

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION**

July 17, 2018  
7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present: J. Harry Lange, Susan Andrews, Martha Chewning, Becky Langston, Jim Woods. Staff Present: Randy Dowling, County Manager; Jeff Todd, Acting County Attorney in the absence of 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 July 3, 2018, Regular Session was made by Commissioner Chewning, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.
4. **OLD BUSINESS**
  - A. **Melody Lake Dam: Bathymetric Study.** Chairman Lange said that action regarding the bathymetric study had been tabled during the July 3 meeting in order to have the consultants attend this meeting to better discuss same. Matt Smith, Carter & Sloope, and Brian Kimsey, Carter Engineering, appeared before the Board to respond to questions, which included that either the Hydrographic Map (\$3,200) or the Mapping Perimeter of the Lake (\$2,600) should be chosen; that the Sediment Analysis (\$2,200) and Sedimentation Map (\$600) are not necessary; that the Hydrographic Map will show the effects that lowering the lake will have on properties; that all six options (discussed May 15) include the removal of trees from the dam; that options 5 or 6 will eliminate the Category I dam classification thereby relieving the County from dam maintenance and inspections in the future, while options 1, 2, 3 and 4 would require such to be continued; that stabilization costs were not included in the options; that after an option is chosen, there will be another delay due to the necessary design work and bidding of the project; that EPD is aware of the progress the County is making in this endeavor; and that the bathymetric study should take three to four weeks to perform. Following discussion, the motion to approve the Hydrographic Map of Depth Contours of Entire Lake at a cost of \$3,200 with Aquatic Environmental Services, Inc., was made by Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed with four in favor (Andrews, Chewning, Lange, Langston) and one opposed (Woods). (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" ad C&A #18-20.)
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - A. **Valley Partnership Proposal.** Chairman Lange said that with the Board not continuing budgeting for membership in the Valley Partnership Joint Development Authority (VPJDA) at a cost of \$32,000+/-, a proposal has been made whereby the County may be able to continue its membership at no cost to the County, and that Gary Jones, secretary of the VPJDA, is present to discuss the proposal. Mr. Jones said that he, as secretary, extended the proposal for Harris County to continue to be a member at no cost, to continue being part of economic development marketing, but that should someone show an interest in the County, they would be directed to the appropriate person with the County to continue discussions and negotiations; and that the main reason for the County to continue to be part of the VPJDA is to be able to receive state job tax credit from the DCA. Discussion included that should the County decide not to be a member, West Point would not be able to continue to be part of the VPJDA, as it would no longer be contiguous with other counties in the authority, but that it is also part of the Troup County JDA. Following discussion, the motion to continue to be part of the VPJDA at no cost and upon approval by the VPJDA was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.
  - B. **Intergovernmental Agreements re: Vehicle Maintenance & Repairs: Hamilton and Shiloh.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that new agreements for the County's Vehicle Maintenance Department to perform maintenance and repair on vehicles owned by the municipalities of Hamilton and Shiloh have been approved by the respective cities; that the agreements include the County will charge for actual cost for parts plus overhead of 10%, labor at the rate of \$48/hour, shop supplies at the rate of 4% of the total cost of the ticket, and overtime

at the rate of \$72/hour; and that either party can terminate with a 90 day notice to the other party. The motion to approve the agreements was made by Commissioner Chewning, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously. [Documents can be found in “Contracts & Agreements” file as C&A 18-21 (Hamilton) and C&A 18-22 (Shiloh).]

- C. **Financial Statement: May 2018.** The motion to approve the May 2018 financial statement was made by Commissioner Woods and seconded by Commissioner Chewning. In response to a question from Commissioner Langston, Clint Chastain, CFO, said that he’s not quite sure as to what makes up the \$145 shown on page 3 under Various Contributions, and Commissioner Langston asked that he provide same to her. The motion to approve passed unanimously.

6. **COUNTY MANAGER**

- A. **Bid Award: Water Meter Replacement Project.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that bids were received on May 1 for the replacement of about 8,500 water meters. The bids received are as follows:

Bidder	Base Bid
Badger Meter, Inc., Milwaukee, WI	\$ 1,238,777.04
Lanier Municipal Supply Co., Lakeland, GA	\$ 1,357,990.25
Ferguson Waterworks, Spring, TX	\$ 1,403,620.00
Delta Municipal Supply Co, Braselton, GA	\$ 1,498,075.00
Consolidated Pipe & Supply, Daphne, AL	\$ 1,525,050.35
Xylem, Inc., Suwanee, GA	\$ 1,939,552.75

Mr. Dowling said that the bids have been reviewed by Jeff Culpepper, Water Works Director, and Matt Smith, Carter & Sloope, consulting engineer, who will make the award recommendation; that the new meters will be more accurate than the current meters, which are 15-20 years old; that currently, manual readings are taken from meters by Water Works personnel but with the new meters, the readings will be taken electronically; that the project will take 18 to 24 months, will be performed by Water Works employees, and will be financed through a GEFA loan. Mr. Smith and Mr. Culpepper responded to questions from the Board to include that the meters are fully warranted for the first 10 years with a pro-rated warranty for the next 10 years; that meters will need to be replaced in about 20 years; that the meters are for water conservation and accuracy; that the meters store data for 90 to 120 days; that if the battery fails, the receiver (in the truck taking the electronic readings) will indicate no reading and the meter reader will go to that meter and do a manual reading; and that the City of Hamilton is already using such meters and have not had any issues. Following discussion, the motion to award the bid to Badger Meter, Inc., of Milwaukee, WI, in the amount of \$1,238,777.04 and to authorize Randy Dowling County Manager, to execute the necessary contract documents was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in “Contracts & Agreements” file as C&A #18-23.)

- 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. Two pick-up trucks have been ordered and should arrive late September.
  - (2) Ambulances for EMS. Bid is out for two ambulances with bid opening scheduled for August 8.
  - (3) LMIG 2019. Awaiting GDOT’s response to the application, which has been submitted.
  - (4) Barnes Mill Road. Repair design quotes are being acquired; rough estimate for design and repair is between \$80,000 and \$90,000 with funding for same from TSPLOST.

- (5) Pate Park Playground Equipment. Playground equipment has been installed and is being used. Tennis Courts were finished last week.
  - (6) Ellerslie Park Road and Parking. Consultant working on bid specs, bid is expected to go out next week, with deadline of August 30, and award by the Board is scheduled for September 4. Park is expected to be open by November 1 with playground equipment in place. There may be issues with the swampy areas around the lake that will require permits.
  - (7) Airport Fencing, Phase I. Fencing is in progress.
  - (8) Airport Fencing, Phase II. Working with GDOT on this project.
  - (9) Comprehensive Plan Update. Project is progress; meeting regarding the vision statement and community goals was held prior to tonight's meeting.
  - (10) Water Meter Replacement Project. Bid award was made during tonight's meeting to Badger Meter.
  - (11) Melody Lakes Dam. Agreement entered into during tonight's meeting to have a bathymetric study performed for \$3,200.
  - (12) Daesol Stream Re-Route Project. Bid date has been moved to July 24 with award by the Board expected August 7.
  - (13) Rails to Trails Project (aka Railroad Rec Trail). Consultants continue with bidding documents with bidding on first phase scheduled to be released in December or early January 2019. Currently there are issues with the third grant inasmuch as it has been determined by the State's Historic Preservation Office that the rail line itself has been determined to be of historic value, which will require mitigation, and the consultants are working on this.
  - (14) Holland Drive. Of the four outstanding deeds, one has been successfully negotiated, one is still in the process of negotiation, one title issue has been resolved, and attorney is working on the other title issue. Once all deeds have been obtained and recorded, engineers will design the project, which will be much like that of Hardage Road.
  - (15) Recreation Equipment. In response to questions from Commissioner Woods, Mr. Dowling said that a bid will not be prepared if the equipment (mower, tractor and field groomer) can be purchased through state contract.
  - (16) Single Family Building Permits. Total of 220 permits issued for the 17/18 fiscal year, which is well over the 166 issued during the 16/17 fiscal year.
  - (17) Solid Waste Tonnage. Total tonnage exceeded 14,000 tons for the 17/18 fiscal year.
7. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**. Jeff Todd, Acting County Attorney, said he had no business to discuss with the Board this evening.
  8. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**. Chairman Lange made the motion to go into Executive Session at 8:37 PM for the purpose of discussing personnel issues. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Langston and passed unanimously.
  9. **RECONVENE & ADJOURNMENT**. The motion to go back into Regular Session and to adjourn the meeting was made by Chairman Lange, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.

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J. Harry Lange, Chairman

Attest:

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Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk