

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION**

July 3, 2018  
7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present: J. Harry Lange, Susan Andrews, Martha Chewning, Becky Langston, Jim Woods. Staff Present: Randy Dowling, County Manager; John Taylor, County Attorney; Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk.

1. **CALL TO ORDER and WELCOME.** Chairman Lange called the Regular Session to order and welcomed back John Taylor, County Attorney.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** At the request of Chairman Lange, Commissioner Andrews led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2018, Regular Session was made by Commissioner Chewning, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.
4. **OLD BUSINESS**
  - A. **Community Center & Recreation Facilities Fee Schedule Revisions.** Stephen Waskey, Recreation Director, appeared before the Board to continue discussion regarding fee changes for the Community Center and Recreation facilities that were not approved during the June 19 meeting. He reviewed the service organizations and attendance figures (back to 2015) and responded to questions. Following discussion, the motion to approve all revisions except for those service organizations that are affiliated with the County government or School system for which there will not be a charge, was made by Commissioner Chewning, seconded by Commissioner Andrews and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Miscellaneous Documents" file as MD#18-06.)
  - B. **Melody Lake Dam: Bathymetric Study.** Chairman Lange said that a revision had been made to the bathymetric proposal of Aquatic Environmental Services, Inc., that had been provided in the meeting packet. He said that in addition to the hydrographic map of depth contours and mapping the perimeter of the lake, for a total of \$5,800, the revision includes a sediment analysis and a sedimentation survey shaded map, for an additional \$2,800; and that having such an in-depth study would provide the Board with the information necessary to make a decision regarding which of the six options (see May 15, 2018, minutes) to choose. Following discussion, Randy Dowling, County Manager, was directed to have the consultants at the July 17 meeting to further discuss the bathymetric study.
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - A. **Wellness Grant Application.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that the County has received this grant, for which there is no match by the County, for several years; that it must be applied for annually; and that the funding must be used for health and wellness related promotions and activities. Following discussion regarding the promotions and activities, the Board requested a report providing such information. The motion to approve the grant application was made by Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.
  - B. **Requests for Tax Refund: Diversified Trees, Inc.** Chairman Lange said there were two requests for tax refund from Diversified Trees, Inc. - one for 2015 and one for 2016, as follows:
    - (1) **Diversified Trees, Inc., 2016:** Refund of \$11.88 due to 1995 Brush Bandit Chipper listed on personal property tax bill; Tax Commissioner agrees with request; and Board of Tax Assessors also agrees because a tagged vehicle cannot be taxed as personal property.
    - (2) **Diversified Trees, Inc., 2015:** Refund of \$11.86 due to 1995 Brush Bandit Chipper listed on personal property tax bill; Tax Commissioner agrees with request; and Board of Tax Assessors also agrees because a tagged vehicle cannot be taxed as personal property.

The motion to approve the two refund requests, totaling \$23.74, was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.

- C. **LMIG 2019 Road List.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that GDOT is accepting applications for the 2019 LMIG program and has notified the County that its share will be \$766,947.96, which will require a match of \$76,697.79 from SPLOST 2014, for a total of \$843,642.75 for resurfacing needs; that the Public Works Director has determined there are two roads (Barnes Mill Road and Lower Blue Springs Road) in dire need of resurfacing and restriping; that it is proposed that the two roads be submitted to GDOT for the upcoming 2019 LMIG distribution; and that any overage that may result from the project will also come from 2014 SPLOST. The motion to approve the LMIG 2019 list was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.
- D. **Road Listing & Improvement Program: Addition of O'Neal Road.** Chairman Lange said that a request had been made to add O'Neal Road, which is in Commissioner Woods' district, to the road listing and improvement program list, which currently has 30 roads on the list. Commissioner Woods made the motion to add O'Neal Road, which is between Monument Road and SR 219, to the list (as #31). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Langston and passed unanimously.
- E. **Archery Grant Application.** Stephen Waskey, Recreation Director, appeared before the Board and said that the Recreation Board had voted to allow the Archery Club to be part of the Recreation program; that the Archery Club wants to apply for a grant to obtain certification for coaches, who, upon obtaining certification, will be provided with a \$4,000 equipment package; and that there is no match required for this grant. Following discussion, the motion to approve the grant application was made by Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.
- F. **Appointment: Comprehensive Plan Committee.** Chairman Lange said that the School Board has requested that Steve Goodnoe be appointed to the Comprehensive Plan Committee as the School Board's second representative. The motion to appoint Mr. Goodnoe to the Comp Plan Committee was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.
- G. **Fireworks.** Commissioner Langston asked if the County had an Ordinance regarding the use of fireworks. John Taylor, County Attorney, said that he was not aware of such an ordinance, and due to the lack thereof, the County would abide by State regulations.

6. **COUNTY MANAGER**

- A. **Budget Amendment FY 17/18: Library Construction.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, explained that with the completion of the new Library and trying to close the fiscal year, there is a shortfall. He said that the Library broke ground on March 21, 2017; that the dedication ceremony was on March 29, 2018; that the total budget was \$5,226,000, which included architect fees, geotechnical reports, construction, security system, furniture, fixtures, RFID book tracking system, telephone system, computer infrastructure, AV system, exterior sign, and exterior furniture, with a final project cost of \$5,116,645.76 (\$109,351.24 under budget); that revenue sources were from SPLOST 2009 (\$1,500,000), SPLOST 2014 (\$500,000), state funds (\$2,000,000), and anticipated donations (\$1,226,000) totaling \$5,226,000; that all revenue sources were received, except for the anticipated donations for which only \$842,448.28 was received, leaving \$383,551.72 uncollected; and that to settle the outstanding invoice, \$221,952 is needed from General Funds.

Discussion followed, which included Commissioner Langston stating that taxpayers were told, during the public hearing in August 2017 regarding the millage rate increase, that no taxpayer dollars would be used toward the construction of the library; that she would like to see the list of the Library donors; that before the first shovel of dirt was turned for the Library, she had stated that all funding should be in place before construction started; and that she believes this is wrong and cannot vote for the request to use General Funds to pay the outstanding amount of \$221,952.

Regarding donations, Commissioner Andrews said that the Commission members did not do their share of work regarding solicitation of funds; that it was all left to Chairman Lange to do; and perhaps the Board needs to assist in this area.

Chairman Lange said he agreed that citizens were told taxpayer funds would not be used toward the construction costs of the Library, and in retrospect, it should have been stated that such was the intent. He also said any future donations for the Library will put into General Funds to offset the outstanding amount.

Following discussion, the motion to approve using \$221,952 from General Funds to pay the outstanding Library invoice was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Andrews, and passed with four in favor (Woods, Andrews, Chewning, Lange) and one opposed (Langston).

B. **Project Updates.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that this update begins anew with projects for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. He then reviewed various projects, as follows:

- (1) Vehicles for Animal Control. Acquisition of two pick-up trucks is underway.
- (2) Community Center Pool Heater Enclosure. Project is underway.
- (3) Community Center Patio Furnishings. Acquisition if underway.
- (4) Ambulances for EMS. Bid specs are being drafted.
- (5) Prison Replacement Locking/Intercom System. Agreement is on tonight's agenda to proceed with the design of the system.
- (6) Public Works Safety Barricades & Equipment. Acquisition of Tractor/Mower is underway.
- (7) LMIG 2019. Application was approved previously during tonight's meeting and will be sent to GDOT.
- (8) Holland Drive. Of the four outstanding deeds, one has been successfully negotiated, one is still in the process of negotiation, and attorney is working on the other two that have title issues. In response to questions from Commissioner Langston, Mr. Dowling said that the negotiated cost for the one deed was about \$1,600 and that negotiations for the other deed involved land swap. Commissioner Langston said that she was not aware of the negotiated cost and asked that she be kept informed since the road is in her district.
- (9) Hamilton Business Park Road Improvements. Project is progressing and should be completed by late July.
- (10) Pate Park Playground Equipment. Equipment is in progress of being installed and should be completed during July.
- (11) Ellerslie Park. Development continues; consultants working on bid specs.
- (12) Airport Fencing, Phase I. Installation started June 25 and completion is expected during late September 2018.
- (13) Airport Fencing, Phase II. Initial preparatory work is in progress.
- (14) Airport Access Road. Design has been completed and bids should be ready to go out in a couple of weeks.
- (15) Airport Tractor/Mower. Acquisition is underway.
- (16) Water Meter Replacement Project. Award recommendation will be on the July 17 agenda for action by the Board.
- (17) Comprehensive Plan Update. Project is underway.
- (18) Rails to Trails Project (aka Railroad Rec Trail). Bidding on first phase to begin in December or early January 2019.

- (19) Hotel/Motel Tax Ordinance Revision. Draft to increase from 3% to 5% being prepared.
- (20) Daesol Stream Re-Route Project. Mandatory pre-bid was held on June 29 with five companies in attendance, and bid date may be pushed back by a couple of weeks.
- (21) SPLOST 2014 Collections. Higher than last month and the same time last year.
- (22) LOST Collections. Higher than last month and the same time last year.
- (23) TSPLOST Collections. Higher than last month and the same time last year.
- (24) Single Family Building Permits. June numbers not yet in, but as of May have exceeded the number of permits issued last fiscal year.
- (25) Solid Waste Tonnage. Will exceed 13,000 tons this fiscal year.

C. **Amendment to Prison CCTV System Upgrade Agreement for Locking & Intercom Control System Design**. Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that in conjunction with the recent design for the CCTV system upgrade, there is a need for the design of an upgrade to the locking and intercom control system at the Prison; that Rosser International, who designed the CCTV system, can design the locking and intercom system at a cost of \$5,000, which has been included in the budget; and that once the design is completed, the project will be bid out. Following discussion, which included that a total of \$50,000 had been budgeted (\$5,000 for design and \$45,000 for installation), the motion to approve was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #18-19.)

- 7. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**. John Taylor, County Attorney, said he had no business to discuss with the Board this evening.
- 8. **ADJOURNMENT**. There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.

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J. Harry Lange, Chairman

Attest:

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Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk