, Langston, Loudermilk, Woods, Wyatt, McMichael, Cole as authorized signers on: 2000007965955 (HCBOC - General), 2051200097967 (HCBOC - Vendor), 2051200098186 (HCBOC - Payroll), 2080000654306 (1999 SPLOST), 2000016193174 (2004 SPLOST), and 2000048561910 (2009 SPLOST).

Lange, McMichael, and Cole as authorized signers on: 2000028988270 (HCBOC - Callaway), 2051200014474 (HCBOC - Law Library), 2000016192803 (SPHINX-DA Account), 2080000079680 (Crime Victims), 2080000079897 (Alternative Dispute), 2000028988050 (HCBOC - Hotel/Motel Tax), 2000016192764 (HCBOC - Walking Trail), 2080000743822 (HCBOC - DOT ISTE A Grant), 2080000079240 (HCBOC-911), 2000028988063 (HCBOC - Dev Authority), 2080000654827 (HCBOC - Mental Health), 2080000079088 (HCBOC - Drug Abuse), 2080000079114 (HCBOC - Jail Fund), 2000007965942 (HCBOC - MR Center), 2080000079473 (Solid Waste)

The motion to authorize the changes indicated for each account was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.

- D. **Audit for FYE June 30, 2012.** Jay Pease, of Robinson, Grimes & Co., was in attendance and reviewed the 2011/2012 audit. Following review and discussion, Commissioner Loudermilk requested that action be tabled until the December 4 meeting since the Board did not receive the audit until just prior to tonight's meeting
- E. **Bid Award: Hamilton-Palmetto Creek Walking & Bicycle Trail.** Chairman Lange said that bids were received for the construction of Phase III of the Hamilton-Palmetto Creek Walking Trail, which connects the Hamilton portion of the trail to the County's portion and goes in front of the Health Department, as follows:

COMPANY	BID AMOUNT
Robinson Paving, Columbus, GA	\$ 60,855.88
Southeastern Site Development, Newnan, GA	\$ 76,556.40
Earth Scapes, Eastanollee, GA	\$ 94,674.50

Chairman Lange said that Carter & Sloope, engineers for the project, have reviewed the bids and have recommended the bid be awarded to Robinson Paving for the low bid of \$60,855.88. The motion to award the bid as recommended was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.

6. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

- A. **Radio System Agreements.** John Taylor, County Attorney, reviewed three agreements regarding the radio system and towers.
- (1) **Intergovernmental Agreement with Board of Education: Radio System.** This agreement is regarding the mutual operation and maintenance of a radio system to benefit both parties. (C&A #12-30)
 - (2) **Intergovernmental Agreement with Board of Education: Property Transfer Agreement for Whitesville School Property.** This agreement is regarding the transfer of the Whitesville School property to the County for the purpose of erecting a radio tower, which will be part of the mutual radio system of the County and School Board. (C&A #12-31)
 - (3) **Lease Agreement with Dean's Commercial Two-Way for the Pate Park Tower.** This agreement is regarding the leasing of 1.89 acres on Pate Park to Dean Ginn, d/b/a Dean's Commercial Two-Way, for the purpose of erecting a radio tower for radio communications to benefit the County, the School Board, other local government entities, and the volunteer fire departments. (C&A #12-32)

The motion to approve all three agreements was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Chairman Lange, and passed unanimously. (Documents can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #12-30, C&A #12-31, and C&A #12-32 respectively.)

7. **OTHER**

- A. **Emergency Warning System.** The motion for the County to move forward with obtaining the agreement regarding the Code Red Emergency Communications system, which was discussed during the preceding Work Session, and for same to be on the December 4 agenda was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.
- B. **Ridgeway Road Recreation Area.** Commissioner Wyatt asked if the funds used to purchase the Ridgeway Road property for recreational purposes had come from General Funds and if same was to be paid back from SPLOST funds. Chairman Lange said that he wasn't sure about same, but would check.
8. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.

J. Harry Lange, Chairman

Attest:

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk