

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION**

June 21, 2016

7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present: J. Harry Lange, Martha Chewning, Becky Langston, Joey Loudermilk, Jim Woods. Staff Present: 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 June 7, 2016, Regular Session was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk. Discussion included changing the words “job classifications” to “job descriptions” in the fifth line of 4A. Commissioner Woods amended his motion and Commissioner Loudermilk amended his second to include the correction. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS**
  - A. **Cathy Flournoy: Washington Road.** Cathy Flournoy, citizen who lives on Washington Road, appeared before the Board to thank them for the improvements that are underway on Washington Road and said that signs are needed in an area, guard rails may be needed in an area, and water is standing in a driveway pipe and not draining. She said that the progress looks like there will be a paved road before the end of summer. Chairman Lange said that Diverse Power has started moving their power poles and that same should be completed within two weeks, after which Robinson Paving will relocate to the site and finish the project.
5. **OLD BUSINESS**
  - A. **Agreement with Department of Corrections: Care & Custody of 150 Prison Inmates.** Chairman Lange said that he had tabled action on this agreement during the June 7 meeting; that he has since talked to the Prison Warden and the Finance Officer to get details on costs and expenses; and that most of his concerns have been resolved. Following a brief discussion, 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 #16-13.)
  - B. **Appointment to Board of Health.** Chairman Lange said his designation to the Board of Health had been tabled to this meeting and he asked Commissioner Woods if he would be willing to serve on the Board of Health. Commissioner Woods agreed to serve and there were no objections to this designation. The term of Commissioner Woods will be for the term of Chairman Lange.
  - C. **Second Reading: Alcohol Application of Baljett K. Sandhu for Package/Liquor, Beer & Wine Off Premises at Billy Bob’s Party Shop, 6052 GA Highway 85, Ellerslie.** Chairman Lange read the specifics of the application and said that it had been recommended for approval by the Sheriff’s Office; that Health Department recommendation was not needed; and that Community Development had changed its recommendation to approval since the applicant has applied for an occupational license and the building has been inspected for change of occupancy. Tracy Thomas, business manager for Billy Bob’s was present, but had no comments. Chairman Lange asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of the application. There being none, he asked if anyone wished to speak in opposition. There being none, he asked for a motion.

Commissioner Loudermilk said, as he did at the June 7 meeting, that Billy Bob’s convenience store sells beer and wine and that Luke’s Pub sells drinks on premises; that someone can purchase alcohol from either of the current location; that he does not see the need for another alcohol license in the area; and that he has other concerns regarding the location. He then made the motion to disapprove this application, which was seconded by Commissioner Langston. Following discussion, the motion passed with four in favor (Loudermilk, Langston, Lange, Chewning) and one opposed (Woods). Commissioner Woods also commented that phone numbers should be provided for the references shown on alcohol applications.

- D. **Second Reading: Alcohol Application of Raju Surani for Beer & Wine Off Premises at Citgo Food Mart, 9089 GA Highway 18, Pine Mountain.** Chairman Lange read the specifics of the application and said that it had been recommended for approval by the Sheriff's Office and Community Development, and that a recommendation from the Health Department was not needed. The applicant was in attendance but had no comments. Chairman Lange asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or in opposition to the application. There being none, he asked for a motion. The motion to approve this application was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Chewing. During discussion, Commissioner Woods said that the location has been vacant for at least 10 years and that he hopes the business will succeed. The motion passed unanimously.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **Budget FY 15/16 Amendments #2.** Chairman Lange said that amendments to the current budget are necessary and he asked Paul Glick, Finance Officer, to review same. Mr. Glick reviewed the necessary amendments and responded to questions. The motion to approve the amendments was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Chewing, and passed unanimously.
- B. **Budget FY 16/17 Public Hearing II.** Chairman Lange called the Public Hearing to order and said that the budget included the general funds, airport, solid waste, water works and small funds; and that the general fund budget included the previously discussed salary increases for employees (see minutes of June 7, item 4A) and the health insurance renewal. Chairman Lange asked if anyone wished to comment. There being no comments from those in attendance or from the Board, he closed the Public Hearing.
- C. **Budget FY 16/17 Adoption.** The motion to approve the budgets (general funds, airport, solid waste, water works, and small funds) was made by Commissioner Chewing, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.
- D. **Wellness Grant Application.** Chairman Lange said that the County has received this grant, for which there is no match by the County, for six years; that it must be applied for annually; and that the funding must be used for health and wellness related promotions and activities.. The motion to approve the grant application was made by Commissioner Loudermilk and seconded by Commissioner Chewing, and passed unanimously.
- E. **Financial Statement: April 2016.** The motion to approve the April 2016 financial statement was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Commissioner Chewing, and passed unanimously.

7. **COUNTY MANAGER**

- A. **Projects Status Update.** In the absence of a County Manager, Nancy McMichael, County Clerk and Assistant County Manager, provided updates of various projects, which included:
- (1) **Airport Hangar Flooring Issues.** The letter regarding the hangar flooring issues has been mailed and a resolution should be forthcoming soon.
  - (2) **Ginn Lake Road.** Public Works has started repairs on Ginn Lake Road and should be completed by Thursday of this week.
  - (3) **Kings Gap/CDBG Project.** Public Works has been working every day for the past couple of months, and if all goes well, the project should be completed on time, which is in October.
  - (4) **Political Signs on Rights of Way.** Because elections are over, Community Development has started picking up signs from the County right of way, that Georgia DOT will begin picking up signs from the State right of way, and that GDOT has asked that we do not touch their right of way.
  - (5) **Radar List Update.** The suggested revisions to the Radar List are almost finished, to include the addition of several roads, and should be before the Board in July for approval, after which it will go back to GDOT for final approval.

- (6) Washington Road. Robinson Paving has relocated to another job due to the delay in Diverse Power moving its power poles; that the relocation is scheduled to begin tomorrow and is expected to take two weeks or less; and that the engineer has been notified of same and will relay to Robinson Paving. (Note: As of June 22, County was notified that work by Robinson Paving will resume July 11.)
- (7) Westgate Drive and Westgate Circle. The right of way deed has been prepared and will soon be signed by the officers of the homeowners association, after which it will be recorded.
- (8) Mars Hill and West Mars Hill. Commissioner Woods said that regarding the acceptance of Mars Hill and West Mars Hill, the County Manager was unable to make contact with a property owner on West Mars Hill Drive (B.C. Faulk Builder), and he would like to move forward with the condemnation process on that piece of property. There were no objections. [Note: A property owner at the end of Mars Hill Drive also could not be contacted; therefore, the road acceptance will stop short of that property (Merritt).]

8. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

- A. **Agreement with Department of Corrections: Educational Incentive Plan**. John Taylor, County Attorney, reviewed the agreement to include there must be at least 10 inmates sign up to take the class, which is to establish classrooms in the prison for inmate who do not have a high school diploma or GED; and that the prison would receive \$25,000 for this service, upon proper submission of documents to the DOC; and there must be a minimum of 10 and no more than 25 students enrolled. Following discussion, the motion to approve was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #16-14.)
  - B. **Agreement with Southern Health Partners: Medical Service at Jail, Amendment #3**. John Taylor, County Attorney, reviewed the agreement to include various changes to the original agreement of 2011 as well as an increase in the base fee, but that he had no reference to amendment #2, although amendment #1 had been approved by the Board. Following discussion, the motion to approve was made by Commissioner Langston and seconded by Commissioner Woods. Chairman Lange asked that action be tabled to July 5 pending information on the history of the agreement to include what amendment #2 contained and fee increases. There were no objections to the table.
  - C. **Agreements with Georgia Forestry: 10KW Generator, Tool Box with Tools, and Rescue Equipment for Pine Mountain Valley Volunteer Fire Department**. John Taylor, County Attorney, said that there are three agreements, one for each item, that are necessary in order for Georgia Forestry to search and provide the item; that the items would be utilized by Pine Mountain Valley Volunteer Fire Department; and that he recommended approval of same. Following discussion, the motion to approve these three (3) agreements was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously. (Documents can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A 16-15.)
9. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**. The motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel, real estate acquisition or disposal and potential litigation was made at 8:15 PM by Chairman Lange, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.
  10. **RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION**. The motion to go back into Regular Session was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Chairman Lange, and passed unanimously.
  11. **OTHER**
    - A. **Health Insurance: Motion to Rescind and New Motion**. Chairman Lange said that regarding the renewal of the County's health, dental and vision insurance, the Board, during the June 7 meeting, voted to rescind its vote of May 17, for which Option #3 (increase to the amount employees pay toward their portion of their insurance premium); that the motion in the June 7 meeting was for Option #1 (includes no changes to the deductible and out-of-pocket and the County absorbing the full cost of the increase in the employee's portion of their premium); and that he

would like to choose another option. Following discussion, Chairman Lange made the motion to rescind the motion made June 7 in its entirety. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chewning and passed unanimously. Chairman Lange then made the motion to renew the insurance with Blue Cross Blue Shield with Option #2, which includes increasing the deductible and out-of-pocket to \$6,600 and the County absorbing the full cost of the premium. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chewning and passed unanimously.

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

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J. Harry Lange, Chairman

Attest:

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Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk