

HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
January 16, 2018
7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present: J. Harry Lange, Jim Woods, Susan Andrews, Martha Chewning, Becky Langston. Staff Present: Randy Dowling, 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 Woods led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2018 Regular Session was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.
4. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **Appointment: Board of Tax Assessors.** Chairman Lange said that action is needed to ratify the appointment of Pam Jackson to the Board of Tax Assessors for another term, ending December 31, 2021. He then made the motion to approve/ratify the appointment. Commissioner Langston seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Setting Qualifying Fees.** Chairman Lange said that State law requires the Commissioners to set the qualifying fees for elected officials and to publish same no later than February 1 of any year in which a general primary, nonpartisan primary or general election is to be held; that there are two offices for the upcoming election, to be held May 22; that the offices are Commissioner and School Board; and that the qualifying fees are:

Commissioners (districts 1, 2 & 3):	\$315
School Board (districts 2, 5 & 7):	\$ 72

The motion to set the qualifying fees as shown above was made by Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously
 - B. **Audit FYE June 30, 2017 Presentation: Clint Chastain.** In the absence of Robinson & Grimes, auditors, Clint Chastain, Chief Finance Officer, presented and reviewed the audit for FYE June 30, 2017. Mr. Chastain reviewed the document and answered questions of the Board. Following discussion, which included a listing of high-cost items of Group Life Insurance (\$1.3 million), Community Center debt (\$985,000), Pension (\$969,000), E9-1-1 operation (\$200,000), Severn Trent (\$196,000), EMS Ambulance (\$183,000), Legal (\$132,000), Vehicle Maintenance (\$110,000), Public Defender (\$108,000), Columbus Consolidated Government - Juvenile Justice (\$69,000), Audit (\$57,000), Glick Accounting (\$55,000), the motion to approve the Audit FYE June 30, 2017 was made by Commissioner Chewning, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.
 - C. **Financial Statement: October 2017.** Clint Chastain, Chief Finance Officer, said that overall, expenditures reflected in the October financial statement appear to be in good shape. Following discussion, during which Mr. Chastain responded to questions regarding the financial statement, the motion to approve was made by Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.
 - D. **Surplus Property: Airport NDB Antenna & Equipment.** Chairman Lange said that Bill Champion, Airport Manager, has requested that the Board declare the NDB antenna and equipment, which are obsolete and no longer used, be declared surplus and sold. The motion to declare the NDB antenna and equipment at the Airport as surplus and to sell same via GovDeals or other means, was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.

6. **COUNTY MANAGER**

A. **Project Updates.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, brought the Board up to date on various projects, as follows:

- (1) Recreation Director Position. New Director has been on the job since January 8. He then introduced Stephen Waskey, the new Recreation Director.
- (2) Fund Accounting Software. Project is in progress.
- (3) Prison CCTV Security System Update. Project has been re-bid with bids are due February 1.
- (4) 911 Telephone & CAD System. Both are operational with the system to be finalized this month.
- (5) Fire Trucks. The two brush trucks and three of the seven fire trucks have been received with a fourth expected soon.
- (6) Holland Drive, Kingsboro Road & Diamond Circle/Road. County Attorney is preparing the right of way deeds for Holland and Kingsboro; and the deeds for Diamond Circle/Road will be prepared when the other deeds are finished.
- (7) Airport Fencing Project. Project has been re-bid with bids are due February 12.
- (8) Compactors. Expected to be delivered next week; some concrete work needed at the Harrisville compactor site.
- (9) Library. Carpet is down, final painting has been done, landscaping in, shelving is in, and dedication ceremony planned for early March.
- (10) Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Department Heads have been notified to update their CIP in preparation for the upcoming budget process.
- (11) SPLOST Continuation. Three of the cities have signed off on the intergovernmental agreement.
- (12) Fee Schedules. New schedules went into effect January 1, 2018.
- (13) SPLOST & LOST Collections. Both are higher than last month and for the same time last year.
- (14) Building Permits. Down from November and from same time last year, but on track to exceed last fiscal year.
- (15) County-wide Radio System. In response to a question from Commissioner Langston, Mr. Dowling said that the agreement is still in progress and that it should be completed by the end of February.

7. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

A. **Resolution to Call for SPLOST Referendum.** John Taylor, County Attorney, reviewed the resolution calling for the SPLOST Referendum and explained same to include \$12,858,000 for County projects and \$2,442,000 for Municipal projects; and that the referendum does not reflect the ability to enter into bond indebtedness. Following discussion, the motion to approve the Resolution to Call for the SPLOST Referendum was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.

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

J. Harry Lange, Chairman

Attest:

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk