

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION**

February 4, 2014

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 January 21, 2014, Regular Session, was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.
3. **OLD BUSINESS**
  - A. **Insurance Consultant/Broker Request for Qualifications (RFQ).** Chairman Lange said that this had been tabled from the January 21 meeting. Following a brief discussion, Commissioner Wyatt made the motion to move forward with issuing an RFQ. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Woods and passed unanimously.
4. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - A. **Financial Statement: October 2013.** Commissioner Langston tabled action on the October 2013 financial statement to the February 18 meeting.
  - B. **Liberty Bell Pool: Termination of Agreement.** Commissioner Wyatt said that the County had lost more than \$11,000 in 2011, more than \$16,000 in 2012, and more than \$5,000 in 2009 in operating the Liberty Bell Pool. Following discussion, Commissioner Loudermilk made the motion to send the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Parks & Historic Sites Division, the 30-day Notice of Termination, as required by the current agreement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously.
  - C. **Littering.** Commissioner Loudermilk said that he had written a column in the Harris County Journal recently regarding littering along County roads and had asked people to give him their opinion; that he heard from numerous people who agreed with him that something needs to be done regarding the littering; and that he had talked to the Acting Superintendent of School about getting the schools involved. Discussion included that a littering campaign may be helpful; that the schools should be involved; that the Chamber of Commerce could help spread the word; that the convenience centers (aka dumpsters) should possibly be open seven days a week and with longer hours; that perhaps the County should not charge the \$1.00 per tire fee at the Transfer Station but allow citizens to dispose of the tires at no charge; and that it may be beneficial for the County to start the Community Service program again. Following discussion, consensus was for Greg Wood, County Manager, review the various suggestions, to touch base with the Chamber of Commerce and the School Superintendent regarding a campaign, and to report back to the Board.
  - D. **Petition for Road Acceptance: North Halley Street.** Chairman Lange said that a petition for the County to accept North Halley Street in Mulberry Estates for maintenance purposes only had been received and he reminded the Board that the County had done some emergency repairs to the road a couple of years ago so that emergency vehicles could traverse the road. Discussion included that it would be best for the County to acquire a 50' right of way in the event the road is paved at a future date.

Fred Pombert, citizen who lives on North Halley Street, appeared before the Board and said that everyone he talked to is willing to donate the necessary right of way for the road; that they appreciate the County's assistance with last week's situation which resulted in gravel being placed on the road; and that they do not want the road paved.

Following discussion, the motion to move forward with the acceptance of North Halley Street for maintenance purposes and to move forward with acquiring the necessary right of way was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.

- E. **Request for Tax Refund: Navy Federal Credit Union**. Chairman Lange said that a tax refund request had been received from the Navy Federal Credit Union in the amount of \$1,526.14 because the taxes had been erroneously paid on parcel 084 282 rather than on 084 281. He said that the Tax Commissioners agreed with the request because the taxes have been paid on correct parcel. The motion to approve this refund was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Wyatt, and passed unanimously. Commissioner Wyatt said that there appear to be a lot of requests due to errors and said that he would like the County to impose a fee regarding same. There was a brief discussion with no consensus or action.
  - F. **Road Paving List Revision**. As a result of the preceding Work Session, the motion to remove Boyd Drive from the Road Paving List (the road is actually in District 3 rather than District 5) was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.
  - G. **Distracted Driving Program Update**. Chuck Benefield appeared before the Board and said that Skills USA has raised all but \$3,825 of the funds needed to have the texting while driving simulators for three days; that the first two days (Thursday & Friday, February 20 & 21) will be at the High School; and that they are looking for a place for the third day (Saturday, February 22). Discussion included that the Community Center was not available, but they were considering Antioch Volunteer Fire Department or Rodgers Metal Craft; and that the Clubhouse or Agri-Center building could possibly be used. [Note: County paid \$3,825 to Harris County Skills USA on February 5, the check was provided to Mr. Benefield, and the Clubhouse will be used for the texting/driving program on February 22.]
  - H. **Prison Inmate Per Diem Increase**. Chairman Lange said that he, Commissioner Langston, and Commissioner Woods attended the ACCG Capitol Connection Conference recently and learned that the Governor has signed a law increasing the daily per diem rate from \$22 to approximately \$43.
  - I. **ACCG 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Flag**. Chairman Lange said that 2014 is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG), and that each county had been given a flag regarding same. He then displayed the flag and gave it to Greg Wood, County Manager.
  - J. **Railroad Recreation Trail and Gas Valves**. Commissioner Wyatt commented that with the gas line for Koch/JCG Foods having been run within the Railroad Recreation Trail, there are at least two, if not more, gas valves sticking up in the middle of the trail, which will interfere with future paving. Greg Wood, County Manager, was directed to look into this matter and report back to the Board.
  - K. **Website as Legal Organ**. Commissioner Wyatt said that he had talked to Representative John Pezold about the possibility of the County's website becoming its legal organ, rather than a newspaper; and that Representative Pezold indicated he would be willing to sponsor such a bill. Following discussion, which included that such a change would probably have to involve the whole state rather than just the County and such may not provide notice to enough citizens given the fact that a previous count of hits on the County's website showed very few hits compared to the citizenry, there was no consensus to move forward with such a change at this time.
- 5. **COUNTY MANAGER**. Greg Wood, County Manager, had no business to discuss with the Board this evening.
  - 6. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**. John Taylor, County Attorney, had no business to discuss with the Board this evening.

7. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.** The motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel issue was made at 8:16 PM by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Chairman Lange, and passed unanimously.
8. **RESUME REGULAR SESSION.** The motion to go back into Regular Session was made by Chairman Lange, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.
9. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Wyatt, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.

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J. Harry Lange, Chairman

Attest:

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Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk