

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR SESSION - VIA TELECONFERENCE**

May 5, 2020
7:00 P.M.

Commissioners Present via telephone: Becky Langston, Susan Andrews, Rob Grant, J. Harry Lange, Andrew Zuerner. Staff Present via telephone: 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. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - A. **Teleconference Meeting.** Chairman Langston announced that in compliance with the Governor's Declaration of Public Health State of Emergency and in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 54-14-1(g), tonight's meeting will be conducted live by conference call to comply with recommended social distancing and public gathering guidelines; that citizens may also listen to the meeting via telephone by calling 408-418-9388, and entering access code 797 645 868#, and the attendee ID 706 628 77#; and that instructions are on the Harris County website.
 - B. **Public Comments Suspended.** Chairman Langston said that in compliance with Governor Brian P. Kemp's Executive Orders and based on recommendations from President Trump's Coronavirus Guidelines for America to limit social gatherings and practice social distancing, tonight's meeting is being broadcast live, therefore the County's policy regarding public participation (Harris County Public Comment Policy) is temporarily suspended and public comment for the meeting is unavailable. She also said that the invocation and the pledge of allegiance will not occur during tonight's meeting.
 - C. **Voting During Meeting.** Chairman Langston reminded the Board that in making motions, seconds, or votes, Commissioners give their name and district number.
3. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2020, Regular Session was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Commissioner Andrews, and passed unanimously.
4. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Employee Healthcare Insurance Renewal: John Leggett, MSI.** John Leggett, with MSI, the County's insurance broker, who participated in the teleconference, reviewed the insurance documents which included that initially Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield quoted an increase of 16.14% for medical; that the insurance was shopped with competitors and Anthem came back with a decrease of 11.14%, for a premium increase of 5%; that Cigna quoted a very competitive medical rate resulting in an annual cost impact of a negative \$21,755; that Anthem quoted two options - (1) the base plan and buy-up plan and (2) only one plan, and Cigna quoted a one plan option; that Cigna's quote has no deductible for prescriptions, includes a wellness gift card incentive, a \$15,000 wellness fund, and a 2% bundling discount for dental; that both plans include increasing the County's contributions for dependent coverage to 50%, a Flexible Spending Account for which the employee can contribute pre-tax dollars for medical, dental and vision expenses not paid under insurance up to a maximum of \$2,750/year, the limit set by the IRS, and will allow employees to rollover unused funds, up to \$500, into the next plan year; that with the Cigna plan, the employee share of dependent coverage, per pay period, will drop from the current \$211.48 to \$136.82 for employee & spouse (a savings of \$74.66 for employee), from \$191.35 to \$123.79 for employee & child(ren) (a savings of \$67.56 for employee), and from \$360.37 to \$234.53 for employee & family (savings of \$124.38 for employee); and that with Cigna, dental premiums will increase slightly and vision premiums will decrease. Following discussion the motion to accept the proposal from Cigna for medical, dental and vision insurance, and to increase the County's contribution for employee dependent coverage to 50% of the premiums, was made by Chairman Langston, seconded by Commissioner Zuerner, and passed unanimously.
 - B. **Financial Statement: February 2020.** The motion to approve the February 2020 financial statement was made by Commissioner Lange and seconded by Commissioner Andrews. Following a brief discussion with Clint Chastain, CFO, the motion passed unanimously.

C. **Proclamation: Enrichment Services Community Action Month.** Chairman Langston read the Proclamation designating May as “Community Action Month” in recognition of the Enrichment Services Program. The motion to approve this Proclamation was made by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Commissioner Andrews, and passed unanimously.

D. **Consideration of Additional Employee Pay Options for COVID-19.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that the Board, during the April 21 meeting, had requested options for the Board to consider to pay employees as a way to show appreciation during the COVID-19 pandemic, and that there are four options to consider, which are: (1) Time and a half for each pay period (initially four pay periods) would cost approximately \$228,000/pay period; (2) One-time pay (\$500 for full-time employees and \$250 for part-time employees) would cost approximately \$190,000; (3) Flat fee/pay period (\$200 for full time employees and pro-rated for part-time employees) would cost approximately \$75,000/pay period; and (4) Combination of options #2 and #3 would cost approximately \$265,000/pay period. He said funds would come from the reserves of the General Fund, the Solid Waste Fund and the Water Works Fund. Following discussion, the motion to approve Option #2 (one-time pay of \$500 for full-time employees and \$250 for part-time employees) was made by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Commissioner Zuerner, and passed unanimously. Mr. Dowling said that the employees will receive payments in the amount of \$500 or \$250 on Friday, May 15.

5. **COUNTY MANAGER**

A. **Bid Award: Rectangular Hay Baler for Public Works.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that the current Public Works budget includes \$21,000 for a replacement hay baler; that bids were advertised; that on April 23 two bids were received as follows:

	SunSouth Columbus, GA	Technology Int'l Lake Mary, FL
Bid Amount	\$ 22,900.00	\$ 30,735.00

Mr. Dowling said that the low bid did not meet specs and is \$1,900 over budget, and the high bid did not include all required documents and acknowledgments and is \$9,735 over budget; and that staff is recommending the bids be rejected and the bid re-advertised. The motion to reject the bids and go back out on bid was made by Chairman Langston, seconded by Commissioner Zuerner, and passed unanimously.

B. **Grant Application: CARES Act for Airport.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act is providing economic relief to airports, and the County’s Airport has been allocated \$30,000; that an application must be submitted by May 8; that there is no match requirement; that if received, the funds will be used for aviation fuel purchases; and funds may be available as early as July 2020. Following discussion, the motion to approve the CARES Act grant application was made by Chairman Langston, seconded by Commissioner Grant, and passed unanimously.

6. **COUNTY ATTORNEY**

A. **Agreement: GDOC Care & Custody of Prison Inmates.** John Taylor, County Attorney, reviewed the annual agreement with the Georgia Department of Corrections (GDOC) regarding the care, custody and capacity of 156 State inmates at the County Prison, said that the per diem from the State is \$22/day/inmate, and that he recommends approval of same. The motion to approve the agreement was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Chairman Langston, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in “Contracts & Agreements” file as C&A #20-07.)

B. **Agreement: GDOT Inmate Work Detail.** John Taylor, County Attorney, reviewed the annual agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for a work detail of a maximum of 10 inmates and a Correctional Officer, for which GDOT provides the necessary equipment, tools and vehicle, and pays the County \$39,500, and he recommended approval of same. The motion to approve the agreement was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Commissioner Andrews, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in “Contracts & Agreements” file as C&A #20-08.)

- C. **Agreement: Magistrate Court Representation by District Attorney.** John Taylor, County Attorney, reviewed the agreement for the District Attorney to prosecute state misdemeanor violations, and said that because the County does not have a State Court or Solicitor General, the District Attorney will prosecute such cases brought on behalf of the State in Magistrate Court; that it also includes the County Attorney is responsible for prosecuting violations of the County's Code of Ordinances, for which the District Attorney shall have no obligation; and that it will take effect immediately. The motion to approve this agreement was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Commissioner Andrews, and passed unanimously. (Document can be found in "Contracts & Agreements" file as C&A #20-09.)
7. **Request for Executive Session.** Chairman Langston requested an Executive Session via teleconference for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter and potential/pending litigation.
8. **Recess for Executive Session.** The motion to go into Executive Session via teleconference was made at 8:20 PM by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Chairman Langston, and passed with three in favor (Lange, Langston, Andrews) and two opposed (Grant, Zuerner).
9. **Resume Regular Session & Adjournment.** The motion to go back into Regular Session and for adjournment was made by Commissioner Lange, seconded by Commissioner Grant, and passed unanimously.

Attest:

Becky Langston, Chairman

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk