

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION**

February 16, 2016

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.** At the request of Chairman Lange, Commissioner Joey Loudermilk led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2016, Regular Session was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.
4. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Valley Partnership Joint Development Authority Update.** Brian Anderson, Bill Murphy, and Gary Jones gave an update on the Valley Partnership and an overview of the Regional Prosperity Initiative. Discussion, which included responding to various questions from the Board, included that the County has benefitted from its association with the Valley Partnership in terms of economic development; and that Sequestration for Fort Benning has been delayed until September 2017. Handouts were provided by Mr. Murphy and Mr. Jones for the Board to follow along during discussion. (Documents can be found in “Miscellaneous Documents” file as MD #16-01.)
 - B. **Resolution: Electrical Grid Security.** Chairman Lange read the document expressing the Board’s concern for the security of the electric grid in the United States. Kevin Wiley, with Georgia Power, was present and commented, at the request of Chairman Lange, on what Georgia Power and other regulated utilities are required to do by Federal law concerning grid security. The motion to approve was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Chewning. Commissioner Loudermilk said that while the County has the resources to protect its citizens, it does not have such in case of such an attack, and asked that “from such an attack” be included in the fifth “whereas” where appropriate. Commissioners Woods and Chewning amended their motion and second. The motion passed unanimously.
 - C. **First Reading: Application of Trevor Morris for Beer & Wine On Premises at Trevioli, located at 5171 Georgia Highway 219, Fortson.** Chairman Lange said that this was the First Reading, read the specifics of the application, and asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of same. Neil Block, citizen, appeared before the Board and said that he was in favor of the application; that Mr. Morris (applicant) is a conscientious businessman who owns a business in Columbus; that this will be Mr. Morris’ second restaurant; and that the location is good for the residents in the western part of the County. There being no comments in opposition, Chairman Lange said that the Second Reading will take place March 1.
 - D. **Appointment of Liaison for Legal Assistance from ACCG for Personnel Actions.** Chairman Lange said that ACCG offers legal assistance on employment law at no cost to the County and that an individual needs to be appointed as the County’s liaison. The motion to appoint Nancy McMichael, County Clerk, as the liaison was made by Chairman Lange, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.
 - E. **JCG/Koch Foods.** Greg Wood, County Manager, said that he, Commissioner Chewning, and Chairman Lange will be meeting with the new Plant Manager at JCG/Koch Foods on Friday of this week to welcome him to the area and give him the perspective of what’s been happening at the plant as perceived by the local residents.
5. **COUNTY MANAGER**
 - A. **Radio System: Mobile Repeater Compatible Radios.** Greg Wood, County Manager, explained issues regarding the current Hytera radios and the need to change to Sepura radios and that with the trade-in, which expires February 29, the new radio will be \$550; and that he is proposing purchasing 20 radios (two for each VFD). Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs of several of the volunteer fire departments were present, and Chairman Lange asked that they come forward to make comments. Comments were made by Richard McKinney (Antioch),

Bill Czukur (Cataula), Andy Kober (Pine Mountain), Byron Hawkins (NW Harris), and Roger Duke (Hopewell). Discussion included the pros and cons of the Hytera radios, the Sepura radios and the gateway capability, the need for better communications to and from 9-1-1 and on the scene, the need for all radios to work, and the topography of the County. Chairman Lange called Dean Ginn, with Dean's Commercial Two-Way, regarding the number of portable radios that have been issued, and Mr. Ginn reported 302. The Chiefs present contacted the departments not represented and determined that at least 217 radios are currently needed to supply all departments with a sufficient number of radios, leaving 85 that may be purchased at a later date. Before the call with Mr. Ginn was disconnected, Mr. Ginn said that since the County was looking at purchased so many radios, he would make certain that the trade-in deal on the remaining 85 Hytera radios in exchange for the Sepura radios would be valid for another four months. Following discussion, the motion to move forward with the purchase 217 Sepura radios at \$550 each (the cost resulting from trade-in of Hytera radios valued at \$700 each) for a total of \$119,350 now and to purchase the remaining 85 within the next four months was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously. (Funding source to be determined.)

B. **Northwest Harris Volunteer Fire Department Building Funding.** Greg Wood, County Manager, said that action is needed regarding the provision of \$4,800 from the 2004 SPLOST and \$35,000 from the 2009 SPLOST, for a total of \$39,800 to Northwest Harris Volunteer Fire Department to help with the construction of their new building. The motion to approve was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.

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

Attest:

J. Harry Lange, Chairman

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk