

HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION

April 16, 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, Commissioner Grant led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2019 Regular Session was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Commissioner Andrews, and passed unanimously.
4. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **Hamilton Siren: Cost Share.** Chairman Langston said that the Board had previously discussed participating in the costs related to the repair of Hamilton's siren but postponed its decision until costs were known; that the cost to repair is \$6,437.90 plus an addition \$3,018.50 to upgrade the remote activation on the Tetra radio system, for a total of \$9,456.40; and that Ricky Hood, Hamilton Public Works Director, was present to respond to questions. Following discussion, Commissioner Andrews made the motion for the Board to participate in the total cost. The motion was seconded by Chairman Langston and passed with four in favor (Andrews, Langston, Grant, Zuerner) and one opposed (Lange). Following more discussion regarding the exact amount to contribute, the motion to contribute \$1,500 was made by Chairman Langston and the cost was again discussed, after which Chairman Langston amended her motion to contribute a total of \$2,000 with funding to come from SPLOST 2019 Public Safety. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Zuerner and passed unanimously.
 - B. **Alabama Road Right of Way Issue.** Chairman Langston said that Gary Lowman, citizen, had appeared before the Board during the April 2 meeting regarding right of way issues on Alabama Road and specifically related to trees Mr. Lowman had planted on the right of way; that Mr. Lowman had received a letter from Mike Brown, Public Works Director, giving him until April 30 to remove the trees; that Commissioner Zuerner wanted to touch base with Georgia Power about the trees; and that "no parking" signs were discussed. Commissioner Zuerner said that he understood from Georgia Power that some of the trees would have to be removed but others could stay as long as Mr. Lowman maintained the height of same to five or six feet. Following discussion during which Mike Brown, Public Works Director, said that if the trees were behind the ditch, they might not cause too many problems, but planting anything on the right of way should not be permitted since the County must maintain the right of way and that County personnel is slowly making progress in clearing the rights of way of all roads. Commissioner Andrews made the motion to comply with established County regulations for the removal of the trees from the right-of-way. The motion was seconded by Chairman Langston and passed unanimously. Consensus was to send Mr. Lowman a letter advising that he has until June 30, 2019, to remove the trees from the County right of way.
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Financial Statement: February 2019.** The motion to approve the financial statement of February 2019 was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Commissioner Andrews, and passed unaimously.
 - B. **Comprehensive Plan Update.** Chairman Langston said that the Comprehensive Plan Update has been removed from the agenda and will be discussed again during a Called Meeting on Tuesday, April 30, at 4:30 PM, during which action is scheduled to take place regarding the update.
6. **COUNTY MANAGER**
 - A. **Public Works Equipment & Budget Amendment #9: Tractors.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that the County purchased four tractors in 2014 for the purpose of cutting the road rights of way; that the tractors have not held up and are constantly at the John Deere dealership for repairs, which impedes the County's ability to mow the rights of way; that with changing the four part-time tractor drivers to full-time in 2018, the tractors are used even more and break down more often; that SunSouth, the John Deere dealership, has provided the County a solution by taking back the tractors with a trade-in value of \$50,000, selling the County four (4) slightly used, but never sold, 2017 tractors with 48-month/3,000 hours extended warranties for \$106,600, which results in a net cost to the County of \$56,600; that staff recommends acceptance of the proposal; and that funding will come from SPLOST 2014. Following discussion, which included Mike Brown, Public Works

Director, confirming the need for the new heavier tractors, the motion to approve the proposal to trade in the four 2014 tractors for \$50,000 toward the purchase of four 2017 tractors at \$106,600 with the resulting net cost of \$56,600 to come from SPLOST 2014 was made by Commissioner Zuerner, seconded by Chairman Langston, and passed unanimously. This action resulted in Budget Amendment #9 in the amount of \$56,000.

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

- (1) Jaws of Life Tools. Should be received in late April.
- (2) Road Resurfacing (LMIG 2019). Lower Blue Springs Road has been completed and Barnes Mill Road, from the bridge to near the entrance to the Transfer Station, will begin tomorrow.
- (3) Ellerslie Park. Park has been closed to the public as of Sunday, April 14, and barricaded to prevent further disposal of storm debris; and that bid specs are being prepared for the chipping/grinding. In response to questions from Commissioner Andrews, Mr. Dowling or Mike Brown, Public Works Director, said the internal roads of the Park have very little damage as a result of the disposal of debris; that the downed trees in the park will be taken care of by County personnel as time permits; that repairs to the lodge will not take place until the trees are moved away from the building; and that it may be 9 to 12 months before the internal roads can be completed, and development of the park can begin again.
- (4) Rails to Trails. Have received Federal authorization to begin the project which will be bid out in June, awarded in July, and completed by December 2019, from Pine Mountain to near the Mountain Creek Inn at Callaway Gardens.
- (5) Airport Security & Wildlife Fence, Phase II. Bid award has been made, but project won't start until after the Airport Open House on May 4
- (6) Airport Crack Seal & Runway Remarking. Bid award has been made, but project won't start until after the Airport Open House on May 4.
- (7) Airport Open House. Event will be on May 4, and promotional flyers have been distributed.
- (8) Scrap Tire Amnesty Event. Event will be on April 20 and 27, and promotional flyers have been distributed.
- (9) Comprehensive Master Plan Update. Action regarding the Plan has been postponed until the Called Meeting on April 30 at 4:30 PM.
- (10) Melody Lake Dam. Project progressing with Option #8.
- (11) Clear and Grub 35+/- acres in Northwest Harris Business Park. Because the business prospect will not be locating in the business park, there is no urgency to get the property cleared/grubbed, so the bid date has been extended to April 24 and the time for completion has been extended from 30 days to 90 days. There was discussion regarding the possible timber value, in 3 or 4 years, of the trees on the property and the need to move forward with the clear/grub project in the event another prospective the Board's consideration.
- (12) Prison Replacement Locking System. Project has been completed.
- (13) SPLOST Collection. There is one more month remaining in the 2014 SPLOST, with the 2019 SPLOST starting this month.
- (14) LOST Collection. Continues to be stable.
- (15) T-SPLOST Collection. Continues to be stable and is set to expire in 2022.
- (16) Single Family Permits. On track to possibly meet or exceed last year's number.

7. **COUNTY ATTORNEY.**

- A. **Ante Litem Notice: Austin Griswold.** John Taylor, County Attorney, said that the County has received an ante litem notice regarding a helicopter accident that occurred on November 16, 2018 involving Austin Griswold, who was a passenger in the helicopter that hit power lines and both the passenger and pilot were killed, and he recommended denial of the claim. The motion to deny the claim was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Commissioner Grant, and passed unanimously.

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

Attest:

Becky Langston, Chairman

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk