

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION**

April 19, 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 Langston led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2016, Regular Session was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.
4. **APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS**

- A. **Cathy & Rickey Flournoy: Washington Road Issues.** Cathy and Rickey Flournoy, citizens who live on Washington Road, appeared before the Board to discuss several issues concerning the improvements to and paving of Washington Road. Those issues included: no work has been done for about three weeks; it rains, gets muddy, they come back, scrape it, and then it rains again; the steepness of one particular driveway; one driveway is half as wide as it was originally; trees have been limbed with limbs left on the ground and the trees without limbs standing 30 to 40 feet tall; every time it rains, the dirt put on the road washes into the creek and onto Dannie Kemp's land (photos of this had been sent to the Commissioners today by Mr. Kemp); and the road had a good solid road bed but wasn't wide enough in some places and don't know why dirt was added.

Chairman Lange said that while he shares the frustrations being experienced by citizens on Washington Road there are two others who have signed up to speak, then afterwards, the representatives from EMC Engineering (Chris Brazell) and Robinson Paving (Patrick Pugh) will respond to the issues. Greg Wood, County Manager, said that he, Commissioner Chewning, the Public Works Director, the engineer and the contractor met this past Monday and are aware of some of the issues that have been brought up.

Mrs. Flournoy said that the contract was for 180 days with a completion date of around May 4 and asked if rain days were built into the contract, if the County was going to get any penalties, if there were time lines, what can be expected, and who she needs to contact about things that are not getting addressed.

- B. **David Taylor: Washington Road Issues.** David Taylor, citizen who lives on Washington Road, appeared before the Board and said that the driveway that served his property and that of his sister was a double driveway and is now a single driveway, and that he would like it put back as a double driveway; that he had crush and run on his driveway but it is now red clay; that the height of the road bed and how it slopes down is dangerous; that a neighbor's driveway is very dangerous; that there were issues with getting mail delivery, since the mail boxes were too low once the road height was raised; and that they had to buy the wood and put the mail boxes back in place.
- C. **Harold Reichwein: Washington Road Issues.** Harold Reichwein, citizen who lives on Washington Road, appeared before the Board and said that while he agrees with what has been said he is more concerned about the safety issue of his driveway; that when you turn down his driveway from the road, you can't see the road; that his wife almost went over the edge of the driveway; that coming out of his driveway, you have to get a running start; and he asked if guardrails were going to be installed.

Chairman Lange said that he is concerned about all the issues raised; that he wants answers to everything; and that the urgent safety concerns need to be addressed quickly. Commissioner Langston said that she has driven the road twice in the last few months; that she was not comfortable doing so and is very concerned about the safety issues.

D. Responses by Engineer and Contractor: Washington Road Issues.

- (1) Chris Brazell, EMC Engineering. Chris Brazell appeared before the Board and said that regarding the power company and the trees, he nor the contractor have any control over the power company; that he understands the power company has contractors who limb the trees and others who cut the trees; that regarding the 180 days, the project was bid under Georgia DOT plans and specifications, which includes provisions for rain days, but that such has not yet been quantified; that there was about 16" of rain in December and about 8" in November; that the road material has to dry out in order to work with same; that the construction process has compaction requirements; that there are national standards for road design for sight distance and speed, which is why some of the grades were changed; that regarding the driveways, several are incomplete and will be resolved; that regarding the water and mud, his company is doing soil and erosion inspections every week to include storm water sampling up and down stream; that due to the amount of recent rains, the soil and erosion control devices are only designed for a 25-year storm event, which is the national standard, state law, and GDOT specifications; that no one could have predicted the amount of rainfall received in December; that the contractor was leery of getting the notice to proceed in November knowing that winter was not the ideal time to build a road; that the double driveway pipe for Mr. Taylor was brought to the attention of the contractor and it's just a matter of logistically getting another pipe connected to it; that what is in place on driveways would be replaced with similar material; that he will make himself available to meet with property owners to walk their property to see what the plan shows versus what they have to make sure the driveways are safe and passable; that from liability and safety standpoints, the engineering and design standards require horizontal and vertical geometry, which resulted in the vertical and horizontal raises in the road; that the intersection with Morgan Copeland Road was changed to meet state and local requirements; that prior to the project, the road was posted at 25 mph, so it was designed for 25 mph; that regarding the stream that crosses the road, it was not there when the survey was done; and that he should be able to have a memo regarding the design changes to Greg Wood, County Manager, following a meeting with him.

- (2) Patrick Pugh, Robinson Paving. Patrick Pugh said that regarding some of the driveway issues, if the work is beyond the right of way they cannot encroach upon private property; that something in writing is needed in order for such additional work to be done; that once the appropriate permission is received, they can get the driveway fixed the same day; that the mailbox issues will be addressed, and if anyone had to buy a mailbox or post, to let him know and he will reimburse them; that his company can only meet postal standard rules which require breakaway posts; that the project was let late in the year, which was not ideal as winter is the worse time of year to start a project, and unfortunately December and January were the wettest in the last 10 years; that they were hoping the stream in the road would dry up to avoid having to cut new ditches; that additional soil and erosion fencing can be installed where necessary to help cut down on the flow of water; and that Georgia red clay is the worse material to build a road because once it gets moisture in it, it takes nice, hot, windy days to get the moisture back out; and that he should be able to provide an estimated timetable of project completion by Monday or Tuesday.

Commissioner Langston asked Mr. Pugh if it was his professional opinion that the project should not have been started when it did, and Mr. Pugh said that it was a less than ideal time and the rain in December and January made it worse. Following discussion, which included the concern of the Board to have the issues corrected as well as the road improvements being completed, consensus was to immediately correct the issues with the Reichwein's driveway following the execution of a temporary construction easement that is to be drawn up by the County Attorney following receipt of the width and length of the easement from Mr. Brazell on Friday. Mr. Reichwein gave verbal permission for right of entry by the survey crew tomorrow. Consensus included that Public Works is to provide rip rap at the stream that crosses Washington Road to help alleviate that issue, and the other issues are to be corrected as soon as possible. Mrs. Flournoy asked that she be kept informed as to what takes place regarding the road to include the timetable, design changes, etc., and Chairman Lange replied that she will be kept informed. Greg Wood, County Manager, said that he will contact Georgia Power about the limbing and tree cutting process and let the Board know about same as soon as he has an answer. Mr. Pugh suggested having a weekly meeting with Mike Brown, Public Works Director, to review issues. Chairman Lange said that Mr. Wood is the

person to be contacted about the various issues in working with the residents; that he wants a full report to the Board at each meeting, and more immediately by email, so that the Board will know what is happening in order to answer the questions and concerns that they may receive. In response to a question from Mrs. Flournoy, Chairman Lange said that any issues should be addressed to Mr. Wood with a copy to him (Lange), and assured her that she will be kept posted as things develop.

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. **Road Acceptance: Maddox Road North Easement.** Chairman Lange said that this had been tabled to this meeting, but because a letter regarding payment of improvement costs had not been received, the matter will not come back before the Board until the letter has been received.
- B. **Status of Springsted Salary Compensation & Classification Study.** In response to a question from Commissioner Langston, Greg Wood, County Manager, said that Springsted will be sending a status report as to the outcome of the meetings with Department Heads and Constitutional Officers by the end of the week and that he will provide same to the Board.
- C. **Tahoe and Insurance.** Commissioner Chewning said that regardless of the amount the County received from its insurer, we should be able to contact the other insurance carrier to try and obtain full cost of the vehicle and equipment.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **Richard Mix, Congressional Candidate.** Richard Mix, candidate for US Congress Third District, was not in attendance.
- B. **Council of Fire Chiefs: Fire Apparatus from SPLOST.** Jack McClung, Chairman of the Council of Fire Chiefs and Chief of Pine Mountain Valley Volunteer Fire Department, and Andy Kober, Chief of Pine Mountain Fire Department, appeared before the Board and discussed going out on bid for fire apparatus. Discussion included that because the SPLOST proceeds are not in hand, perhaps financing or doing a lease purchase, either of which would expire at the end of the SPLOST time period, would be feasible. Following discussion, there were no objections from the Board as to going out on bid for fire apparatus and for the bid to include finance options or lease purchase and the SPLOST end date. (Chief McClung and Chief Kober will be in touch with Nancy McMichael, County Clerk, regarding the bid.)
- C. **Request for Fire Study Draft.** Jack McClung, Chief of the Council of Fire Chiefs and Chief of Pine Mountain Valley Volunteer Fire Department, requested that the chiefs be provided with a copy of the Fire Study Draft. There were no objections. Nancy McMichael, County Clerk, is to email the draft to all the fire chiefs, except West Point which was not included in the study.
- D. **Financial Statement: February 2016.** The motion to approve the financial statement for February 2016 was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Langston. In response to a question from Commissioner Langston, Greg Wood, County Manager, said that the SPLOST update was provided with the financial statement. Chairman Lange said that regarding the 1999 and 2004 SPLOSTs, which the Board discussed and decided how to finish those, he would like to know when and how the remaining funds will be paid out. The motion to approve the February 2016 financial statement passed unanimously.

7. **COUNTY MANAGER**

- A. **Projects Status Update.** Greg Wood, County Manager, brought the Board up to date on various projects, to include:
 - (1) **Airport.** The beacon is in and working and can be seen from LaGrange; that the striping is done; that the east end of the Taxiway is open; and that the taxiway lighting is in progress.
 - (2) **Ginn Lake Road (storm damage of April 1).** Stockpiling of material is taking place to make repairs, but from what he understands, the citizens are happy that the cut-through traffic has been reduced because of the road issue.

- (3) Radios and Fire Departments. All but one fire department have turned in their radio requirements.
 - (4) LMIG Safety Items. Reminder about the need for safety concerns to include striping, signs or guardrails.
 - (5) Library. The library design will be taken to the general public with a design charrette on May 4.
 - (6) Watkins Road Survey. The surveyor had a family emergency which has delayed the survey of Watkins Road.
- B. **Fire Plan Draft Meeting**. Greg Wood, County Manager, asked if the Board would like to have a Work Session about the Fire Plan Draft, and consensus was to have such with the Council of Fire Chiefs once they have had a chance to review the draft, which is to be provided. (See 6C above.)
- C. **Cemeteries - African American & Hamilton**. Commissioner Chewning said that issues regarding the cemeteries still need to be resolved.

8. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

- A. **Task Order #2: Design & Construction Phase Services for Hangar and Taxilane Sitework Development**. John Taylor, County Attorney, reviewed the document, said that the total is \$233,544, and recommended approval of same. The motion to approve this agreement was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #16-08.)
9. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**. The motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending and threatened litigation, real estate acquisition or disposal, and a personnel issue was made at 8:56 PM by Chairman Lange, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.
10. **RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION**. The motion to go back into Regular Session was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.
11. **OTHER**
- A. **Authorize Purchase of 7.7 Acres & 60' Easement**. The motion to authorize the purchase 7.7 acres and a 60' non-exclusive easement from Alexander Bros in connection with the Water Treatment Plant expansion pursuant to the terms of the agreement, was made by Chairman Lange, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.
12. **ADJOURNMENT**. There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.

J. Harry Lange, Chairman

Attest:

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk