

HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
December 17, 2013
7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present: J. Harry Lange, Joey M. Loudermilk, Becky Langston, Jim Woods, Charles Wyatt. Staff Present: Greg Wood, County Manager; John 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 December 3, 2013, Regular Session, was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.
3. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **Resolution for Acceptance of Gateway Drive and St. Mark's Court.** Chairman Lange said that the motion to approve had been made during the December 3 meeting by Commissioner Loudermilk and seconded by Commissioner Langston but that action had been tabled pending additional information, which was provided via an e-mail last week. There was a brief discussion regarding the acceptance, and following same, the previous motion passed unanimously.
 - B. **Agreement with W.K. Dickson: Task Order 2013-4.** Chairman Lange said that action regarding this agreement had been tabled pending additional information. Greg Wood, County Manager, said that he had talked to Georgia DOT and although he has not yet received an answer about the equipment to seal the cracks, the project also involves cleaning out the cracks. Commissioner Wyatt commented that he had talked to a person with Georgia DOT for a different reason and found out that when there is a project that does not involve Federal funding, the County does not have to have an engineer, and Mr. Wood said that the project for which this task order is necessary will be funded from Federal and State funds. The motion to approve this Task Order agreement was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed with four in favor (Loudermilk, Woods, Lange, Langston) and one opposed (Wyatt). (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #13-40.)
4. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Sarah Lang, Valley Healthcare Services.** Sarah Lang, CEO of Valley Healthcare Services, appeared before the Board, introduced Philip Aldridge, Chairman of the VHC Board, and discussed the services provided by Valley Healthcare. She said that services include medical, dental, vision and pharmaceutical and are provided mainly to those in the lower economic bracket; that there are three locations in the region - Fort Benning, Talbotton, and Fortson; that they are celebrating their 20th anniversary next year; that they don't have more patients because people don't realize they are in the area; and that they would like to get the word out, hence her appearance at the Commission meeting.
5. **PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:30 PM**
 - A. **Explanation of Public Hearing Procedures.** Chairman Lange explained the procedures involved in the Public Hearing.
 - B. **Conflict of Interest Forms.** The Conflict of Interest forms were completed at the request of Chairman Lange.
 - C. **Application of Ryan Hadley for Special Use Permit for Taxidermy in Land Lot 216, Land District 21, Map 071A, Parcel 008; property zoned C-4; property located at 13516 Georgia Highway 116, Pine Mountain Valley.** Chairman Lange called the Public Hearing to order, read the specifics of the application, and said that the recommendation of the Planner was to approve with buffer requirements of a screen to minimize the visual impact to the adjacent property owners and to motorists on Georgia Highway 116 and B Street, and that the screen should be a combination of vegetation and a 6 foot wood privacy fence. Ryan Hadley, applicant, said that the property is family-owned; that he will install a privacy fence if necessary; and that he plans to do all activities related to taxidermy inside the building. There was discussion with Tracie Hadaway, County Planner, as to the reasons for the recommendation. Following discussion, Chairman Lange asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of this Special Use Permit application.

Bobby Haralson, citizen of Pine Mountain Valley, appeared before the Board and said that he is in favor of the application; that he goes to one of the adjacent churches; and that no privacy fence is needed because if there is a problem they can talk to Mr. Hadley about it.

There being no further comments in favor, Chairman Lange asked if anyone wished to speak in opposition. There being none, he asked Mr. Hadley if he had any additional comments. Mr. Hadley said that he has already submitted an application for a Special Use Permit for Deer Processing ; that he understands the Board will be acting on an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to allow Deer Processing and Taxidermy to be in the same zoning districts; and again said that he plans to do all the taxidermist activities inside the building, but that if necessary, he will put up a privacy fence. There being no further comments or questions, Chairman Lange closed the Public Hearing and asked for a motion. The motion to approve this Special Use Permit was made by Commissioner Wyatt with the condition that the activities be within the building, but that staff should keep track of this use and if it is determined that a privacy fence is necessary, the matter can be revisited again by going through the proper application procedures. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.

6. **NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)**

- B. **Rezoning and Special Use Permit Schedules for 2014.** The motion to approve the Rezoning and Special Use Permit Schedules for 2014 was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.
- C. **Meeting Time Change.** Commissioner Wyatt said that he would like the Board to consider moving one of the two night meetings to daytime. There was no action taken regarding the request.
- D. **Laws and the US Constitution.** Commissioner Wyatt asked John Taylor, County Attorney, as to whether or not laws that are passed by the Federal government become part of the Constitution, which was followed by a brief discussion.
- E. **Christmas Gift to Employees.** Commissioner Wyatt said that he would like to give all County employees (part-time and full-time) a one-year family membership to the Community Center as a Christmas gift, and then made the motion for same. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Woods. Discussion included that there is a need to know the finances of the County since the Board has just received the July and August financial statements; and that the cost of a family membership is \$125 for a family of 4. Commissioner Wyatt clarified his motion by saying the if an employee has a membership, it would be extended for one year. Chairman Lange tabled action until the January 7 meeting.
- F. **FY 2012/13 Audit Status.** In response to a question from Commissioner Langston, Greg Wood, County Manager, said that an extension has been requested from the State to allow our audit to be submitted later than the normal submission deadline of December 31; that the request has been approved; and that the audit should be before the Board soon.

7. **COUNTY MANAGER**

- A. **Radio System Update: Dean Ginn.** Dean Ginn, of Dean's Commercial Two-Way, appeared before the Board and presented an update of the new radio system that included eight tower sites are up and the ninth is coming on line soon; that the 9-1-1 center will have both fiber optic and as well as microwave communications so if one system goes out, the other can be used; that having a mobile unit to use in the event of a disaster is something that should be considered; and that the fiber optics will soon be going in on the railroad right-of-way (Railroad Recreation Trail).
- B. **Radio Tower Site In/Near Northwest Harris Business Park.** Dean Ginn, of Dean's Commercial Two-Way, appeared before the Board and said that to increase the communications in the northwest section of the County, another tower is needed; that two tower sites are being considered, and that he was requesting that the Board decide on the location. He said that one site is on the highest point of the property on which the water tank for the City of West Point is located (not on County-owned property), and the other is inside the Northwest Harris Business Park, which already has fiber-optics, which are needed for the tower. Following discussion, the motion for the tower to be located, through negotiations with West Point, adjacent to the water tank for the City of West Point, was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.

C. **Road Survey Expenses.** Greg Wood, County Manager, said that the cost estimates to have the surveys performed on the 11 roads on the short paving list have come back and total \$68,000. Nancy McMichael, County Clerk, said that four of the roads will be surveyed by EMC Engineering and the other seven roads by Haralson & Adams, and that it is estimated the surveys should be completed within 30 days. Following a brief discussion, the motion to move forward with having EMC Engineering and Haralson & Adams perform the survey work on the 11 roads was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.

D. **Agreements with Farner Barley**

(1) **Northwest Harris Business Park Fill Site.** Greg Wood, County Manager, said that with the removal of the dirt from the Kopla location, Daehan has requested that it be put on the property where they wish to expand their building; that in connection with this the necessary NPDES (soil erosion) permitting and monitoring is necessary; that Farner Barley proposes to do the NPDES work for \$4,500; and that Farner Barley has done all such work in the Northwest Harris Business Park.

(2) **New NPDES Applications to EPD.** Greg Wood, County Manager, said that EPD is requiring that new NPDES (soil erosion) applications be made on current projects and that Notice of Terminations be submitted for those projects that have been finalized, and that Farner Barley proposes to do the work for 13 locations, most of which are in the Northwest Harris Business Park, for \$2,000.

The motion to approve both agreements was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously. (Documents can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #13-41 (Fill Site) and C&A #13-42 (EPD).)

E. **Melody Lakes Volunteer Fire Department Funds/Stipends.** Greg Wood, County Manager, reminded the Board that the Melody Lakes Volunteer Fire Department disbanded and turned its funds, totaling \$33,404.54, over to the County; and that the Council of Fire Chiefs has recommended that because Waverly Hall VFD assumed the Melody Lakes VFD territory, that it should receive the funds to help offset costs associated with the cost of improvements. Following discussion, the motion to approve giving the \$33,404.54 to Waverly Hall VFD was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.

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

9. **OTHER**

A. **Agreement Amendment #2 with Southern Health Services.** Nancy McMichael, County Clerk, said that an amendment to the agreement with Southern Health Services for inmate health care at the Jail has been received and is only regarding an address change, but because the agreement was approved and executed by the Board, the Board needs to approve the amendment. The motion to approve Amendment #2 was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.

B. **Hazardous Mitigation Plan Update.** Nancy McMichael, County Clerk, said that a request for proposal (RFP) to update the County's Hazardous Mitigation Plan, as required by State law, had been mailed to four companies and had been properly advertised, but that no proposals were received. She said she contacted three of the companies to whom requests were mailed to see why they had not responded and to make sure the RFP had been done correctly; that two companies said that the RFP was done correctly and that while they had previously submitted a proposal (prior to the request being formally made), they now did not have the time to do such a project; and that the third company indicated they had not received the proposal, but were definitely interested in doing so. John Taylor, County Attorney, said that the RFP should be re-advertised and sent out again, and then if no responses are received, we will look at other methods.

10. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Commissioner Wyatt made the motion at 8:30 PM to go into Executive Session for the discussion of potential litigation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Langston and passed unanimously.

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

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

J. Harry Lange, Chairman

Attest:

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk