

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION**

April 21, 2015

7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present: J. Harry Lange, Joey Loudermilk, Martha Chewning, Becky Langston, Jim Woods. 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. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** Chairman Lange asked Anne Bacher, of Hamilton City Council and former member of the US Air Force during the Korean War and the US Air Force Reserve, to lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance, and Mrs. Bacher complied.
3. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2015, Regular Session was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.
4. **APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS**
 - A. **Tim Cook: Lack of Internet Service on Kings Gap Road.** Tim Cook, property owner, appeared before the Board and said he is building a home on Kings Gap Road; that his wife works from home and needs internet service; that while there is dial-up and satellite internet service available, streaming on same is slow and data is limited; that Charter has internet service within a short distance but not in his area; and that Charter suggested he submit to them a petition regarding the need for internet service. Commissioner Langston said that she had a similar situation regarding her internet service; and her daughter recently faced the same issue, which resulted in her having to buy a home in another location in order to have good internet service. Following discussion, Mr. Cook was asked to submit a copy of his petition to the County, which he provided to Nancy McMichael, County Clerk, and to keep Commissioner Chewning informed as to the internet issue in his area. (Petition can be found in "Miscellaneous Documents" file as MD# 15-03.)
 - B. **Cathy Flournoy: Washington Road Paving.** Cathy Flournoy, citizen who lives on Washington Road, appeared before the Board and said that 24 of the 30 right-of-way deeds have been returned; that she has had discussions with both Commissioner Chewning and Nancy McMichael, County Clerk, regarding the petitions, acreage, and other matters related to the paving project; and that she is pleased with the information she has been provided and the progress being made.
 - C. **Whitney Fulleton: Washington Road Paving.** Whitney Fulleton, granddaughter of Cathy Flournoy and citizen who lives on Washington Road, appeared before the Board and said that she rides the school bus and does not like riding on dirt roads; that one of her bus drivers quit because she didn't like driving on dirt roads; and that once, when it rained and the road got slippery, the bus slid when the driver put on the brakes to avoid hitting a deer. The Board thanked Ms. Fulleton and complimented her on the manner in which she presented her comments.
5. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **Financial Statement: January 2015.** Chairman Lange said that action had been tabled from the March 17 meeting, during which the motion to approve had been made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Chewning, but tabled pending a question regarding water expense at the Cattleman's building. Greg Wood, County Manager, said that water expense is actually at the Agri Center property and not at the Cattleman's building; that there is a monthly minimum water bill which increases when there are events, like the rodeo. The motion was approved unanimously.
6. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Certified County Commissioner.** Chairman Lange explained that Commissioners undergo training in several areas of government and said that Commissioner Woods had completed his certification courses and is now a Certified County Commissioner. He presented Commissioner Woods with his certification.
 - B. **ACCG Third Vice President.** Greg Wood, County Manager, announced that Chairman Lange had been named as Third Vice President for ACCG during the recent annual conference.

- C. **Request for Tax Refund: Hopkins, Stacy & Enon.** Chairman Lange said that a request for a tax refund in the amount of \$138.38 had been requested by Stacy & Enon Hopkins due to having purchased their vehicle tag prior to the renewal date and the vehicle having to be junked, also prior to the renewal date, due to a blown motor; and that the Tax Commissioner agreed to the request. Discussion included that Commissioner Chewning would like to see proof of the vehicle having been junked. Following discussion, the motion to approve the refund request was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Woods and passed with four in favor (Loudermilk, Woods, Lange, Langston) and one opposed (Chewning).
- D. **Insurance Renewal.** Chairman Lange said that John Leggett, with MSI, the County's insurance broker, had reviewed the renewal information for the County's health, dental, vision, basic life, voluntary life, and voluntary short and long term disability insurance, during the preceding Work Session. He asked for motions.
- (1) **Health/Medical Insurance.** The motion to approve the renewal with Blue Cross Blue Shield was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.
 - (2) **Dental and Vision Insurance.** The motion to approve the renewal with Blue Cross Blue Shield was made by Commissioner Chewning, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.
 - (3) **Basic Life & Voluntary Life Insurance.** The motion to change from Lincoln National to Greater Georgia Life (GGL) was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.
 - (4) **Short & Long Term Disability Insurance.** The motion to change from Lincoln National to Greater Georgia Life (GGL) was made by Commissioner Chewning, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.
- E. **Hamilton Cemetery.** Commissioner Langston said that because of issues related to the back portion of the Hamilton Cemetery a meeting should be arranged to try to resolve the issues. Discussion included that the meeting should be arranged as soon as possible and include the Chairman, Commissioner Chewning, the County Manager, representatives of the City of Hamilton, and members of the Hamilton Cemetery Association. Greg Wood, County Manager, is to arrange the meeting.

7. **COUNTY MANAGER**

- A. **Computers for Sheriff's Department Vehicles.** Greg Wood, County Manager, said that clarification was needed regarding invoices related to the purchase and installation of computers for the deputies' vehicles; that he thought it had been approved during a discussion regarding Technology Funding legislation that took place during the January 20, 2015, meeting, but had not; and that the Sheriff has since made the purchases and the computers have been installed. Discussion included that the "drug fund" the Sheriff referred to on January 20 was actually the drug fund the County maintains and not confiscated funds. Following discussion, Commissioner Woods tabled action until it is determined where the funds will come from.
- B. **Mt. Airy Bridge.** Greg Wood, County Manager, said that with the recent rains, a tree fell at the Mt. Airy bridge, blocking access, and the bridge itself was underwater. He said he will find out if GEMA or FEMA funds are available to make repairs to the bridge. There were no objections.
- C. **Request for Executive Session.** Greg Wood, County Manager, requested an Executive Session for the purpose of discussion personnel matters and potential and pending litigation.

8. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

- A. **Agreement with Department of Corrections: Prison Inmate Capacity.** John Taylor, County Attorney, reviewed the agreement regarding the housing of 125 state inmates at the Prison and said it was basically the same as those approved in the past, pointed out the items regarding inmate medical expenses, and recommended approval. The motion to approve this agreement was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #15-10.)

- B. **Georgia Forestry Commission Cooperative Agreement & MOU.** John Taylor, County Attorney, reviewed the agreement regarding cooperation between the County and the Georgia Forestry Commissioner in fighting rural wild fires. Following discussion, the motion to approve was made by Commissioner Langston, who commented that the Council of Fire Chiefs had already signed off on the agreement, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in “Contracts & Agreements” file as C&A #15-11.)
9. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.** The motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters and potential and pending litigation was made at 8:04 PM by Chairman Lange, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.
10. **RESUME REGULAR SESSION.** The motion to go back into Regular Session was made at 8:30 PM by Chairman Lange, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.
11. **OTHER**
- A. **Public Works Personnel.** Chairman Lange made the motion to increase the salary of Mike Brown, as Public Works Director, to \$60,000, and to change the Roads Supervisor/Heavy Equipment Operator slot to Heavy Equipment Operator, with the normal starting rate for that position at \$18.00 per hour. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk and passed unanimously.
- B. **Paul Glick, Finance Officer, Agreement.** Chairman Lange made the motion for John Taylor, County Attorney, to amend the agreement with Paul Glick, as Finance Officer, to address the manner in which compensation is to be made, to include that compensation is not to be made in a manner which will cause the County to be without a finance officer during the term of the agreement, to include holding a retainage, and to authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the agreement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.
12. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business, 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