

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PLANNING SESSION**

January 5, 2017

9:00 AM

Union Community Center, 19825 GA Hwy 219, West Point

Commissioners Present: Harry Lange, Susan Andrews, Martha Chewning, Becky Langston, Jim Woods. Staff Present: Randy Dowling, County Manager; Nancy McMichael, County Clerk.

Call to Order. Chairman Lange called the meeting to order at 9 AM.

911 System Improvements. A presentation was made by Allan Kutts with TUSA Consulting to perform a needs assessment on the County's CAD and 9-1-1 systems as well as an audit of the County's radio communications system (TETRA) for an estimated cost of \$131,900 and funds coming from Fund Balance. Proposal to be on January 17 agenda.

Chief Financial Officer and Finance Department Status. Mr. Dowling advised he had made contact with several sources and found a company (Severn Trent) that can perform a two-day assessment of the finance department, after which a report will be prepared with a plan of implementation for assistance with FY 2015 and FY 2016 audits, with the two-day visit costing approximately \$7,000 all inclusive. Proposal to be on January 17 agenda.

Use of Library Building (once new building is operational). Brief discussion of possible use by library building by the BOC administrative offices, which would provide additional space for positions needed (IT, GIS, another one or two in finance). No consensus.

Sheriff's Vehicles. Mr. Dowling reported that the Sheriff would like to move forward with ordering his five (5) new vehicles, which are purchased each year; that they would be received and paid for after July 1; and that same would be included in the upcoming budget. No objections.

District Days at Capitol. Mrs. McMichael asked the Board to notify her as soon as possible if they plan on going to one of the district days at the capitol (Feb. 22, Mar. 1 or Mar. 8).

Break to attend Extension Service Legislative Luncheon at Oakhurst. From 11 AM to 12:30 PM.

Ballfields. Brief discussion regarding request from Mountain Hill Sports Association and possibility of donated ballfields.

Sign Ordinance. In response to question from Commissioner Chewning, Mrs. McMichael said that the County Attorney is still reviewing the document and is expected to be finished soon.

Planner Status. Funds not included in current budget. Send letters to applicants advising of hiring not at this time but application will be kept on file for consideration once funds are in place.

Solid Waste Concern: Construction & Demolition from Out of County. Taking in construction & demolition from outside County; charge slightly higher than what it costs per ton to transport. No consensus/action.

Solid Waste Concern: Outsourcing Garbage Pickup. Have outside firm handle garbage pick up using their trucks and employees and to provide appropriate garbage cans. No consensus/action.

Solid Waste Concern: Garbage Trucks. Discussion included replacing engines in existing trucks rather than purchasing new ones due to EPA rules.

Overview of Connecting County Facilities to Existing High Speed Internet Fiber. Discussion with Dean Ginn (Dean's Two-Way), Diverse Power (Randy Shepherd), Point Broadband (Todd Holt and Andy Sivell), and Alex Santiago (IHS). Discussion included connecting the existing connection from Courthouse to the Sheriff's Office and the existing Diverse Power line; connecting the county buildings for better internet connections and faster speed; connecting the Community Center and new Library via microwave, the CAD system at 911, and VOIP telephone system to replace analog system. Also mentioned was the County's current internet speed is 60 and with the upgrade 200 mgs would be ample; no contract; implementation could occur in approximately 30 days. Consensus was to possibly do all in phases, but proposal is needed. Proposal should be on January 17 agenda for consideration.

Budget Calendar FY 2017-2018. Reviewed; revisions include budget work sessions at 5:00 PM on May 16 and May 23, with the possibility of a third on May 30; a second public hearing, which has been Harris County's practice, on June 30; and the adoption of a budget resolution (as required by law); and that the budget is to include General Funds, Special Revenue/Funds, Enterprise (Water Works, Airport) Funds, and Project Funds, but not SPLOST or LOST funds. Schedule to be on January 17 agenda for action.

ADJOURNMENT. Meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM.

MINUTES APPROVAL. The motion to approve the Planning Session minutes of January 5, 2017, was made during the Regular Session of March 21, 2017, by Commissioner Chewning, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.