

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION**

August 21, 2018

7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present: J. Harry Lange, Susan Andrews, Martha Chewning, Becky Langston, Jim Woods. Staff Present: Randy Dowling, County Manager; Mark DeGennaro, 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 Chewning led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2018, Regular Session was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.
4. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant Application.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that this item was tabled from the August 7 meeting pending more information on this GDOT grant; that the TAP representative stated that the distance of the project can be reduced if any particular area consumes too much of the funding and that if one of the previously awarded grants has insurmountable obstacles, the TAP scope of work can be adjusted to continue the trail connectivity; that this is a 80/20 grant; that if awarded, it will take two to three years for the environmental clearance to occur; and the County's 20% match of \$389,675 would come from SPLOST 2019 and TSPLOST funds. Following discussion, the motion to move forward with submission of the grant application was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.
 - B. **Melody Lakes Dam: Bathymetric Study Results.** Brian Kimsey, with Carter Engineering, and Matt Smith, with Carter & Sloope, appeared before the Board to review the results of the bathymetric study regarding the Melody Lake Dam. Mr. Kimsey distributed information and reviewed results as they relate to each of the six options to resolve the issue regarding the Category I dam. He also said that the bathymetric study shows the lake bed does not slope, but basically drops once a few feet from the shoreline. He said that for Option #1 (\$910,000), which includes the installation of a labyrinth chute spillway, there would be no change to pool (the level of the lake); for Option #2 (\$710,000), which includes the installation of a drop box spillway and raising the dam and road about 2.5 feet, there would be no change in the pool and the road would remain; for Option #3 (\$650,000), which includes a standard concrete riser with a pipe through the dam and raising the dam and road about 2.5 feet, the pool would be lowered about one foot and the road would remain; for Option #4 (\$665,000), which includes a drop box spillway with a large pipe system with no change to the dam, the pool would be lowered about two feet and the road would remain; for Option #5 (\$480,000), which includes notching and removing the dam and installing a culvert system, the pool would be removed and leave very steep slopes; and for Option #6 (\$230,000), which includes removing the dam and the road, the pool would be removed and leave very steep slopes. Following discussion, consensus was to have a Work Session at 6:00 on September 4 for further discussion, then to meet (at a later date) with the Melody Lake property owners, possibly in Waverly Hall City Hall auditorium, and then decide on the option. Wayne Morris, Tax Assessor, who was in attendance, was asked to provide information (for the September 4 meeting) regarding Melody Lakes property owners who are delinquent in their taxes.
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Setting Millage Rate for 2018.** Chairman Lange said that the County's millage rate is being reduced from 8.64 to 8.63, which did not require the County to hold public hearings; that the School Board's M&O is 17.91 and its bond indebtedness is .65, for a total of 18.56; that the total millage is 27.19; that the County portion of West Point is 5.178; that the incorporated area, less West Point, are 8.63; and that the unincorporated rate is 8.63. Following discussion, the motion to set the County millage rate at 8.63, the portion of West Point within the County at 5.178, and to

authorize the Tax Commissioner to collect the School Board's millage of 18.56 was made by Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously.

B. **Requests for Tax Refund.** Chairman Lange said that two requests for tax refunds had been received, as follows:

- (1) Davis, Edwin: Refund of \$116.42 due to tag being purchased and the vehicle traded before his birthday. Both the Tax Commissioner and Board of Tax Assessors agree with the request. The motion to approve this request was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.
- (2) Sanders, John C. & Eileen O.T. Sanders: Refund of \$351.48 due to the original permit for a 2,480 SF home being repermited for a smaller dwelling with changes not being made by tax office for the 2017 tax period. Both the Tax Commissioner and the Board of Tax assessors disagree with the request. In response to questions from the Board, Wayne Morris, Tax Assessor, explained that valuations are arrived at by using the permit values on structures which are not complete; that in 2017, the valuation was based on 25% and no appeal was made in response to the assessment notice; that in 2018, the valuation was based on 50%, an appeal was made to the Board of Assessors, and the result was a change in the value. Following discussion, the motion to deny this refund request was made by Commissioner Chewning, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed with four in favor (Chewning, Langston, Lange, Woods) and one opposed (Andrews).

C. **Resolution to Accept Maple Creek Court (extension) in Maple Creek Subdivision.** All documents having been properly submitted, the motion to approve the Resolution to accept Maple Creek Court (extension) in Maple Creek Subdivision, was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously.

6. **COUNTY MANAGER**

A. **Project Updates.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, reviewed various projects, as follows:

- (1) Patio Furnishings for Community Center. Two picnic tables have been received and are in place.
- (2) Replacement Phone System for Community Center. No further action has taken place. Discussion included that the Board would like to see side-by-side comparisons of the current phone system to the Charter/Spectrum system and to know if the Charter/Spectrum system can be purchased rather than leased.
- (3) Ambulances for EMS. Bids for two ambulances will be awarded during tonight's meeting with delivery expected in late 2018.
- (4) Public Works Tractor/Mower. The tractor and mower have been ordered with delivery expected in mid to late September.
- (5) Holland Drive. Issues with three outstanding deeds - one regarding a land swap, one regarding a title issue, and one regarding a partial release by mortgage holder. The right of way deed acquisition process is in a holding pattern until the Board decides on several issues.
- (6) Airport Fencing, Phase I. Fencing is being installed with completion expected by the end of the September.
- (7) Airport Access Road. Currently on bid with bids due September 18 and award expected on October 2.
- (8) Water Line Relocation (SR 219). Currently on bid with bids due September 7 and award expected September 18.
- (9) Comprehensive Plan Update. Currently underway with next meeting scheduled for September 18.

- (10) Melody Lakes Dam. Bathymetric study has been completed and was discussed earlier in tonight's meeting with consensus to have a Work Session on September 4 (at 6:00 PM) to further discuss and then to schedule a meeting with the property owners before making a decision on which option to choose to resolve the Category I dam issue.
- (11) Rails to Trails Project. Submission of the TAP grant application was approved during tonight's meeting to continue the project.
- (12) Hotel/Motel Tax Ordinance. Ordinance being drafted. Mr. DeGennaro said that the next step would be to have discussion with the Chamber of Commerce regarding the agreement pertaining to the tax.
- (13) Sign Ordinance. Ordinance under review and almost complete. Mr. DeGennaro said that a review is being undertaken by a sign expert and should be forthcoming soon.
- (14) Daesol Stream Reroute. Bid awarded on August 7 and paperwork is being finished for project to be underway and completed in December.
- (15) Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon. Application submitted to GDOT in April 2017 and installation is expected by the end of the month at Callaway Gardens Country Store.

B. **Bid Award: Ambulances (2)**. Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that bids were received on August 8 for two (2) ambulances, as follows, and that funding is included in the 2019 SPLOST.

Bidder	Base Bid
Custom Truck & Body Works, Woodbury, GA	\$ 321,162.00
Emergency Vehicle Sales, Elberton, GA	\$ 316,988.00

Mr. Dowling said after evaluation and review, it was determined that the low bid did not include the stretchers, as required by the specifications, and is, therefore, disqualified, and that the recommendation is to award the bid to Custom Truck & Body Works in the amount of \$321,162, which is within the \$400,000 budget. Mr. Dowling said that delivery will probably be in late December or January. The motion to award the bid to Custom Truck & Body Works in the amount of \$321,162 was made by Commissioner Chewning, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.

C. **Recreation Trails Program Mitigation Proposal**. Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that the County was awarded the Recreation Trails Program (RTP) grant in the amount of \$200,000, contingent upon the County performing the required mitigation study due to the Georgia Historic Preservation Division's determination of an adverse effect; that Carter & Sloope, consulting engineer, requested proposals from historic preservation consultants to perform the study; that the most responsive proposer was Southern Research Historic Preservation Consultants, who submitted a proposal to perform Phase I of the mitigation in the amount of \$4,950; that funding would come from the Rails to Trails Capital Project fund; that the results of the study will be provided to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for approval, and then once approved, another proposal would be forthcoming from Southern Research for approximately \$10,000 for implementation of the approved mitigation plan. Following discussion, the motion to approve the proposal from Southern Research Historic Preservation Consultants in the amount of \$4,950 was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #18-26.)

7. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

A. **Agreement: Traylor Business Services (Personal Property Verification)**. Mark DeGennaro, acting County Attorney, said that he has reviewed the agreement and it appears to be the standard annual agreement for personal property verification, and recommended approval of same. The motion to approve this agreement was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Commissioner Woods, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #18-27.)

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