

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION**

July 19, 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, Paul Glick, Finance Officer, led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of the July 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.** Cathy and Rickey Flournoy, citizens who live on Washington Road, appeared before the Board regarding the status of Washington Road. Mrs. Flournoy's comments included that the phone lines have been moved off the old power poles; that she understands the company that owns the poles will have to move same; that she had made contact with Georgia Power and AT&T but she shouldn't have had to do so. In response to a question from Mr. Flournoy, Chairman Lange said that the County is ultimately responsible for making sure the work gets done. He also said that the County had made several contacts with the power and phone companies in an effort to get the lines moved more quickly. Commissioner Chewning said that she had talked with the paving company and had been advised that the project should be completed in four to six weeks. Mrs. Flournoy said that their driveway pipe still has issues and she has talked to Mike Brown (Public Works Director) about the problem. She also said that with the road not being paved, they are experiencing more issues than normal with 4-wheelers.
  - B. **Bobby Haralson: JCG/Koch Foods.** Bobby Haralson, citizen, appeared before the Board and said that he believes there has been a name change for the business; that last month he lost his three beehives probably as a result of the chemical poison coming from JCG/Koch Foods; and that years ago when Cagle's used a spray system on nearby pastureland, the Department of Agriculture said that any hay baled could not be sold for animal consumption. He also said that the minutes of April 3, 2012, and May 17, 2012, were missing from the website; that those minutes show the County acted illegally regarding the abandonment of and deeding of the road (that formerly led to the gatehouse at Cagle's). [County Clerk checked the website; found those minutes were indeed missing; and the minutes have been re-posted.]
5. **OLD BUSINESS**
  - A. **Agreement with Southern Health Partners: Medical Service at Jail, Amendment #3.** Chairman Lange said that action had been tabled during the July 5 meeting regarding the financial aspects of the agreement. He said that the increase in costs is due to a request from the Jail for additional medical hours, and that the funds for the increase had been included in the budget. Sheriff Mike Jolley was present to respond to questions or comments from the Board. The Sheriff confirmed the need for additional medical hours, that only one emergency kit has been used and has yet to be replaced. Discussion included that changing to a fiscal year would be best for the County. John Taylor, County Attorney, is to get in touch with Southern Health Partners about the agreement. The motion to approve the agreement, pending revisions/corrections was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #16-17.)
6. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - A. **Millage Rate.** Chairman Lange said that the millage rate for 2017 needs to be set and he asked Wayne Morris, Chief Tax Appraiser, to explain the term "rollback". Mr. Morris explained that the rollback rate is the previous year's millage rate plus or

minus the millage equivalent of the total net assessed value added to or deducted based upon reassessments of existing real property; that it does not apply to new homes, new permits, but only to homes revalued because of a change in the market; that if the revalued assessments go up, the County has to roll back the millage or advertise a tax increase; and if the assessments go down, the County may roll the millage up to collect the same amount of taxes as the previous year based upon the revaluation. Following discussion, the motion to set the County's millage at 6.14, to set that portion of West Point within the County at 3.68, and to authorize the Tax Commissioner to collect the School Board's millage of 18.56, was made by Chairman Lange, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously. (Note: Total millage is 24.70 - County M&O at 6.14, School M&O at 17.91, and School Bond Indebtedness at .65)

B. **Financial Statement: May 2016.** Discussion took place regarding the overages in the salary lines of Tax Commissioner, Jail, Court Services, and Voter Registrar for which Paul Glick, Finance Officer, is to research; and in response to a request from Commissioner Langston about the need to have a department set up for the Airport beginning the current fiscal year and a profit/loss statement to show expenditures and revenues related to projects at the Airport, Mr. Glick indicated he would develop same. Following discussion, the motion to approve the May 2016 financial statement was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Chairman Lange, and passed unanimously.

C. **Requests for Tax Refund.** Chairman Lange read the two (2) requests for tax refund, as follows:

(1) **Hutcherson, Thomas F., Jr.:** Refund of \$138.38 due to grandson wrecking vehicle, which was a total loss, and having paid the tag fee before birthday. Discussion included that of the \$138.38, the mailing fee is \$1.00, the wildlife renewal fee is \$25.00, the standard tag fee is \$20.00, and the ad valorem tax is \$92.38. Both the Tax Commissioner and Board of Tax Assessors agreed with the request. The motion to refund the ad valorem tax in the amount of \$92.38 was made by Commissioner Chewning, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.

(2) **Rayburn, Robert C.:** Refund of \$407.06 due to having paid the ad valorem tax on his vehicle and then selling it before his birthday. The Tax Commissioner neither agreed or disagreed and the Board of Tax Assessors agreed with the Tax Commissioner. The motion to approve the refund in the amount of \$407.06 was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, 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 hangar flooring issues resolution is ongoing, with another letter having been sent to the contractor on Friday.

(2) **Kings Gap/CDBG Project.** Water Works is 95% complete with their work; Public Works crews continue to work on the project, having completed 30 to 90 percent of their work on some of the roads; and the bid schedule has been set with paving expected mid-September or early October.

(3) **Water Projects.** Hudson Mill Circle has 6,000 feet completed of the 14,000 feet, and work continues as time permits. Goat Rock Road bore is complete but pipe is not yet installed; Hadley Road project is not yet started; and the Grove project is not yet started, but a meeting was held July 7 with Columbus Water Works who is working on their water model regarding the sale of the water.

## 6. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

A. **Ante-Litem Notices: George & Eugenia Botta.** John Taylor, County Attorney, said that two ante-litem notices had been received, one each for George Botta and Eugenia Botta in connection with an occurrence in March of this year on the Barnes Mill Road bridge. He reviewed the specifics of the occurrence and recommended that the Board deny the ante-litem notices, after which he will notify the County's

insurance carrier of same. Following discussion, the motion to deny the ante-litem notices was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.

- B. **Change Order for Hangar Contract: Hangar Floor Repairs.** John Taylor, County Attorney, said that while the County has tried to work with the contractor regarding repairs to the floors of both corporate hangars at the Airport, its Airport consultant obtained three proposals from other firms to seal the floors using ArmorSeal, a product that will withstand AV gas and grease; that while the hangar contractor indicated they could apply the product in two days, it was deemed to be unacceptable by our Airport consultant; that Wrightway Commercial, the firm that submitted the lowest proposal, can do the work in 10 days to two weeks due to the time it will take for the sealant to cure; that Wrightway Commercial will charge \$35,500 to do the work and the cost will be deducted from the retainage being held from the hangar contractor; that the recommendation is to authorize a project change order with Wrightway Commercial in the amount of \$35,500; and that once the work has been completed and inspected, the remaining retainage will be released to the hangar contractor. The motion to approve Wrightway Commercial, in the amount of \$35,500, via a change order, was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in “Contracts & Agreements” file as C&A #16-18.)
7. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.** The motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel and potential litigation was made at 8:20 PM by Chairman Lange, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.
8. **RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION.** The motion to go back into Regular Session was made by Chairman Lange, seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.
9. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.

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J. Harry Lange, Chairman

Attest:

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Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk