

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR SESSION**

March 21, 2023  
6:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Rob Grant, Susan Andrews, Greg Gantt, Bobby Irions. Staff Present: Randy Dowling, County Manager; Russell Britt, County Attorney; Andrea Dzioba, County Clerk.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Chairman Grant called the Regular Session to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. **INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Vice-Chair Andrews gave the invocation. Chairman Grant led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **MINUTES** The motion to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2023 Planning Retreat Session and the March 7, 2023 Regular Session was made by Commissioner Irions, seconded by Commissioner Lightsey, and passed unanimously.
4. **NEW BUSINESS** There was no new business to discuss.
5. **COUNTY MANAGER**
  - A. **Bid Award: New Fire Training Facility.** County Manager Randy Dowling provided an overview of the agenda item related to the bid award for the New Fire Training Center. Mr. Dowling advised that the bid was prepared and advertised. On February 16, 2023, five (5) bids were received as follows:

Company	Base Bid Amount	Days to Complete
Carlisle Construction, Pine Mountain, GA	\$ 699,000.00	180 days
McWright LLC, Bonaire, GA	\$ 744,000.00	220 days
Pro Construction of GA, Macon, GA	\$ 770,904.00	180 days
Principle Construction, LaGrange, GA	\$ 837,000.00	180 days
Headley Construction, Newnan, GA	\$ 849,000.00	180 days

He stated that the low bidder was Carlisle Construction with a base bid of \$699,000 which was \$104,250 over budget and that the additional funds would come from SPLOST-2019 public safety funds. Alex Griggs of 2WR Architects was available to answer any questions that the Board might have and provide any additional information.

Pine Mountain Valley Fire Chief Jack McClung stated that the project was expensive before but more expensive now; that the process started in 2017; that they try to be responsible fiscally; that something is wrong when more is spent on recreation than public safety; and that he thinks that the Board should proceed with the project.

Cataula Fire Chief Bill Czukor stated that the project was discussed in 2000 but that the County Manager and Board at that time was not supportive; that the volunteer fire departments don't utilize a large amount of the budget; and that he is respectfully asking for the funding for the project to be approved.

Mr. Griggs of 2WR discussed some of the ways that savings might be possible for the project. Chairman Grant stated that the discussed possible savings were not worth it based on the overall project costs.

The motion to award the bid to Carlisle Construction in the amount of \$699,000 for the New Fire Training Classroom and authorize the County Manager and County Clerk to execute the necessary documents was made by Chairman Grant, seconded by Commissioner Lightsey, and passed unanimously.

- B. **Project Updates** Randy Dowling, County Manager, reviewed various projects, as follows:
  - (1) **Unified Development Code (UDC).** The Board approved the UDC and alcohol ordinances and they would be effective on April 1, 2023.
  - (2) **EMS/VFD Facility in NWHBP.** This project is ongoing and going very well.
  - (3) **Annual LMIG Resurfacing Program.** This project is nearing completion.

- (4) New Public Works Facility. This project is ongoing and they should be moving dirt next week.
  - (5) Dehumidification System at the Community Center. The project is ongoing and is currently in Phase I. This project will be completed in two phases.
  - (6) Ellerslie Park. This project is almost finished. The playground is being constructed. The southside trails/board walks are complete. The observation tower is expected to be bid out in March.
  - (7) Man O' War Railroad Recreation Trail, Phase VI. The project has started and paving should begin tomorrow.
  - (8) New Fire Training Facility. The project was awarded this evening.
  - (9) Radio System. The RFP has been prepared and is out on bid to hire a consultant to assist with specifications to expand the Tetra radio system and determine tower locations.
  - (10) Airport Runway Lighting. The project that includes runway lighting, airfield signage, and a wind cone is on bid and the bid opening will be on March 29<sup>th</sup>.
  - (11) Airport Open House. The Airport along with the Harris County Chamber of Commerce is organizing the May 20, 2023 event.
  - (12) New Water Works Administrative Office. This project is approximately 50% complete and should be done by mid-2023.
  - (13) Courthouse Renovations, Phase I. This project is ongoing and going well. Alex Griggs of 2WR advised that Phase I is approximately 35% complete and is expected to be finished in June. Phase II is expected to cost approximately \$4 million dollars and will address ADA and fire safety issues.
  - (14) Impact Fee Study. The Board will have a work session on April 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. at the Administration office related to Impact Fees.
  - (15) Personnel Policies. The Board has received the draft for their review and it will be provided for their consideration at the April 4, 2023 Board meeting.
  - (16) Observation Tower. Design is complete and documents should be received in March to go out for bid.
  - (17) Tire Amnesty Days. A State tire grant was received and Tire Amnesty Days will be held on June 10, 2023 and June 17, 2023 at the Transfer Station. A flyer is on the County website.
  - (18) Surplus Vehicle and Equipment Sale. Items are online and the bid process is on-going. It is expected that the County will receive approximately \$90,000.00 from the sale.
6. **COUNTY ATTORNEY** County Attorney Russell Britt said that he had no business to come before the Board this evening.
  7. **ADJOURNMENT**. There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Irions, seconded by Vice-Chair Andrews, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

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Rob Grant, Chairman

Attest:

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Andrea Dzioba, County Clerk