

HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION
September 17, 2019
7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present: Becky Langston, Susan Andrews, Rob Grant, J. Harry Lange, Andrew Zuerner.
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 September 3, 2019, Regular Session, was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Commissioner Zuerner, and passed unanimously.
4. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **Special Use Permit: Brian Devine for Verizon Wireless on 87.14 acres of property located at the northwest corner of GA Hwy 18 and Interstate 185, on Map 038, Parcel 033, Land Lots 98, 99 & 107, Land District 3, and zoned A-1 (Agricultural/Forestry).** Chairman Langston said that action was tabled on this Special Use Permit application during the September 3 meeting by Commissioner Grant who had concerns about coverage for citizens, the exit being in the tower fall zone, and possible tower relocation. Andrew Rotenstreich, attorney representing Verizon Wireless, appeared before the Board to respond to questions. Commission Grant thanked Mr. Rotenstreich for being in attendance and explained that while he is not opposed to the tower, he was concerned about the coverage for citizens and that the coverage map provided was difficult to read. Mr. Rotenstreich distributed two documents - one of which provided a list of existing and future tower sites and the other the fall zone from property lines. He said that there are currently 14 Verizon tower sites in the County and that nine (9) more, including the one being discussed, are planned to occur over the next few years; that the coverage maps (in the handout) show the existing coverage in the area of the subject tower, the coverage with the subject tower, the existing coverage showing all existing towers, and the planned long-term coverage in the County. He also said that the location of the property tower is the best site on the subject property because the property owner has future plans to develop the property and the tower location is in a corner of the property; and that moving the tower would result in a disruption of the grid pattern for current and planned tower sites. Following discussion, the motion to approve the Special Use Permit was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Commissioner Andrews, and passed unanimously.
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Proclamation: American Business Women's Day.** Chairman Langston welcomed members of the Harris County Chapter of the American Business Women's Association and read the document proclaiming Sunday, September 22, 2019, as American Business Women's Day. The motion to approve the document was made by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Chairman Langston, and passed unanimously.
 - B. **Financial Statements: June and July 2019.** Following a brief discussion regarding the financial statements, the motion to approve the June statement was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Commissioner Zuerner, and passed unanimously, and the motion to approve the July statement was made by Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Lange, and passed unanimously.
 - C. **Request for Tax Refund: Christopher Greca.** Chairman Langston said that Christopher Greca has requested a tax refund in the amount of \$1,406.32 due to having paid the TAVT tax in error as he is a 100% disabled veteran; that the Tax Commissioner agrees with the request because Mr. Greca is a 100% disabled veteran who gets one exemption and he is using it on this vehicle; that the Board of Tax Assessors also agrees. The motion to approve this refund request of \$1,406.32 was made by Commissioner Zuerner, seconded by Commissioner Grant, and passed unanimously.

6. COUNTY MANAGER

- A. **LMIG 2020 Road List.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that GDOT is accepting applications for the 2020 LMIG program and has notified the County that its share is \$838,498.57, which will require a 10% match of \$83,849.86 from SPLOST 2014, for a total of \$922,348.43 for resurfacing needs; that the Public Works Director has determined there are three roads (Hart Road, Watkins Road, and a portion of Hamilton Pleasant Grove Road) in need of resurfacing and restriping; that it is proposed the three roads be submitted to GDOT for the upcoming LMIG distribution; and that any overage that may result from the project will also come from SPLOST 2014. The motion to approve the LMIG 2020 list was made by Chairman Langston, seconded by Commissioner Grant, and passed unanimously.
- B. **State Fuel Fleet Card Program.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that the County's underground gas and diesel tanks will need to be replaced soon; that the cost to remove each is estimated to be \$150,000; that the fuel pumps and card readers are also beginning to fail; that the FY 2019-2020 budget includes \$35,000 to replace the two fuel card readers; that it is being requested the County participate in the Georgia State Contract Fuel Management Program provided through Wright Express (WEX); that by participating in this program, the County would avoid underground tank replacement and make it more effective for fuel purchases by various departments. He said that Nysia Sanabria, of WEX, and Jamie Webb, Facilities Maintenance Director, are present to discuss the program and respond to questions.

Mr. Webb said that use of the system would allow employees who drive County vehicles to purchase fuel at any fuel location that accepts WEX cards (nationwide); that the employee would swipe a card, which is assigned to a specific vehicle and enter a PIN and the odometer reading in order to purchase fuel; that by participating in this program, the County will avoid future expenses related to the replacement of gas tanks, fuel card readers, tank testing, and the State underground storage tank fee; that the State will soon start requiring monthly testing and reporting on underground tanks; that the program will provide more accountability of fuel usage; and that personnel, particularly those of EMS and the Sheriff's Office, would save time by not having to leave their assigned areas to come back to Hamilton to refuel and return to their areas, which result in a saving of time, fuel and money as well as making those employees more effective in providing services with better response times.

Ms. Sanabria said that there are a variety of parameters that can be set for the vehicles using the card in order to safeguard from fraudulent use to include limiting the number of gallons per vehicle or the dollar amount; and that various analytical reports are possible that will show fuel use.

Following discussion, which included the County could be participating in the program within a few weeks, the motion to approve entering into an agreement was made by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Commissioner Zuerner, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #19-32.)

- C. **Yancey Caterpillar Lease-Purchase Agreement Renewals for Heavy Equipment for Public Works.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that the current lease-purchase agreements with Yancey Caterpillar for six (6) pieces of heavy equipment will be expiring at the end of the year; that Public Works has requested that when the current equipment is turned in, new equipment be provided, and in that regard, new lease-purchase agreements are needed; that the six (6) new pieces will include a track loader, a bulldozer, a wheel loader, two motor graders, and a mini excavator; that after factoring in the trade-in of current equipment, the total to be financed is \$419,233, or \$90,297.08 each year (with principal and interest) for the next five years at a fixed rate of 3.85%; and that the FY 2019-2020 budget includes \$55,000 for this year. John Taylor, County Attorney, said that the agreements are very similar to the ones that are set to expire at the end of the year, and he recommended approval. Following discussion, the motion to approve the six (6) five-year lease-purchase agreements and to authorize the County Manager to execute all necessary related documents was made by Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Lange, and passed unanimously. (Documents can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #19-33.)

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

- (1) County-wide Email System. Will be purchased through State contract; should be in place by early December; and all employees and commissioners will have “@harriscountyga.gov” emails.
- (2) Cardiac Monitors. Delivery is expected in mid October.
- (3) Heavy Equipment Lease-Purchase for Public Works. Approval took place earlier this evening.
- (4) Fuel Card Readers. Approval to enter WEX fuel purchase program took place earlier this evening.
- (5) LMIG 2020 Resurfacing. Approval took place earlier this evening.
- (6) Restriping of 18 County Roads. Project is beginning and completion is expected by November 30, 2019.
- (7) Community Center Pool Equipment. Bid specs being prepared to modernize and upgrade. Mr. Dowling was reminded to coordinate the project with the High School Swim Team since the team will start using the pool soon.
- (8) Ellerslie Park Lodge Repair. Bids are due October 7 with action by the Board expected on October 15.
- (9) Ellerslie Park Chipping & Grinding. Project is underway, on schedule, and should be completed by late October.
- (10) Soccer Complex Parking Improvements. Project will soon be underway.
- (11) Soccer Complex Pavilion. Concrete work is done and walls have been framed.
- (12) Rails to Trails. Phase I of the project, from downtown Pine Mountain to the Corner Store at the intersection of US 27 and SR 354, is going well. Bid award for Phase II & III will be on the next agenda, with completion expected in early March 2020.
- (13) Land Use & Development Codes Update. Request for qualifications has been distributed, responses are due October 18, with action by the Board expected on November 19, and completion by June 30, 2020.
- (14) Melody Lakes Dam. Still waiting for State to approve the County’s submitted recommendation.
- (15) Mulching of 35 Acres at Northwest Harris Business Park. Project is virtually complete; confirmation will be made by surveyor this week.
- (16) Elections & Voting Machines. In response to questions about the storing of the new voting machines and what will happen to the old machines, Jamie Webb, Facilities Maintenance Director, said that he understands when the new machines come in, the old ones will be picked up.

7. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

A. **Intergovernmental Agreements with Hamilton and Shiloh: Vehicle Maintenance**. John Taylor, County Attorney, said that the agreements with Hamilton and Shiloh for the maintenance of their vehicles has expired; that the new agreements for the County’s Vehicle Maintenance Department to perform maintenance and repair on vehicles owned by the municipalities have been approved by the respective cities; that the agreements show an increase in labor from \$48 to \$50 an hour and in overtime from \$72 to \$75 an hour; that either party can terminate the agreement with a 90-day notice to the other party; and that he recommended approval of same. The motion to approve both agreements was made by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Chairman Langston, and passed unanimously. [Documents can be found in “Contracts & Agreements” file as C&A #19-34 (Hamilton) and #19-35 (Shiloh).]

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

Attest:

Becky Langston, Chairman

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk