

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION**

March 19, 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.** Chairman Langston led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2019 Regular Session was made by Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Zuerner, and passed with four in favor (Andrews, Zuerner, Grant, Langston), no opposition, and one abstention (Lange, who was absent from the March 5 meeting).

4. **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. **Melody Lake Dam Breach Analysis Results for Option #8.** Chairman Langston said the Board approved Option #8 during the February 5, 2019, meeting (approximate cost \$400,000) and authorized the consultants to perform a study, which has been completed, and that Brian Kimsey, with Carter Engineering, and Matt Smith, with Carter & Sloope, were present to review the analysis results. Mr. Kimsey said that the analysis shows that lowering the pool by three (3) feet, from 697 feet to 694 feet, will reduce the downstream breach and result in the dam being reclassified as a Category II dam. In response to questions, Mr. Kimsey said that even with lowering the lake by three feet, the closest house could experience some flooding during an event, and Mr. Smith pointed out that should an event occur now, the same house would have greater flooding issues; that once approved by Safe Dams, the project could be completed within three months; and that currently there are various utilities (water, aerial electrical lines, telephone lines) on the dam. In addition, Mr. Kimsey said that modifications to the dam will require (1) lowering the crest of the dam from 697 feet to 694 feet to include road demo and repaving, possible utility relocation, and flattening the slopes on the dam; (2) install four (4) 12" PVC Siphons; (3) install one (1) new culvert as an emergency spillway; (4) fully grout and abandon existing deteriorated riser and conduit spillway; and (5) meet all other maintenance requirements of the Georgia Safe Dams Act (toe drain, clear trees, flatten slopes, etc.); and that in summary, the normal pool will be lowered from 691.6 feet to 689.5 feet and the normal pool with decrease in size from 16.4 acres to 15.0 acres. A task order for the project will be forthcoming for approval by the Board at a future meeting.

Michael Varnum, citizen who lives in Melody Lakes, appeared before the Board to thank everyone involved in the solution to the Category I dam issue; and that while the issue once looked bleak and hopeless, it has turned out to be good.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **Resolution Honoring William "Bill" Champion.** Chairman Langston read the Resolution honoring Bill Champion, who retired as Airport Manager, as of March 9, 2019. Mr. Champion was not in attendance at the meeting. The motion to approve the Resolution was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Commissioner Grant, and passed unanimously.
- B. **First Reading: Application of Marion E. "Buddy" Wallace for Beer & Wine On Premises and Distilled Spirits by the Drink On-Premises at 219 On the Lake, located at 45 Bonnie Drive, Fortson.** Chairman Langston read the specifics of the application. Buddy Wallace, applicant, was in attendance at the meeting but had no comments. Chairman Langston asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of or in opposition to the application. There being none, she said that the Second Reading and action are scheduled to take place during the April 2 meeting.
- C. **Request for Tax Refund: Walton & Faye Stokes.** Chairman Langston said that a refund has been requested for ad valorem tax in the amount of \$41.62 from Walton E. & Faye D. Stokes due to Mr. Stokes having purchased his truck tag on October 23, 2018 and the vehicle being totaled on October 30, 2018; that because the tax wasn't due until November, the Tax Commissioner and the Board of Assessors agree with

the refund request. The motion to approve the refund of \$41.62 was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Commissioner Zuerner, and passed unanimously.

- D. **Financial Statement: January 2019.** The motion to approve the financial statement of January 2019 was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Commissioner Andrews, and passed unanimously.

6. **COUNTY MANAGER**

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

- (1) Jaws of Life. Equipment is on order and delivery is expected mid April.
- (2) Resurfacing of Lower Blue Springs Road and Barnes Mill Road. Currently underway with expected completion in May.
- (3) Road Striping Bid. Project underway; completion by late May.
- (4) Repair Fencing/Backstops at Moultrie Park. Improvements are in progress. In response to a question from Commissioner Grant, Mr. Dowling reported that the concrete that had been left at the project site had been removed.
- (5) Ellerslie Park. As a result of the March 3 tornado, the park being used as a storm debris disposal site and its development has been delayed indefinitely.
- (6) Airport Security & Wildlife Fence, Phase II. Pre-bid meeting was held March 14, bids are due March 27, and action by the Board is expected April 2 with completion expected by July.
- (7) Airport Crack Seal & Runway Remarking. Pre-bid meeting was held March 14, bids are due March 27, and action by the Board is expected April 2 with completion expected by July.
- (8) Airport Open House. Event will occur May 4; flyers are being distributed. In response to a question from Commissioner Grant, Mr. Dowling said the event is hosted by the County, since it is on County property, to showcase the Airport, but sponsored by the Harris County Chamber of Commerce.
- (9) Scrap Tire Amnesty Event. Contract agreement is on tonight's agenda for action by the Board.
- (10) Water Meter Replacement. Project is underway with expected completion in September.
- (11) Comprehensive Master Plan Update. Update is underway to submit the document to DCA in April.
- (12) Melody Lake Dam. Results of Option 8 study were discussed previously during tonight's meeting; task order regarding project to be presented to the Board for approval at a future meeting.
- (13) Sign at Northwest Harris Business Park. Construction and installation of a third sign at the Davidson Road entrance is underway with completion expected during May.
- (14) Clear and Grub 35+/- acres in Northwest Harris Business Park. Permits should be received this week or next.
- (15) Replacement Locking System at Prison. Project completion expected in April.
- (16) Public Works Equipment. In response to questions from Commissioners, Mr. Dowling said that the "safety barricades" are actually orange cones and barricades, and that the hay rake is a necessity in order to cut the hay for use in various County road projects.

- B. **LMIG Safety Action Plan Program 2019.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that GDOT notified the County on March 14 that it is providing supplement funding to counties in the amount of \$50,000 for safety improvements such as road

striping; that the County is required to provide a match of ten (10) percent, for a total working budget of \$55,000; that Mike Brown, Public Works, has provided a list of 15 roads to be striped; that the County will bid out the project, which must be completed by June 30, 2020; and that the list must be submitted to GDOT by April 1. Discussion included that Calhoun Road, from Lower Blue Springs Road to the cemetery, should be added to the list, and there were no objections. The motion to approve submitting the list of 16 roads to GDOT was made by Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Lange, and passed unanimously.

7. **COUNTY ATTORNEY.**

- A. **Inmate Work Detail Agreement: City of West Point.** John Taylor, County Attorney, said that the agreement is for the provision of an inmate work detail consisting of eight (8) inmates and a Correctional Officer to the City of West Point to perform work on City property within the City limits; that in addition to paying the cost of the salary and benefits for the Correctional Officer, the City will also pay \$10/inmate/day for four (4) ten (10) hour days and provide the vehicle and all tools and equipment necessary to perform the required work; that the agreement will be effective July 1, 2019; and that he recommends same for approval. Cynthia Nelson, Prison Warden, was in attendance and responded to various questions from the Board. Following discussion, the motion to approve was made by Chairman Langston, seconded by Commissioner Zuerner, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #19-13.)
- B. **EPD Agreement: Scrap Tire Amnesty Event.** John Taylor, County Attorney, said that the agreement is for the reimbursement of up to \$8,000 to the County in connection with the collection and disposal of passenger vehicle tires to be collected on April 20 and 27 and that he recommends same for approval. Discussion included that last year's amnesty events resulted in the collection of 2,700 tires, roughly 31 tons, from citizens. Following discussion, the motion to approve was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Commissioner Grant, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #19-14.)
- C. **Request for Executive Session.** John Taylor, County Attorney, said there is a need for an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing potential/threatened litigation and personnel matters.

8. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.** The motion to go into Executive Session for the purposing of discussing potential/threatened litigation and personnel matters was made at 8:40 PM by Chairman Langston, seconded by Commissioner Lange, and passed unanimously.

9. **RECONVENE REGULAR SESSION.** The motion to go back into Regular Session was made at 9:15 PM by Chairman Langston, seconded by Commissioner Zuerner, and passed unanimously.

10. **OTHER**

- A. **Salary Issues: Sheriff's Office.** Commissioner Andrews said that in connection with the Sheriff's recent salary increases for most of his personnel, the Board acknowledges the action of the request of the Sheriff and this motion is outside the scope of the personnel plan; that the Board acknowledges the current compensation structure is in need of review and possible adjustment; and that due to the fact there are three months remaining in the current fiscal year and expenses for the three months can escalate, the motion is to approve the requested increases in the amount of half that requested beginning next pay period of March 24, 2019. The motion was seconded by Chairman Langston. Commissioner Grant said that he was recusing himself from the vote because one of his family members works for the Sheriff's Office. The motion passed with four in favor (Andrews, Langston, Lange, Zuerner), no opposition, and one abstention.

Sheriff Jolley acknowledged the motion and said that he appreciates it, but he is going to give the County Attorney an envelope (containing a writ of mandamus).

- B. **Compensation Study.** Commissioner Grant made the motion to authorize the County Manager to engage the Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIOG) to perform a comprehensive compensation study at a cost not to exceed \$28,000. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Zuerner and passed unanimously.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**. There being no further business to discuss the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Zuerner, and passed unanimously.

Becky Langston, Chairman

Attest:

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk