

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR SESSION**  
December 18, 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 and wished everyone in attendance a Merry Christmas and wonderful New Year.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** At the request of Chairman Lange, Jeff Todd, Acting County Attorney, led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2018 Regular Session was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Chewning, and passed with four in favor (Woods, Chewning, Andrews, Langston), no opposition, and one abstention (Lange, who was not in attendance during the December 4 meeting). Chairman Lange said he was unable to attend the December 4 meeting due to being at and taking part in the Newly Elected Commissioners Conference as President of ACCG.
4. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - A. **Presentation of Service Plaques.** Chairman Lange presented Commissioner Chewning and Commissioner Woods with wooden service plaques commemorating their service as Commissioners of Districts 1 and 2 respectively. Commissioner Woods thanked everyone for helping him over the years in his capacity as Commissioner. Commissioner Chewning thanked everyone and said it has been a pleasure to serve her constituents and citizens.
  - B. **Appointments/Reappointments.** Chairman Lange said that several appointments or reappointments are needed on various committees, boards and authorities. Upon a joint motion by Commissioner Langston, Chairman Lange, and Commissioner Chewning, and second by Commissioner Andrews, and passed unanimously, the following appointments and reappointments were made:
    - (1) **Development Authority.** Mark Smith was reappointed to another term, expiring December 31, 2022, by Commissioner Langston.
    - (2) **Planning Commission.** John Britt was reappointed to another term, expiring December 31, 2022, by Commissioner Langston.
    - (3) **Recreation Board.** Mike Fuson was appointed to the “at-large” position taking the place of Rob Grant, who is a newly elected Commissioner; and Brad Johnson was reappointed as the Mtn. Hill YSA representative, for terms expiring December 31, 2021, and Garnett Ray, III, was reappointed as the Board of Education Liaison for the term expiring December 31, 2020, by Commissioner Langston.
    - (4) **Public Improvements Authority.** Randy Dowling was reappointed to another term, expiring June 30, 2021, by Chairman Lange, and Chairman Lange was reappointed to another term, also expiring June 30, 2021, by Commissioner Chewning.
    - (5) **Water Bill Assistance Committee.** Steve Morgan was reappointed to another term, expiring May 31, 2021, by Chairman Lange.
    - (6) **Zoning Adjustments.** Chris Butzon was reappointed to another term, expiring September 30, 2021, by Chairman Lange.
  - C. **Audit FYE June 30, 2018.** Clint Chastain, Finance Officer, and Steven Voynich, of Robinson Grimes, auditors, appeared before the Board to review the draft audit for FYE June 30, 2018. Mr. Chastain said that the audit had been completed on time and that the County is in better financial condition than the previous audit. He also reviewed various parts of the audit. Mr. Voynich said that there were no audit adjustments in this audit; that it is marked “draft” only because the Health Department has not provided its final audit, but that once that is provided, the County’s audit will be amended regarding same; that when the audit was completed, the response from the banking institution had indicated that the funds of the

Superior Court were not collateralized, which is state required if funds exceed a certain dollar amount; however, the bank retracted that response and provided a new response today indicating that the funds are indeed collateralized, so that finding will be removed from the final version of the audit; that the other finding is regarding the segregation of accounting duties, which could be resolved by adding additional accounting personnel. In response to questions by Commissioner Langston regarding the Superior Court funds, Mr. Voynich said that when he received the negative response from the bank, he should have contacted the Clerk of Superior Court about the issue, but failed to do so; that once the audit is finalized, the Board will receive a copy of same before it is sent to the State. Mr. Voynich reviewed various parts of the audit and said that all in all, it is a good financial report, and he recommended that the Board conditionally approve the audit pending the changes relative to the Health Department and the removal of the finding regarding the Superior Court funds

The motion to approve the draft of the audit with the understanding that the Board will receive new management letters and that the final version will have the finding regarding the Superior Court funds removed and include any adjustments as a result of the Health Department's audit, was made by Commissioner Andrews and seconded by Commissioner Chewning. Randy Dowling, County Manager, asked what would happen if the Health Department does not submit their audit to the County by December 31, 2018, and Mr. Chastain responded that the State would be provided with the audit as it at that time, and that once the Health Department audit is received, an amended final version of the County's audit would be provided to the State. The motion passed unanimously.

#### 4. COUNTY MANAGER

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

- (1) Fitness Equipment for Community Center. Project is ongoing, equipment has been ordered.
- (2) Prison Locking Control & Intercom System. Project is beginning with a walk through today and completion is expected around early March 2019.
- (3) Public Works Trucks. Two trucks for Public Works have been received and are on the road.
- (4) Striping of 33 County Roads. Project is being rebid, bids are expected in mid January with action by the Board scheduled for early February.
- (5) Ellerslie Park Development. Project is in progress, although delayed due to weather, but the turn lane work has begun.
- (6) Airport Runway Remarketing and Crack Seal Project. GDOT has approved the scope of work and pricing, and action is expected by the Board in mid January.
- (7) Water Meter Replacement Project. About 500 of the 8,100 meters have been installed.
- (8) Water Relocation on SR 219. Project should start in February and be completed by June 2019.
- (9) Comprehensive Master Plan Update. Update is underway; next meeting is scheduled for January 15 at 5:00 PM. Plan must be completed in April for the state to approve by the June 2019 deadline.
- (10) PREA Audit. Required every three years and was recently concluded with the Prison passing with flying colors.
- (11) Melody Lakes Dam. Review and calculation of Option #7 is being finalized and will be before the Board on January 15 for consideration of the various options regarding the Category I Dam.
- (12) Rails to Trails Project. Federal funding should be forthcoming in May; project should be completed this time next year.

- (13) Hotel/Motel Tax. The increase from 3% to 5% starts January 1 and all businesses affected by same have been notified twice.
- (14) Sign Ordinance. Will be before the Board on January 15 for action.
- (15) Daesol Stream Relocation. Project has been delayed about 1.5 months due to inclement weather and is 50% complete, but is on budget.

5. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**.

A. **GDOT TE Grant Agreement & Resolution: Rails to Trails (SR 1 from CR 387/D Street to SR 18)**. Jeff Todd, Acting Attorney in the absence of John Taylor, said that the document, which includes a resolution and counsel opinion letter, has been reviewed by Mr. Taylor, and that the recommendation is to approve same. The motion to approve the agreement, to include a resolution and counsel opinion letter, was made by Commissioner Woods, seconded by Commissioner Chewing, and passed unanimously. (Agreement document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #18-37.)

6. **ADJOURNMENT**. There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Langston, 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