

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION**

January 15, 2019

7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present: Becky Langston, Andrew Zuerner, Susan Andrews Rob Grant, J. Harry Lange.
Staff Present: Randy Dowling, County Manager; John Taylor, County Attorney; Nancy D. McMichael,
County Clerk.

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chairman Langston called the Regular Session to order.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** At the request of Chairman Langston, Jim Furin, led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2019 Regular Session was made by Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Zuerner, and passed unanimously.
4. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **Sign Ordinance: Discussion and Action.** Chairman Langston said that the Second Reading and Public Hearing for the Ordinance took place on December 4, 2018, but that she tabled action regarding same so that Commissioners Grant and Zuerner would have the opportunity to review the document. She said that she was concerned with item 2.7.5 regarding holiday decorations, and John Taylor, County Attorney, recommended that the item remain in the Ordinance, which had been reviewed and edited by a sign ordinance expert. There being no further discussion, Chairman Langston asked for a motion. The motion to approve and adopt the Sign Ordinance was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Commissioner Grant, and passed unanimously.
 - B. **Appointments/Reappointments: Various Boards, Committees Authorities.** Chairman Langston said that a few appointments/reappointments are still needed and asked for a motion. Upon a joint motion made by Commissioner Lange, Chairman Langston, and Commissioner Zuerner, seconded by Commissioner Zuerner, and passed unanimously, the following appointments were made.
 - (1) **Development Authority.** Mike Stewart was appointed to fill the position formerly held by Ben Williams, who moved out of the County, with term expiration of December 31, 2022, and Gene Weldon was appointed to complete the term of Jayson Johnston, who also moved out of the County, with term expiration of December 31, 2019.
 - (2) **Recreation Board.** Rob Grant was appointed as BOC Liaison to fill the position formerly held by Chairman Langston with term expiration to coincide with his term in office.
 - C. **Melody Lake Dam Analysis.** Chairman Langston said that this topic has been discussed for about 18 months; that the approved budget includes \$75,000 for consulting work and \$350,000 for actual construction; that the EPD is waiting for a response from the County; that the cost of the project can span two fiscal years or longer depending on actual costs; and that Brian Kimsey, with Carter Engineering, and Matt Smith, with Carter & Sloope, are present to answer any questions of the Board. In response to questions from the Board, Mr. Kimsey explained that to remove the dam from a Category I to a Category II could be accomplished by lowering the dam and lowering the pool by five to eight feet; that the use of siphons would lower the cost to around \$150,000 to \$200,000; that the County should soon be receiving a non-compliance letter from EPD that would be followed by a letter of violation if there is no response to the non-compliance letter; and that fines in connection with violations could be as much as \$1,500 per day. Discussion included there are three sources of funding have been identified: (1) general funds spread over two or three fiscal years; (2) GEFA low interest loan spread over several years; and (3) GEMA grant, the deadline for which is March 1; and that option #3, which is estimated at \$650,000, may be the direction to go to cause the least detrimental effect on the lakefront property owners; and that excavating the sloped areas of the lakefront property would reduce the effect of lowering the pool. Following discussion, Commissioner Zuerner tabled action regarding choosing an option to February 5 and made the motion for the engineers to move forward with the GEMA grant application process. The motion was seconded by Chairman Langston and passed unanimously.

5. **COUNTY MANAGER**

- A. **Audit Renewal Agreement: Robinson Grimes & Company.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that Robinson Grimes, auditors, had submitted a renewal agreement letter to provide audit services for FYE 2019, 2020, and 2021 at a cost of \$57,000, \$58,000 and \$59,000 respectively. The motion to approve the renewal for three years, as discussed, was made by Commissioner Andrews and seconded by Commissioner Lange. Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #19-02.)
- B. **Recreation Trails Program Grant Mitigation Proposal.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, reminded the Board that the County had been awarded the Recreation Trails Program (RTP) grant in the amount of \$200,000, contingent upon mitigation being performed; that in August, Phase I of the mitigation was approved for \$4,950 with a mention that another proposal would be forthcoming to complete the required mitigation; and that a proposal has been received from Southern Research Historic Preservation Consultants in the amount of \$16,105 to develop a Memorandum of Agreement between the County and the Georgia Historic Preservation Division and the development and installation of two interpretative panels regarding the history of the railroad. Following discussion, the motion to approve the proposal in the amount of \$16,105 was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Commissioner Andrews, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #19-03.)
- C. **Agreement: Pond & Company Task Order #9 for Airport Fencing, Phase II, Design, Plans and Construction Administration.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that Pond & Company had submitted a proposal in the amount of \$60,449 for the project formulation, construction plans, and construction administration of Phase II of the Airport Fencing; that the project is in the approved budget; that the cost is partially reimbursable by FAA and the state; that the County's portion of the cost is \$4,466; and that the actual construction cost is estimated to be \$693,000 with the County's portion of around \$174,000. The motion to approve Task Order #9 was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Commissioner Zuerner, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #19-04.)
- D. **Agreement: Pond & Company Task Order #10 for Airport Crackseal and Marking of Taxiway & Runway, Design, Plans and Construction Administration.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that Pond & Company had submitted a proposal in the amount of \$53,545 for the design, construction plans, and construction administration of the Crackseal and Marking of Airport Taxiway & Runway; that the cost is partially reimbursable by FAA and the state; that the County's portion of the cost is about \$4,619; and that the actual construction cost is estimated to be \$100,000 with the County's portion of around \$25,000. The motion to approve Task Order #10 was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Commissioner Zuerner, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #19-05.)
- E. **Project Updates.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, reviewed various projects, as follows:
- (1) **Fitness Equipment at Community Center.** Equipment should be in next week and consists of new treadmill, recumbent bike, medicine balls, dumbbell set, bench, and cushioned flooring.
 - (2) **Jaws of Life.** Bid specs are being prepared and will be going out next week.
 - (3) **Prison Water Heaters.** Project should be completed in late February.
 - (4) **Prison Locking Control & Intercom System.** Pre-construction meeting was on January 9; project should be completed in late March.
 - (5) **Generator (back-up) for 911.** GEMA grant application being prepared.
 - (6) **Resurfacing of Lower Blue Springs Road and Barnes Mill Road.** Project completion is scheduled for May, 2019.
 - (7) **Striping of 33 County Roads.** Bids are due January 17 with consideration by the Board on February 5.

- (8) Barnes Mill Road Signage. Two (2) signs approved by County and ACCG attorneys being prepared to be posted on both sides of the bridge, with City of Hamilton coordination.
 - (9) Ellerslie Park Development. Due to weather/rain delays, work on the internal road and the turn lane has slowed; playground equipment has been delivered and installation should begin January 28 and take about three days.
 - (10) Airport Wildlife Fencing, Phase II. Task Order #9 from Pond & Company approved during tonight's meeting.
 - (11) Airport Runway Remarketing and Crack Seal Project. Task Order #10 from Pond & Company approved during tonight's meeting.
 - (12) Airport Open House & Fly-In. Scheduled for Saturday, May 4; still planning and working on pilots and planes.
 - (13) Comprehensive Master Plan. Update is underway; next meeting is scheduled for February 19 at 5:00 PM; meetings of smaller group should start soon.
 - (14) Melody Lakes Dam. Discussion took place during tonight's meeting, with choice of options tabled to February 5; moving forward with the GEMA grant application.
 - (15) Rails to Trails Project. Discussed during tonight's meeting with approval to move forward with next phase of mitigation; project should bid out in July with completion by December.
 - (16) Sign Ordinance. Adopted during tonight's meeting.
 - (17) Daesol Stream Relocation. Delayed due to inclement weather but work should start up again soon and is expected to be completed within three months.
 - (18) Diverse Power Radio Share Agreement. This should be before the Board on February 5.
 - (19) Third Sign at Northwest Harris Business Park. Bid specs are being prepared for a third sign at the Davidson Road entrance and should go out next week.
 - (20) Clear and Grub 35 Acres in Northwest Harris Business Park. County will soon begin the clearing and grubbing of the 35 acres for a prospective business.
 - (21) Holland Drive. Chairman Langston said that by the February 5 meeting she should have a road to take the place of Holland Drive on the paving/improvement list.
6. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**. John Taylor, County Attorney, said that he had no business to discuss with the Board this evening.
7. **OTHER**
- A. **Community Center Plaque**. Commissioner Grant said that there is no plaque in place regarding the construction and opening of the Community Center, as there are on other County buildings, and suggested that such a plaque be installed. Consensus was in favor of such, and Randy Dowling, County Manager, will contact the architect regarding same.
8. **ADJOURNMENT**. There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Commissioner Zuerner, and passed unanimously.

Becky Langston, Chairman

Attest:

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk