

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION**

November 1, 2016

7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present: J. Harry Lange, Martha Chewning, Becky Langston, Joey Loudermilk, Jim Woods. Staff Present: Randy Dowling, County Manager (after being appointed); 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, Dr. Susan Andrews led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2016, Regular Session was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.
4. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Appointment of County Manager.** Chairman Lange said that the Board had narrowed down the applicants for County Manager to Randy Dowling, which was announced during its October 4 meeting. He then made the motion to appoint Randy Dowling as County Manger. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk, and passed unanimously.
 - B. **County Manager Contract.** Chairman Lange made the motion to approve the contract with Randy Dowling, as County Manager. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" as C&A# 16-30.)
5. **APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS**
 - A. **Christopher Drimmell: Tax Commissioner Hours.** Christopher Drimmell was not in attendance.
 - B. **Rickey Flournoy: Washington Road.** Rickey Flournoy, citizen who lives on Washington Road, appeared before the Board and said that guardrails had not been installed, that signs are still missing, four foot shoulders are not in place, and the visibility at the intersection of Washington Road at Morgan Copeland Road is still dangerous. Chairman Lange said that everything is being looked at to make sure the project is to the County's satisfaction; that he understands signs have been received and should be installed soon, that the punch list items which are the responsibility of the contractor will be taken care of before final payment is made. Mr. Flournoy asked if the contract was being penalized for the delay in getting the project finished, and Chairman Lange said that the final work, which is the grassing and stabilization can't be done until weather permits, since we are currently in a drought, is not the fault of the contractor, and that the penalty clause will be reviewed to determine if penalties are necessary.
6. **NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)**
 - C. **Financial Statement: August 2016.** The motion to approve the August 2016 financial statement was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.
 - D. **Insolvent Requests: October 2016.** Chairman Lange said there were two items on the insolvent list, both regarding mobile homes for which no bids were received at the tax sale held for same. Following discussion, the motion to approve the list was made by Commissioner Chewning, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.
 - E. **Appointments: Recreation Board.** Chairman Lange said there are two vacancies on the Recreation Board, as follows:
 - (1) **Mountain Hill Youth Sports Association (MHYSA) Representative.** The MHYSA recommends the appointment of Troy Lundquist to complete Heather Hajek's term, which expires December 31, 2018.

- (2) At-Large Position. Michael Grant, whose term expires December 31, 2016, has resigned and consideration should be given to appoint an individual to not only complete the term, but to complete the next term, which will expire December 31, 2019. Commissioner Langston said that she would like to nominate Thomas Vowell for the At-Large position; that Mr. Vowell has four children and involved in soccer; and that because there is currently no soccer representation on the Recreation Board, Mr. Vowell's appointment would be an asset.

The motion to appoint Mr. Lundquist to complete the term of Ms. Hajek as representative for the MHYSA with an expiration of December 31, 2018, and to appoint Mr. Vowell to the At-Large position with an expiration of December 31, 2019, was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.

7. COUNTY MANAGER

- A. **Projects Update**. With the appointment of the new County Manager during this meeting and Mr. Dowling being unfamiliar with County projects, Nancy McMichael, County Clerk and Assistant County Manager, provided updates of various projects, which included:

- (1) CDBG Project. The bonds were received, the contract has been signed, and the Notice to Proceed was issued on October 24 with a starting date of October 25 and a completion date of December 23, even though the paving is expected to be completed much sooner.
- (2) Restrooms in Pine Mountain. Building roof has been completed and staff is in the process of roughing in the electrical and plumbing with inspection expected later this week.
- (3) OneGeorgia Edge Grant for JCG/Koch Foods. The grant in the amount of \$1,500,000 and which started in 2013 has been closed out and is complete.

- B. **Fleet Increase: Prison**. Nancy McMichael, County Clerk and Assistant County Manager, said that the Prison has requested the addition of one vehicle, which has been turned in by another department, to their fleet for the purpose of allowing the management of the Detail Crews to check up on the work details as required, as well as to take a smaller crew, as needed, to various locations. Following discussion, the motion to approve was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.

8. COUNTY ATTORNEY

- A. **Ante Litem Notice: Chimera Fuller**. John Taylor, County Attorney, said that an ante litem notice had been received regarding the claim of Chimera Fuller for injuries and damages received as a result of false arrest based on an erroneous suspension of her license by the Department of Driver Services due to failure of Harris County Probate Court to properly record the voluntary payment by Ms. Fuller of her speeding citation prior to her court hearing. He reviewed the specifics of the occurrence and recommended that the Board deny the ante-litem notice, after which he will notify the County's insurance carrier of same. Following discussion, the motion to deny the ante-litem notice was made by Commissioner Loudermilk, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.
 - B. **Request for Executive Session**. John Taylor, County Attorney, requested an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters and potential or pending litigation.
9. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**. The motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters and potential or pending litigation was made at 7:30 PM by Chairman Lange, seconded by Commissioner Chewing, and passed unanimously.
 10. **RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION**. The motion to go back into Regular Session was made at 8:25 PM by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Chairman Lange, and passed unanimously.

11. **OTHER**

A. **County Clerk**. Chairman Lange made the motion to give Nancy McMichael, County Clerk and Assistant County Manager, a one-time payment of \$9,167 for acting in the capacity of County Manager during the time frame in which the County was without a County Manager (for five months). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Loudermilk and passed unanimously.

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

J. Harry Lange, Chairman

Attest:

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk