



HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 7, 2020
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Ridley called the meeting to order. Transit Director, Bruce Poteat offered the Invocation and the board led the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present along with Attorney David Mecklin.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Ridley asked Fire Chief Brian Walker to report on the equipment purchased through the two grants. Chief Walker explained that 35 sets of turnout gear were purchased using the Assistance to Firefighters grant. These cost \$95,375. He pointed out the pieces of equipment that this covered. Chief Walker also stated that vests, cones and traffic wands had been purchased with the ACCG Safety Grant. These items benefit the sheriff's department, road department and fire department.

Finance Director Don Johnson gave a financial recap of the county's revenues and expenditures through November 30, 2019.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Budde motioned to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2019 Regular Meeting, the December 17, 2019 Work Session and the December 17, 2019 Special Called Meeting. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Agenda

Chairman Ridley stated that he would like to remove items #1- Appoint County Clerk, #2- Appoint County Attorney, and #4- Superior Court Judge Meng Lim SPLOST Request, and add item #12 Executive Session. Chairman Ridley motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Public Participation on Agenda Items

None

Item #1 – Appoint County Clerk

Removed from Agenda

Item #2 – Appoint County Attorney

Removed from Agenda

Item #3 – Lee & Jackson Birthday Proclamation

County Clerk Alison Palmer read and presented the Proclamation to Billy Bearden, from the Haralson Invincibles Camp 673. Mr. Bearden thanked the board for recognizing these two men and their contributions to our country. Chairman Ridley motioned to approve the proclamation. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Ridley took a moment to state that the board had voted at the last Special Called Meeting to make the MLK holiday a paid holiday. The Chairman stated that he would be asking the board to give back the Veterans Day Holiday in the next budget.

Item #4 – Superior Court Judge Meng Lim SPLOST Request

Removed from Agenda

Item #5 – Computer/Internet/Email Acceptable Use Policy

Chairman Ridley stated that this had been sent to the board to review. This policy details the acceptable and unacceptable use of county computers, internet, and Wi-Fi. This template was obtained from LGRMS which is the Risk Management Group that works with the liability insurance company. The policy is designed to help secure the county's computer systems and data.

Chairman Ridley motioned to approve the policy. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #6 – Beer Pouring License Request for Rebel Crossing

Chairman Ridley recused himself from this item. Vice Chair Brown took over the meeting. Business License Clerk Kendall Ristau reported that all of the advertising and requirements had been met for this request. The owner is requesting beer by the drink sales. No wine, no liquor. Ms. Ristau stated that she had not received any negative responses from the advertising.

Commissioner Budde motioned to approve this request for a license to pour beer only by the drink. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 4-0, with Chairman Ridley abstaining from the vote.

Vice Chair Brown turned the meeting back over to the chairman.

Item #7 – Resolution to Authorize Application for the 5311 Transit Program

Chairman Ridley explained that this resolution is to authorize the application for the grant to help fund the transit program. The Chairman asked director Bruce Poteat to explain the program.

Commissioner Budde motioned to approve the resolution. Chairman Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #8 – SPLOST Referendum Resolution and Call for Election

This document is the referendum resolution and call for election for the SPLOST that will begin in 2021. There were a couple of questions from commissioners regarding the format and whether or not the amounts for each project would be advertised. Chairman Ridley stated that this must be received by the state by Friday in order to have it on the ballot. After a brief discussion, it was determined that the projects and projected costs could be advertised separately.

Commissioner Brown motioned to approve the resolution. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #9 – Setting of Qualifying Fees

These fees are set by a formula from the state. Alison Palmer reported that she had received these from the Elections Superintendent, Vaughn Gable. The board has to approve them.

Chairman Ridley motioned to approve the Resolution to set the Qualifying Fees. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #10 – Election Equipment Purchase

this item was discussed at the December 17, 2019 work session. The board asked for the department to get three quotes for these booths. After speaking with the Elections Superintendent Vaughn Gable, Alison Palmer reported that this is the only one that will hold both pieces of the new election equipment. After questions from the commissioners regarding

following the county's vendor procedures, Attorney David Mecklin stated that you could use sole source procurement. We just need to ask Mr. Gable to send us a letter stating that this is the only one that fits the equipment.

Chairman Ridley motioned to approve the purchase of the voting booths from ICX.

Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #11 – IWispr Tower Lease Request

Chairman Ridley stated that he heard the City of Buchanan already had internet to the water treatment facility and asked Daryl Moore if IWispr still wanted to lease the tower at the old jail. Mr. Moore responded yes. He said they could use it to provide service to citizens in Buchanan. After more discussion, a request was made for the owner of IWispr to attend a meeting to discuss the progress of this project. Chairman Ridley motioned to table this item.

Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #12 – Executive Session

Chairman Ridley motioned to go into executive session. Mr. Mecklin had him amend the motion to include the reason. Chairman Ridley then motioned to go into executive session for a personnel issue and pending legal matters. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried 5-0. Chairman Ridley stated that they would not be taking the attorney or clerk to begin with.

Later Mr. Mecklin was called into the executive session.

Upon return, Chairman Ridley resumed the meeting and stated that no action was taken.

Public Participation on Non Agenda items

None

Commissioner Budde motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by Alison Palmer

Certified County Clerk

HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

JANUARY 9, 2020

Chairman Ridley called the special called meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. All commissioners and county attorney David Mecklin were present. Sandi Couch offered the invocation and the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Chairman Ridley requested to waive the approval of the minutes from the January 7, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Adam Budde motioned with a second by Commissioner Jamie Bennett and the motion carried 5-0.

Agenda

Chairman Ridley stated that he would like to add to the agenda as follows:

- 1) Appoint Sandi Couch temporary county clerk
- 2) Ambucare contract
- 3) Executive session

Chairman Ridley made the motion with a second from Commissioner Adam Budde and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #1 – Appoint Sandi Couch as Temporary County Clerk

Chairman Ridley made a motion to appoint Sandi Couch as temporary county clerk. Commissioner Brad Vines seconded the motion and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #2 – Ambucare Contract Approval

Chairman Ridley said the Ambucare contract for the ambulance service expired in July and we did not expect any changes. The contract automatically renews, and their accreditation required a signed contract. Commissioner Budde asked if the amount of the contract was the same. Chairman Ridley stated it was the same. Commissioner Jamie Bennett motioned to accept, seconded by Commissioner David Tarpley and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #3 – Executive Session

Chairman Ridley motioned to enter executive session, seconded by Commissioner Adam Budde, and the motion carried 5-0. County attorney David Mecklin asked the Chairman to announce the reason for the executive session. Chairman Ridley stated that it was a personnel matter.

The commissioners returned from executive session. Chairman Ridley stated that no action had been taken by the Board.

Public Participation

Sandi Couch was recognized by Chairman Ridley in order to make a statement to the Board. First, she stated the Mr. Vaughn Gable from Elections had requested that the Board come to the courthouse for a field trip to see the new voting machines that had arrived. One of the commissioners asked David Mecklin if it would be permissible for all the commissioners to be there at one time. Mr. Mecklin stated that as long as they did not discuss county business it would be fine. Secondly, Ms. Couch stated that her acceptance of temporary county clerk was because the Chairman asked her and there were two important items of County business that needed to be handled which were Splost and the Ambucare contract. Furthermore, she would only serve until January 22, 2020 because she had given her resignation to the Chairman the day before.

Commissioner Adam Budde asked Ms. Couch if she would explain her resignation to the Board. She stated that the Board had a meeting on Tuesday, January 7, 2020 and they went into executive session, without the attorney and the county clerk. The next day Haralson County did not have a county clerk. It seemed like a very wrong decision. It did not seem the Board gave Ms. Palmer any opportunity to defend, explain, correct any problems that the Board had with her. Even a common criminal had an opportunity to speak in defense of themselves. Ms. Couch also said that she served a Higher Power than the elected and office people in the room and that she had to choose to do the right thing.

Commissioner Jamie Bennett asked Ms. Couch if she was saying that God told her to resign.

Ms. Couch said that what she was saying that there was a right and wrong decision, and she had to make the right decision based on her own principals.

Commissioner Adam Budde said to Ms. Couch that the Board had taken no action. Ms. Couch stated that they, the Board, had just appointed her as County Clerk, so evidently an action had been taken. Commissioner Budde stated that he was new as a commissioner, and if he and the Board had moved too quickly or had made a mistake, he was sorry.

Commissioner Jamie Bennett asked Ms. Kendall Ristau if she would like to speak. Ms. Ristau said that she had resigned as well, and she agreed with Sandi Couch that what the Board had done was incorrect and inappropriate. Commissioner Bennett asked if her employment was contingent on Alison Palmer. Ms. Ristau said that the office had a very cohesive relationship and all worked well together. The rug had been pulled out from under and she was disappointed in the handling of the situation. She also stated that she no longer had respect for the Board.

The Chairman stated that no action had been taken and asked if there were any more questions in the room. Ms. Laura Camper from the Gateway-Beacon said that Ms. Palmer serves as the County Clerk and the Board had stated that they had taken no action, but they had just appointed Ms. Sandi Couch as temporary County Clerk, and that the County Clerk, Ms. Alison Palmer, was obviously not there. The Chairman stated that they appointed the clerk every year. Ms. Ristau stated that a lot will stop because Ms. Palmer handles a lot of County business.

Commissioner Adam Budde motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Chairman Ronnie Ridley and the motion carried 5-0.

Submitted by Sandi Couch

County Clerk

HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORK SESSION

JANUARY 21, 2020

All commissioners present at the meeting.

Chairman Ridley stated that Item #3 would be removed from the agenda. IWispr was no longer interested in the tower at the old jail and had requested for this item to be removed.

Commissioner David Tarpley added Item # 4 for Executive Session to discuss personnel.

Item #1 SPLOST Equipment Purchase for Sheriff/Superior Court/District Attorney

District Attorney, Jack Browning passed a packet of information out to the commissioners regarding the purchase of video equipment he had seen presented by the Department of Justice system in June. He stated that every prison in the state, except for female prisons, has this system. Several years ago, two corrections officers were killed by inmates on a transport bus, while transferring prisoners from prison to a court facility to testify. He stated that there is high security risks and great expense in the transfer of prisoners. The costs include salary, manpower and vehicle mileage and maintenance. With this new equipment, court cases can be wrapped up very quickly via teleconference when some inmates enter a no-contest or simply plead guilty. Also, this gives attorneys an opportunity to confer with their clients via telephone and move forward before gathering necessary witnesses and risking personnel not to mention a lot of time and expense.

Commissioner Brown asked what the cost of this system would be. Mr. Browning stated that the saving of not transporting would take a large portion of the cost from the original purchase.

Commissioner Tarpley asked if witnesses would be used.

Mr. Browning said that there was some legislation governing that a victim had a right of confrontation, and that could be addressed in some cases.

Commissioner Brown said that she was under the impression that we had such equipment at our new jail. Mr. Browning stated that we do not.

Commissioner Budde asked if equipment was needed at the jail and courthouse, and if we had the infrastructure to house such equipment? Mr. Browning said that yes, equipment was needed at both facilities, he did not have an answer on infrastructure. He did state that the Magistrate Judge had a first appearance, very informal court room at the jail, and that this was a much different system.

Chairman Ridley said that all the penitentiaries in the state of Georgia had this equipment. Mr. Browning agreed, except for female prisons. But stated that the female prisoners could be transported to the closest facility to use the equipment at the male facilities.

Mr. Browning said that there were two main costs involved. An annual fee of approximately \$2000.00 for subscription and a fee to purchase equipment/hardware/software of approximately \$11,000.00.

Chairman Ridley asked if they needed it for two courtrooms and Mr. Browning said that the judges would be happy with one set of equipment to be shared by all, and he was sure that the Sheriff was on board as well.

Commissioner Budde said that we have **proposed a new SPLOST** and it includes a lot of renovations, and he could see waiting until the next SPLOST came in to buy the equipment. And he also had concerns of whether the infrastructure was there to handle.

Mr. Browning said that everyone was eager to get it as soon as possible. He listed benefits to Sheriff, Public Defender, etc. and said that all parties would gain from this system.

Commissioner Tarpley asked if the Sheriff would be willing to spend his SPLOST on the system. He asked if the clerk would check with the Sheriff to see if he would.

Chairman Ridley said that we might see if the Sheriff might cover the Jail portion, but the court would not be his responsibility.

Mr. Browning said that the \$11,000.00 cost was for the courthouse only. Essentially, the prices quoted were doubled when you factor in two separate facilities.

There was more discussion regarding the benefits of the system and various ways to check bandwidth before purchasing the system.

Item #2 Mt Zion Church Road

Chairman Ridley stated that he and Terry Edwards had talked with Mr. Willard Ballew about his road, and that he and Mr. Edwards had been through the files, and there may have been some misrepresentation of the road. Mr. Ballew did not own land on Mt. Zion Church Road and deeds said West Mt Zion Church Road.

Terry Edwards said that E911 recognized the road as West Mt Zion Church Road and that he could assume some responsibility in the delay of this road situation because he had been sifting through old files and reading all the terminology.

Chairman Ridley asked if it was a County road. Mr. Edwards said, yes, it was a County maintained road and the Board needed to recognize it as West Mt Zion Church Road, and it had been maintained for years.

Mr. Ballew said that it had been maintained for 45 years.

There was more discussion about the road, and where the road stopped. Chairman Ridley said that he believed they had been led to believe that the road would be paved by former Chairman Poole, and that if they had a road sign, and signed property rights, it would have been done. Chairman Tarpley said that they need a road sign and a dead-end sign. Commissioner Budde apologized to the property owners if

they had been promised that it would be paved. And this was a different Board and this Board could only be held accountable for what they said. Also, that the road needed to be maintained by the County if it's a county road.

Attorney Sam Newsome stated that the Board could take the road documentation and record the stopping point of the road and make a resolution to add to the records so that the matter was clear from now on. He also added that he would draft the document and it would be ready for the next Board of Commissioner meeting.

Item #3 Gun Sanctuary Resolution

Commissioner Adam Budde proposed the adoption of a gun resolution that he had presented to the Board members. He said that it was a boiler plate resolution that he had put together because he was pro 2nd amendment and no one was coming to get his guns. He stated that it was our due diligence to protect our citizens.

Commissioner Tarpley asked if the Board adopted as a County, if State and Federal government said something different, would it be up to our citizens to enforce?

Commissioner Budde said that as a County we did not have to enforce.

Kevin Boulton asked if the resolution had been taken from Habersham County, and also stated that he would like to review the document.

Item #4 Executive Session

Commissioner Tarpley said that he wanted this executive session for personnel discussion and land acquisition.

Commissioner Tarpley stated this in the form of a motion, seconded by Commissioner Budde, with all commissioners in favor.

The commissioners returned from executive session with Chairman Ridley stating that no action had been taken.

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Brown, with all commissioners in agreement.

Submitted by Sandi Couch
County Clerk

HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY 4, 2020
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Ronnie Ridley called the meeting to order. Commission Brown offered the Invocation and the board led the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Commissioners Tarpley, Brown and Budde. Commissioner Vines was absent due to illness. Attorney David Mecklin was present and Ms. Sandra Tant was taking minutes in the absence of a clerk.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Ridley reported that Commissioner Vines was absent due to a serious health issue. He asked for everyone to keep him in their thoughts and prayers.

Finance Director Don Johnson reported the financials to the board, stating that overall the county is ahead of revenues from last year.

Approval of Minutes of the January meetings

Commissioner Budde asked for a couple of corrections to be made. Commissioner Budde motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Agenda

Attorney Mecklin asked to amend the agenda and add a short Executive Session prior to item #1 for a personnel issue. Commissioner Tarpley motioned to approve the agenda with an executive session as Item #1A. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried.

Public Participation on Agenda Items

None

Item #1A – Executive Session for personnel issue

Chairman Ridley motioned to go into executive session. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Upon return Chairman Ridley called the regular meeting back to order and stated there was no action taken.

Item #1 – Appoint County Clerk

Chairman Ridley motioned to reappoint Alison Palmer as County Clerk. He stated that she has been here a good while and she is a Certified County Clerk. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Alison Palmer replaced Mrs. Tant to finish taking the minutes.

Item #2 – Appoint County Attorney

Chairman Ridley motioned to reappoint David Mecklin as County Attorney. He stated that Mr.

Mecklin has done a good job and he feels like the board should reappoint him as the county attorney. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Item #3 – National Flood Insurance Program Noncompliance, Julianne Meadows, NWGRC

Chairman Ridley stated the currently we are on the verge of being out of compliance with this program. He introduced Julianne Meadows from NWGRC. Ms. Meadows explained that she works in the Planning Department of Northwest Regional Commission which covers 14 counties in Northwest Georgia. She stated that Chairman Ridley is on the board and the board directs the Commission's activities. She stated they work to assist the counties in the region.

Ms. Meadows began by explaining that the National Flood Insurance Program is a federal program handled by FEMA that is designed to help reduce the very high cost of flood insurance for property owners in Flood Plain areas. As a participant, Haralson County is required to perform an administrative piece that includes required ordinances, permitting regulations, etc. for properties listed in the flood plain map which was redone in 2008. Because the flood plain changes over time, the communities must update ordinances and regulations to stay in compliance. Sometimes this requires taking actions that may cost the county to perform. The ordinances do not prohibit property owners from building in these areas but requires them to take action to reduce the risk of large losses and so that the impact downstream is lessened.

In the event of a disaster, flooding, tornadoes, storms, a community may have short term need of disaster relief such as debris cleanup. However, there are often long-term relief that is needed, such as public buildings being destroyed, roads & bridges, etc. Communities that are in compliance with the flood plain program qualify for the Federal long-term disaster relief funding as well as the citizens of the area. If you are out of compliance, you do not qualify for these funds.

If you get into the probationary period, you are given 90 days to remedy the situation. If a community comes out of the National Flood Plain Insurance program, then the county and property owners cannot receive Federal funding and the property owners are not eligible to get flood insurance through the federal program. They can get private insurance; however, the cost is much higher to the property owner.

Commissioner Budde asked, "When we reviewed this last year, what was the cost of getting in compliance?"

Chairman Ridley responded that it was approximately \$70,000. However, half of that was the \$30,000 cost of paying for new aerial photo maps for the Assessor's office to be completed. That was put in the budget and Chairman Ridley stated that the flights had already begun for the new aerial photos. The rest of the cost was to have approximately 40 parcels that have been deemed to possibly be in the flood plain surveyed and recommendations made to protect those structures that are in the flood plain. Cost is \$750 per structure.

Commissioner Budde stated, “so, We would essentially be going out and finding these private property owners within the flood plain, surveying their land to find out if they have any structures built inside the flood plain and it will cost the board and the county \$750 per property to do this?”

Chairman Ridley stated that it has to be an engineer that does this, and it takes a lot of time locating the properties before he even goes out on site.

Commissioner Tarpley asked, “Are they the only ones that benefit from the flood disaster insurance if there is a flood disaster?”

Chairman Ridley responded, “No.” Mrs. Meadows stated, it is the individual and the public.

Commissioner Tarpley asked, how do we benefit from this other than roads?

Ms. Meadows stated that your roads and bridges may be eligible for assistance, but any public buildings in the flood plain which are damaged or destroyed would not qualify for assistance if you are out of the program.

Commissioner Tarpley asked if the county has none in the flood plain, then we would be paying \$30,000 for the benefit of only about 40 residents?

Ms. Meadows said it would be on the property owner at that point.

Chairman Ridley stated that since around 2008, the county had received reimbursements for disaster expenses of over \$200,000 from the federal government. He went on to say this is a one-time cost.

Discussion continued including whether this is the first time they have asked to go back and survey properties.

Ms. Meadows stated that this may be the first time it has been noted that properties have been built in the flood plain. She also stated that going forward, there would be surveys required through the permitting on new construction.

Commissioner Budde, said “So, if I am interpreting this correctly, and correct me if I am wrong, we are going to ask tax monies from people that don’t live in the flood plain to be spent on 40 people that live in the flood plain?”

Chairman Ridley stated it will help with any public facility that is damaged. He went on to say the federal government has cut their budget and let this fall on the local governments.

It was noted that the flood plain map changed around 2008. Chairman Ridley went on to reiterate that the updates to the permitting procedures and requirements would stop this from happening in the future.

Ms. Meadows mentioned that the Georgia Environmental Authority offers low interest loans for projects like this.

Commissioner Budde stated, We are not voting on this tonight are we?

Commissioner Tarpley asked what our time frame is, because we are 6 months from the end of a budget year. Is it something that can be pushed to the next budget year?

Glenda Wade, Permits Director, reported that we have received a letter that we are about to go into a probationary period. We have 60 days before we are put in probation. We need to do it as soon as possible because there is a lot of work to do to get all the paperwork and changes into place.

Commissioner Brown asked if the property owners knew they were building in a flood plain? Chairman Ridley stated that there may not have been requirements in place when these structures were built to determine that.

Commissioner Brown stated, "So, we me have been somewhat at fault because we did not have anything in place to determine this?"

Mrs. Wade stated that we know have a flood plain overlay in the GIS system, so that the permits office can see if a property is potentially in the flood plain. If that is the case, they will require a survey of the property as part of the permitting process. This will keep the county from being in this position going forward.

No action was taken on this item at this time.

Item #4 – Employee Insurance Update, Marcy Heath, Inoventive Benefit Consulting

Ms. Heath gave out a scaled down version of the proposal she had presented to the county in May 2019. She said there is apparently some confusion about the plan and the implementation. She gave a quick summary of the reason such a radical plan was necessary. She reminded the board that after a catastrophic claim year, the county was faced with a 62.9% increase which was over a \$600,000 increase in premiums for the employee health insurance. Haralson County paid \$1 million in premiums and United Health Care paid out \$1.9 million in claims. Drug claims run about \$55,000 a month. She shopped the account out and six traditional carriers refused to even give a quote, including Aetna, Cigna, Humana and ACCG Blue Cross Blue Shield.

She then began to detail several of the changes made with the new plan. One was removing the wellness program. She said that is very time consuming for Alison & Sandi and obviously with a 62% increase, it was not doing its job. She then directed the board to look on page 6, #5 HRA: Reward members for using providers that provide quality care for low cost vetted by AIMM. The county has used an HRA agreement for several years, but it has never had any teeth behind it. If the employee satisfied the deductible, they were reimbursed half. She said to try to gain control of the claims cost we implemented AIMM, which is the 3rd Party Medical

Management Group. Gaining control of the claims cost could bring down and stabilize the 62% rate increase. We are trying to “incentivize the employees or entice them to use an AIMM vetted physician, facility, hospital, whatever, then we will reimburse you ½ of the deductible.”

She reminded the board that they were presented with two plans. One had a \$3000 deductible with higher premiums and one had a \$4000 deductible with lower premiums. She said they were concerned with keeping the deductions more manageable for the employees who had family on the insurance plan, so we decided to go on the \$4000 deductible.

Ms. Heath went on to say that in June we held employee meetings. She said if you are a full time employee you are required to attend these meetings. She said they watched a video on the whole AIMM experience. They were told several different times they must follow the procedures to get the reimbursement. They signed the HRA agreement saying they fully understood they had to go to an AIMM approved physician, facility, ACO, to get the HRA reimbursement. A couple of months later the board decided to reimburse \$2250 so that the employee out of pocket for the deductible would stay the same.

Commissioner Budde stated that he had a copy of the HRA agreement and the only problem he had with it was that he had never seen it and to his knowledge the board had never approved the document. He said he would like to have all of these be null and void until the board voted on them and then if the board approved it, to have all the employees sign a new one.

Chairman Ridley stated that the board may not have been aware of the document, but were aware of the provisions of the document. Commissioner Budde stated he was not aware of the provisions to receiving the reimbursement.

Ms. Heath clarified that the employees had signed HRA agreements for a number of years. Randy Sanders thought it was from 2002.

Commissioner Budde said he felt like this is a policy change from the reimbursement agreement that was made with the employees and he stated that, “I did not know about it. I am not against it, but I would like the opportunity to vote on it and approve it.”

Chairman Ridley said, “We did when we voted on the insurance. This is part of the insurance guidelines, wasn’t it?” Ms. Heath responded Yes.

Commissioner Brown said she understood what Commissioner Budde was saying, that the board had not seen the actual document. “If we had seen that then we would have been better able to educate the employees.”

Commissioner Budde said the only thing they were told was “it was going from this dollar amount to this dollar amount.”

Commissioner Tarpley asked what “the skin in the game was for the employees before this year?”

Ms. Heath responded that it was the employees' responsibility to come to Alison and bring proof that the deductible had been satisfied, and then she would send it to Marcy for verification.

Commissioner Tarpley went on to say that they are used to coming in here and signing the same thing they have always signed and this year no one read the fine print, but you have to go through these steps to meet your deductible. He said it was extremely misleading.

Ms. Heath stated that during the open enrollment meetings, every single employee sat down. They were about an hour long. They all watched a video on AIMM telling exactly what AIMM does. They were told repeatedly and given examples of why you must call AIMM before getting a procedure done. She gave an example of "Tanner, if you go get an MRI or cat scan done, \$5000. If you go down to Newnan you get it done for \$400. There was tons of examples given. They were told several times, if you don't use AIMM, you will not be reimbursed."

Commissioner Budde said he thought the board made a mistake. He said the document should have been part of the vote.

Chairman Ridley said he did not think the board made a mistake, I think that is just verifying what the employees heard in the meetings.

Ms. Heath said "that is exactly what the employees heard in the meeting." It is basically stating that they fully understand what they heard in the meeting and that they fully understand that they're not going to be reimbursed if they don't go through the criteria of using AIMM."

Chairman Ridley said that if "they were sitting in the meeting and told they have to go through the process, what does it matter if they sign this document?"

Commissioner Budde asked, "Shouldn't this board be responsible to approve a document before they ask the employees to sign it?"

Chairman Ridley responded that he didn't think with something like that where we are providing the insurance at no charge to them would need to be.

Commissioner Budde said he thought the board should approve this document.

Chairman Ridley asked Ms. Heath how many employees have had problems. Ms. Heath said about 15 have had used it with no problems and named a couple of examples of the procedures.

She stated that when you talk about emergency situations like stroke or heart attack, which we have had, and stated that those are reimbursed. If your situation is not deemed an emergency, then those need to go through AIMM.

After more discussion, Ms. Heath stated, "that if you don't start controlling health care costs, you're are going to deal with this every single time. 62% more. You are already paying a million

dollars on your healthcare budget. If you don't start controlling costs, you are going to be paying \$2 million, then more. You control every aspect of your budget. Why aren't you controlling your healthcare budget?"

Item #5 – Second Amendment Sanctuary Resolution

State Representative Kevin Cooke was in attendance to read this Resolution. He thanked the board for inviting him. After he read the resolution, Commissioner Budde, who presented the resolution, thanked Representative Cooke for coming out and supporting this resolution.

Commissioner Budde motioned to approve the Second Amendment Sanctuary Resolution. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Item #6 – Equipment Purchase for Sheriff/Superior Court SPLOST Request

Chairman Ridley stated that this is the item that District Attorney Jack Browning presented at the January work session. The sheriff will pay for one out of his portion of the SPLOST and the one for the court will be purchased from the County Government portion. Approximately \$11,300 each.

Captain Wade Williams, from the Sheriff's Department, stated that this would save the county money because it will greatly decrease transport to and from prisons for motions, not guilty pleas to arraignments, etc. Also, the county would not be covering the cost of housing the prisoner for several days.

Commissioner Budde motioned to approve the purchase.

Magistrate Judge Brandon Heath was asked his opinion. He stated it wouldn't benefit his office at all. He feels like computers and equipment are continually changing. He went on to say it will not help on local transport, only on long distance. His feeling was that the District Attorney and Superior Court judges could "take their butts down to the jail for motions like I do." That would save on local transport.

Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items

Vivian & Lawrence Holland spoke about the lake on Morgan Road that had been drained. She stated that she did not feel like an individual should be able to take an action that so greatly affected the proper value of another person's property. She said the lake was allegedly drained to "find a gun." She also claimed that the county had equipment on the property to achieve the draining of the lake.

Chairman Ridley stated that he was investigating to see what part the county played in draining the lake, but since this happened prior to him becoming chairman, he did not know at this point.

Commissioner Budde said he had spoken to the property owner and that he had been informed that he was going to put the dam back and refill the lake.

Mrs. Holland said that the owner had told her he was going to build a subdivision and was not going to replace the lake.

Chairman Ridley asked Mrs. Lawrence to give him some time to investigate.

Bobby Entrekin stated that he owns a business at the corner of Cashtown and Morgan Roads. He also lives right there beside it. He said the fire department was established there in the 1960's on Entrekin land and that he had worked for and with the fire department for more than 50 years. In 1990 the fire department asked for a deed to the property. After much debate with his Dad, because this is such a prime piece of land, they deeded the property to Haralson County for \$1. He made sure it was in the deed that if the property ceases to be used for a fire department, then it would revert to him or his heirs. He said that IWispr was allowed to put equipment on a pole on the fire department property to provide free internet to the fire department. Mr. Entrekin asked to be able to receive internet service from this pole for his business, home, church and community, but he was told this would not be allowed and he wants to know why.

Mr. Mecklin stated that IWispr cannot allow someone else to get free internet because this would violate the gratuities laws for government.

Mr. Entrekin stated that he did not expect to get free internet, but he did not understand how he could give the county a prime piece of property and then cannot be sold service from the company that had their equipment on that pole.

Mr. Entrekin went on to say that he heard that Haralson County was included in a grant request for internet that Carroll EMC and Synchronet had applied for. And the grant was rejected because someone in Haralson County had stopped it.

Chairman Ridley stated that he was informed that one of the Internet providers here had contacted the USDA and stated that we don't need this because they were providing internet. He went on to say he heard they were cutting Haralson County out of the request and resubmitting the application. Carroll EMC said they will be attempting to find funding for Haralson County from other sources.

Commissioner Tarpley asked if the IWispr pole could be moved onto Entrekin property. Mr. Entrekin said this would be very expensive for IWispr to move the pole and all the equipment

Commissioner Tarpley then asked if the county could lease the pole to IWispr and then be able to sell internet to the community.

John Entrekin stated that he had heard that someone else had blocked this from happening.

Commissioner Budde stated that he had contacted Synchronet who stated that the USDA had investigated and found that another provider was providing internet to the county.

Eric McDonald, HC Development Authority, stated that if you look at the rural utility services map, it appears that Haralson is covered because it shows, AT&T, Charter, IWispr and HCI are serving the county.

Kevin Boulton, HCI, stated that the government will not give grant money to an area that has providers.

A citizen asked Commissioner Budde, "If someone maliciously blocked Haralson County from being included in this grant, will there be any repercussions to that company, will they be able to conduct business in the county?"

Chairman Ridley responded to Mr. Entrekin that as soon as the attorney has a chance to give a legal determination on the use of the pole, we can move forward. Mr. Entrekin replied, Please get the wheels turning.

Mr. Mecklin said he will get on this right away.

Commissioner Budde motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk

HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY 18, 2020
SPECIAL CALLED RETREAT MINUTES

Chairman Ridley called the retreat to order. Commissioners Tarpley, Brown, Budde, and Brown were present. Attorney David Mecklin, County Clerk Alison Palmer, and Finance Director Don Johnson were also present.

Item #1 – Elections Building

Chairman Ridley reported that the building in Buchanan that the West Georgia Worship Center has for sale is priced at \$349,000. Chairman Ridley said he had talked to a couple of people and feels like the county could build a new building for \$120,000.

Commissioner Budde agreed. He asked if the equipment is going to remain in the same places in the courthouse. Chairman Ridley stated that Mr. Gable did not want it moved prior to the election on May 19, 2020. Commissioner Budde said he has a problem with that because it is inconveniencing several other offices.

A discussion followed regarding time frames for building a new metal building, RFP's, bidding requirements, etc. Mr. Mecklin said the board needs to take official action prior to putting out the bids.

Later Vaughn Gable, Elections Superintendent, came in to speak to the board and tell them of the needs of the Elections Department. He said they need a building at least 40 x 50 if not bigger. This will cover storage, office space and an area for early voting. He said they need at least three office spaces. He said handicapped restrooms and the building must meet ADA standards. They previously had 105-110 pieces of equipment to consider. Now, with the new equipment, there are over 400 pieces of equipment. It needs to be separated in such a way that it can be locked, such as a locked door between office space and storage area. They also need a lift truck to load and unload at the different precincts.

Mr. Gable said he could probably change the Buchanan precinct by the November election. Not possible before the May election.

Commissioner Budde asked if the elections office and staff could be relocated and the early voting remain at the courthouse. Mr. Gable said that would be very inconvenient. Also, we cannot move the programming equipment without the states' approval and assistance. The representative from Homeland Security will be coming back soon with his report on their security and set up. He was satisfied with computer IT systems security and personnel. They had to put in a Wi-Fi that was only used by Elections.

After Mr. Gable gave his timeline restrictions, it was determined that we cannot get this office moved until after the July run-off.

Chairman Ridley asked about storage for the paper ballots. Right now, they say it needs to be with the Clerk of Court, who is already very strapped for storage. Mr. Gable stated that at this time the retention period is 2 years. Must be separated by precinct and by the scanner they went through.

Commissioner Budde said he felt like the county has two choices. The county can build their own building or get an architect to design according to all the requirements and then write the RFP.

This building can be paid for using funds from the Government upgrades portion of the current SPLOST.

Do we need to try to do this and the county be the general contractor or should we hire an architect since this will have to be built to ADA compliance. Should we build it big enough to add another department there also?

Commissioner Budde asked if the elections office could be temporarily moved to one of the fire station community centers? Then, put the elections in the Annex.

Chairman Ridley said if it is going to cost over about \$150,000, he is against a new building.

The board discussed going ahead and getting an architect to begin consulting with to design and renovate the old jail into an annex. Mr. Mecklin is going to verify whether the county must bid out the architectural services or not.

In the meantime, we could possibly get a portable building to use temporarily.

Further discussion involved incorporating the elections office needs into the renovation of the current courthouse and possibly old jail into additional office space. Since the move could not be made until after the July elections, no decision was made at this time.

Livestock Pavilion Roof Bids

Chairman Ridley reported that bids were requested for the roof of the 4H Livestock Pavilion. He said he believes they should be less than \$25,000, so it did not go out as a formal bid. To date, 2 sealed bids have been received. He also said there is no point working on the inside until we get the roof replaced. These were verbally requested. After reading the current policy, the board decided to put this in writing with specific requirements and a deadline for receiving the sealed bids.

Mental Health Facility

Alison reported that she had not ever received a list of the requested repairs. Commissioner Brown was going to contact Melody Harpe and request that list.

Courthouse Roof

Commissioner Vines asked if the courthouse roof has stopped leaking. Chairman Ridley said most of the time. However, in heavy rains, there is still leaking. It appears to be coming through and around the ductwork. It was determined that we will call the roofing company and pursue this as a warranty problem until they can prove to us any differently.

Item #4 – ACCG (Gebcorp) Retirement for Juvenile Judge

County Clerk Alison Palmer explained that over 20 years ago when Judge Mark Murphy was first appointed, he was enrolled in the Gebcorp retirement. Recently, it was discovered that the Juvenile Judge was not eligible to participate in that plan. Alison will check with ACCG for the documents to make the change to allow Judge Mark Murphy to be eligible for the retirement that he and the county contributed to for nearly 20 years. This will need to be voted on by the board.

SPLOST VII

County cannot use funds to advertise for a SPLOST. The Chamber could do this in the water bill, but the county cannot. Commissioner Brown recommended calling the Gateway Beacon to do a story. Chairman Ridley said we could list what we have accomplished with this last SPLOST and tell what we hope to accomplish with the next one.

Commissioner Brown volunteered to redo the newsletter that she prepared for the last SPLOST with new pictures and information and this can be sent Chairman Ridley will ask the HCWA to send them out in their next water bill.

Census

Commissioner Budde said the Census committee needs some money to advertise for the census. Mr. Mecklin said this was allowable. Commissioner Budde said many counties are sending them out in water bills.

National Flood Insurance Program

A brief discussion regarding this item took place. The county will go into probation March 14, 2020. Then, we will have 90 days to get into compliance. Greg Dewberry quoted \$750 per parcel that had to be surveyed. Alison reported that Glenda Wade said that Jason Hulseley quoted up to \$1950 per parcel. Greg Dewberry has already done some of the work toward this. Commissioner Tarpley gave dates and amounts of payments that were for this item dating back to September 2018.

Chairman Ridley stated that going forward the permitting process will keep this from being a problem in the future. If they are building in a flood plain, the property owner will have to pay for the survey.

Safe Dams Act Compliance

Chairman Ridley stated that the federal government has taken care of these watershed lakes for years. Now, they are passing it down to the local government. Property owners were given back the land where the lakes are located. Said the government owns the dam and must pay to have them inspected every two years. Chairman Ridley went on to say that if the county owns the dam, we own the water and can use it when we have droughts. The Chairman stated that due to that reason, he thinks the county should consider taking the required actions.

Mr. Mecklin said the county has a right to those waters up to a certain height. Mr. Mecklin said that if you lay claim to the water, you are probably responsible for the dam.

Mr. Mecklin said you would have to do a title search on the property to find the owner at the time the lake was built to see if there is an easement to see what legal rights you have. He thinks most withdrawal permits give the amount that can be drawn down.

Commissioner Tarpley inquired about the expense to get a dam into compliance.

Chairman Ridley stated that he did not think the dams are in bad shape. Mostly need to cut trees on the dam, bush hogging, cleanup, etc.

Consensus is to move forward with the Flood Plain updates and the Dam Inspections. These items will be on the agenda for the Regular meeting.

Item #3- Carroll EMC Easement Request

Carroll EMC is asking for an easement to use the pole on the Coppermine Fire Station to supply new service to a new structure going up across the street. Consensus was this was acceptable. This item will be on the agenda for the Regular Meeting.

Item #2 – Development Authority Abatement Package & IGA

Mr. Mecklin said he never advises his elected officials to give away their power. The Development Authority could enter into an agreement that is not acceptable to the local governments. Usually the Development Authority will negotiate a deal and then bring it to the local governments for approval. If it is a time constraint the board can call a Special Called Meeting and get it handled quickly.

The board would like to invite the development Authority Board to have a joint meeting with the BOC to discuss further.

Item #3 -Employee Health Insurance

A detailed discussion regarding the health insurance plan and the health reimbursement agreement was held. The discussion included Commissioner Vines stating that the county should have good insurance for their employees because that is why many of them work for the county government.

Chairman Ridley reminded the board that we have the current plan because so many companies would not even give a quote on the group because our ratio was so bad last year and that possibly we would have some of the same problems this year or very high premiums. It was also noted that there had only been the one major glitch with this program and a large part of the problem was that the employee chose to not go through AIMM on the first surgery and then the doctor's office did not supply the requested documentation to the insurance company for them to be able to make a decision.

The final determination is to finish this benefit year as it currently sits and then next year, we will vote separately for the Insurance plan and for the Reimbursement HRA. Mr. Mecklin said he did not see any kind of legal issues with the way it is currently set up.

Jail Fines

Commissioner Tarpley asked about the City of Bremen collecting and paying an additional 10%

in fines to the county and not paying a per diem. This would be an amendment to the Service Delivery Agreement. In 1 year, they claim to have collected over \$154,000 which would earn the county \$15,400. Same year, Bremen paid \$2800 in per Diem.

Commissioner Budde stated that right now the cities work very hard to get the prisoners out quick. He would want something in writing that they would continue to work this hard to get them out. Otherwise, it is going to cost the county more in the long run.

Mr. Mecklin said that this is also the reason the cities are slower to put someone in jail.

If the violator is given community service in lieu of payment, the county will not get anything. If they are fined and not sent to jail, the county still gets their 10%.

Commissioner Budde said they would have a set time before the per diem kicks in. Such as 72 hours. Chairman Ridley said after 3-4 days, the city must pay the 10% fine and a per diem.

The board will consider this further before making changes to the Service Delivery Strategy.

Haralson County Water Authority Appointments

Commissioner Tarpley asked about upcoming Water Authority and Development Authority appointments.

He asked who took Amos Sparks seat on the water authority. Chairman Ridley stated Tony Ellis.

Robert Smith's term ended 12/31/2019

Tony Ellis' term ends 12/31/2020

Bob Downey's term ends 12/31/2021

So, only Robert's term needs to be filled at this time.

Water deal with Cleburne County not Anniston, renewable every 5 years. Four 5-year contracts. Rate can go up a maximum of 2.9%. We must give 26 months' notice to get out of the contract or it automatically renews.

Tallapoosa has some interest at the interstate. In the case of the drought, they must have water.

On Friday, the HCWA appointed a committee to see if there is a way to build lakes and sell lots on the 755 acres that were purchased a few years ago. Three lakes with 24' dams would be the same as a reservoir.

One appointment has expired. Robert Smith. This is a county at-large appointment. Come up with nominees for a vote in April.

Morgan Road Lake

Commissioner Brown asked if there is anything we can do to help the people who came to the Board about the lake on Morgan Road that has been drained?

Commissioner Budde stated that he thought Mr. Godfrey would refill the lake if he can buy all the property around the lake and he does not think that everyone will sell out to him.

Commissioner Brown had to leave at 3:40 pm.

Development Authority Board Appointments

A couple of members have terms that expire at the end of December 2020. Discussion involved changing the dates for when these appointments are made.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk



HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MARCH 3, 2020
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Ronnie Ridley called the meeting to order. Commissioners Tarpley, Brown and Budde were present. Commissioner Vines is out due to illness.

Mrs. Sandi Couch offered the Invocation and the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Ridley asked everyone to keep Commissioner Vines in their prayers.

Finance Director Don Johnson gave a financial report. He stated he is using a new summary that is easier to read along with the detail on the back. He also gave the board a couple of pages from the audit report. One was the balance sheet and one was the findings report. He announced that the county still only has one finding which is separation of duties with very small departments that handle money. He said the county will always have that one while we have small departments.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

There were 2 corrections made to the Retreat minutes. One was to correct the commissioners present to say Commissioner's Tarpley, Brown, Budde and Vines. Second was to correct the per diem amount for Bremen fines. Commissioner Budde motioned to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2020 regular meeting and the minutes of the February 18, 2020 Retreat minutes as amended. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Agenda

Chairman Ridley asked to table Item #5 for further research and Commissioner Brown asked to add Website and Recording of Meetings. Attorney Mecklin asked to add the Resolution to have the BOC approve the request by Tanner Medical Center to refinance the bonds for improvements to the Hospitals. Commissioner Brown motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Public Participation on Agenda Items

None

Item #1 – Census Support Resolution

County Clerk Alison Palmer read and presented the resolution to Taylor Wilkes, the representative from the U.S. Census Bureau. Mr. Wilkes thanked the Board for participating and creating a Complete County Committee in Haralson County. Commissioner Budde motioned to approve the resolution. Chairman Ridley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Item #2 – Carroll EMC Easement

This easement will allow Carroll EMC to access the pole on the corner of the fire station on Coppermine Road to provide electric service to a new home across the street. Commissioner Budde motioned to approve the easement. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Item #3 – DFACS Board Appointment

County Clerk Alison Palmer reported that DFACS had reported that they had one person who is

interested and has good qualifications. That is Jennifer Dobbs. Commissioner Adam Budde nominated Belinda Vines Bentley. He stated that she would be an asset. Commissioner Brown asked if DFACS would possibly consider both appointments.

After a brief discussion, Commissioner Budde was asked to withdraw his nomination, which he did. Commissioner Brown then motioned to appoint Jennifer Dobbs and Belinda Bentley to the DFACS Board. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Item #4 – National Flood Insurance Program Compliance

Chairman Ridley stated that this is to put the county in compliance with FEMA requirements. We must get into compliance in order to be eligible for funding in case of a flood emergency in which a state of emergency is declared. Chairman Ridley motioned to take the steps needed to get Haralson County in Compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program requirements. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Item #5 – Safe Dams Compliance

Tabled for further research

Item #6 – Website and Recording of Meetings

Commissioner Brown stated that the board had discussed these two items a few months back. She said she would like for the county to get the IT to work on the website and for the county to work on recording the meetings. County Clerk Alison Palmer reported that IT is handling the current website, but they do not cover website design. She said this would probably need to be bid out.

Chairman Ridley recommended having his office do some research on options and prices and come back to the board with their findings.

Laura Camper asked why the board didn't just stream to Facebook Live since it is free.

Item #7 – Resolution for the Issuance of Revenue Anticipation Certificates for the Benefit of Tanner Medical Center, Inc.

Mr. Mecklin stated that this is for Tanner to be able to refinance the remaining bond balance from the 2010 issuance to lower interest rates. There is no commitment or obligation on the County's part. After a brief discussion, Chairman Ridley motioned to approve the resolution. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items

None

Commissioner Brown motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
County Clerk



**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MARCH 16, 2020
EMERGENCY MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Ridley called the Emergency Meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. Commissioner Brown offered the Invocation and the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners Tarpley, Brown and Budde were in attendance. Attorney David Mecklin was also present.

Waive the reading of previous meeting minutes

Commissioner Budde motioned to waive the reading of the March 3, 2020 meeting minutes until the next regular meeting. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Agenda

Chairman Ridley stated that the board could only discuss the item on the agenda. The reason for calling an emergency meeting.

Commissioner Budde motioned to approve the agenda as written. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #1 – Continuing Operations of the Haralson County Government offices during COVID19 Pandemic

Chairman Ridley stated that we are navigating new territory and need to decide how to run the county during this pandemic. He stated that he had already closed the Recreation and Senior Center to the public. His recommendation on the other offices are to close the lobbies to the public and conduct business by phone, email, or appointment only. The state judicial system has put in orders for the running of the court systems. The sheriff has closed the jail to all visitation and will not be sending the work details or inmates out at this time.

A detailed discussion followed during which the board considered several options for continuing operations. Following are the procedures that will be followed.

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
EMERGENCY PROCEDURES REGARDING COVID 19
MARCH 16, 2020**

TIER 1 (Effective immediately)

Restrict public access to all county offices. Appointments for essential business only. Handle as much county business by phone, email, etc. as possible.

Employees still report to work as usual.

Recreation/Senior Center completely closed to public.

All events at the community centers cancelled effective immediately.

Courthouse use only 1 point of entry for everyone. Essential Business only. Recommend offices only see the public by appointment. Further direction will come from Judge Lim regarding the

courthouse. Court Security will begin taking the temperature of everyone (employees and public) prior to being allowed into courthouse. This will begin as soon as equipment is acquired.

Employees driving county vehicles are not allowed to stop at grocery stores, convenience stores, etc. while driving a county vehicle except for public safety.

Phone numbers for all county offices will be placed on the doors to all county facilities.

Tier 2 (will be enacted if someone in Haralson is diagnosed with COVID19)

Non-essential employees will only report to work on a reduced/staggered schedule determined by department head or elected officials of whose department they are employed.

Schedule will be staggered so that employees will rotate work.

Temperatures will be taken of EVERYONE entering every office.

Tier 3 (If a county employee is diagnosed with COVID19)

County Offices closed. Employees will work individually on a rotating schedule determined by department head or elected official.

Regular pay will continue.

Quarantine at the gymnasium will be an option at this time.

These are subject to change as state/federal guidelines change

Chairman Ridley motioned to approve the Emergency Procedures. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Ridley motioned to cancel the March 17, 2020 Work Session. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Ridley motioned to prepare for Conference Call Meetings in the future. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Budde motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk



HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MARCH 26, 2020
EMERGENCY MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Ridley called the emergency meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. Dr. Allen Wilburn offered the Invocation and the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner's Tarpley, Brown and Budde were in attendance. Commissioner Vines was absent due to health reasons. County Attorney David Mecklin was also in attendance.

Chairman Ridley stated that he was waiving the reading of the previous meetings minutes until the next regular meeting.

Approval of Agenda

Chairman Ridley stated that he would like to remove Item #2 – 1st Responder pay if quarantined because of another job. He stated that the Families First Coronavirus Response Act had cleared up this item.

Commissioner Tarpley asked Fire Chief Brian Walker if he had any concern that other departments that our firefighters also work for will restrict them from working their second jobs in Haralson County? Chief Walker responded that at this time he had not heard anyone preparing to do that. He said all the departments realize how important these second jobs are to the firefighters and the counties. Commissioner Budde stated that he had been in touch with the City of Atlanta and been told they may pull the approval to work their second job. Chief Walker said that we only have one employee that works with them.

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #1 – “Shelter in Place” Order

Chairman Ridley reported that the Haralson County Board of Health has issued a “Shelter in Place” order on Wednesday March 25, 2020. The county and cities need to pass a resolution supporting this action for it to be enforced. Commissioner Ridley also stated he wanted to clarify a point in the order. It states that there are 60 cases. These are in the area, not just Haralson. Currently Tanner is saying that there are 1-3 cases in Haralson.

Commissioner Tarpley asked if the Board of Health can force the cities to comply. Attorney Mecklin stated that yes, they can. The Governor gave the power to the Board of Health.

Chairman Ridley stated that the Board of Health is the chief power in a health crisis.

Mr. Mecklin stated that the Board of Health has the power to make the order but does not have any way to enforce it. That is why they ask the local governments to adopt it and provide enforcement.

Commissioner Tarpley asked if the county employees went to Tier 2 procedures because of the Board of Health Order or because of Tanner reporting that Haralson County had positive Coronavirus cases.

Chairman Ridley answered because of information that the county had cases that were not reported to the correct region of the Department of Public Health. Commissioner Tarpley asked why this was not done sooner since the positive case is the uncle of a Haralson County Employee. He stated that he had been in touch with the department head who verified that one of their employees had a relative that had tested positive. The Department head stated that the employee had been questioned about exposure and there was not any recent contact. Commissioner Tarpley then began questioning Chief Walker. He said the employee is the spouse of one of the officers in the fire department. He asked why Chief Walker had not notified the board of this development. Chief Walker stated that he did not know that anyone had a relative that had tested positive.

Chairman Ridley said Tier 2 pertained to non-essential employees. He said that we have very few non-essential employees.

Commissioner Budde stated that this should have already been done. Then he asked were we going by Tanner's report of the Department of Health. Because if we were going by Tanner's numbers then this should have happened several days ago.

Chairman Ridley stated that the only contact he was aware of involved the Extension office staff who attended a funeral in Douglasville a week and a half ago and were notified this week that someone they were in close contact with at the funeral had tested positive. They were all sent to work at home.

Chairman Ridley reiterated that Tier 2 addresses Non-essential employees. "We can send some home that can work from home. But as far as non-essential employees, this county does not have any not have any non-essential employees!"

Commissioner Brown stated that since some can work from home and some can't, how are we going to document productivity? Her employer gave out a very easy form to keep up with the work accomplished. She stated she would be glad to send a copy to Alison.

County Clerk Alison Palmer asked to respond to this. She stated that very few employees have the ability to work from home. Whether it is from lack of internet or their job literally cannot be done from home. We knew that basically the ones at home were being given a paid day off. So, after the board met a couple of weeks ago, each department was asked to come up with a staggered, rotating schedule so that no particular employee was working more or getting more time off than anyone else in the department. Some don't really need to even go that far. For example, the employees in the commission office all have separate offices, so are well within the social distancing guidelines.

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to approve the Resolution implementing the Haralson County Board of Health "Shelter in Place" Order. Chairman Ridley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to adjourn. Chairman Ridley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk

HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

April 21, 2020

RETREAT WORK SESSION

Chairman Ridley called the meeting to order at 9:20 am. Commissioners Tarpley, Brown and Budde were in attendance. Commissioner Vines was absent due to health reasons. Attorney David Mecklin was in attendance also.¹

Livestock Pavilion Quote

There were three sealed bids received for the livestock pavilion roof. They were as follows.

- R&R Builders, \$26,425 plus \$4200 if insulation is required.
- Robert L. Day Construction, \$25,556, which includes \$2400 for insulation.
- Johnny Payne's Construction, \$26,900 including insulation

The bid is awarded to Robert L. Day Construction and the board agreed that they want new insulation. Chairman Ridley said he would verify with them that this bid is still good since there was a delay in opening them.

COVID-19 Response

Since the Governor is opening back up some businesses, Chairman Ridley recommended bringing employees back to full time on April 27, 2020. He said he believes the county should reopen to the public and mark off the floors for social distancing.

The consensus of all commissioners in attendance was to reopen county government to the public and bring employees back full time as of April 27, 2020 while enforcing strict social distancing recommendations.

Rules and discussion of a contract for using county facilities for film making

The board was given a couple of examples of ordinances and contracts for using a county facility in a film, video, etc. The board also needs to determine the amounts to be charged for each site. Mr. Mecklin stated he would work on a contract and ordinance for use of county owned facilities and property.

COVID

Commissioner Brown asked what the sheriff is going to do when we re-open. Is he going to begin allowing inmate details to go out to work again? Chairman Ridley stated he does not know.

DFACS

Danielle Schiffbauer, Interim Director for Haralson County was present to speak to the Commissioners. She has reviewed what we have been doing for the last several years. She determined that Haralson County has been neglected since the two counties were run as one. Budget has decreased over the past six years. She said she realized that this is because it was not being used. She is asking for an increase in her budget. Would like to use some funding to supplement foster parents for clothing allotments, Christmas, etc. Would also like to provide some support for the staff. They are in desperate need of new office chairs, etc. Staff are state employees. Currently have 62 children in foster care for Haralson County. She is asking for an increase from \$14,550 to \$20,000.

Mobile Home late fees

Ad valorem on Mobile homes were due April 1. The State recommended pushing the due date to May 1 and not charging penalties until after that date. These were due after COVID-19 started. The consensus is to push the due date to May 1, 2020. This is a one-time change.

Ad Valorem Penalties and Interest

The ad valorem on property was due December 1, 2019. All agreed that this should not be extended. Penalties and interest will accrue as usual.

Vendor Procedures

Previously discussed changes had been made to the procedures and highlighted in yellow. The

board discussed reducing the limit to \$25,000 the amount the chairman can approve. This will be further discussed at the May meeting.

Water Authority Appointment

The Chairman asked the board if they would like to advertise the board vacancy in the paper. Discussion followed regarding term start dates and whether to change when the positions are appointed to fall in the year immediately following an election.

Currently need to appoint someone to the Post 3 term that expired December 31, 2019.

Development Authority

Jacob Mullins replaced Danny Hutcheson and Kevin Boulton replaced Jerry Luckey in 2019. They are serving 4-year terms.

Local legislation determines these terms. Mr. Mecklin stated that you cannot change these terms without getting the local legislation changed.

Board of Assessors

Mr. Mecklin will check to see if there is some flexibility on the number of members of this board. This is set by state. Later Mr. Mecklin stated that the board can consist of 3-5 members with 3-6-year terms to be determined by the board.

FEMA Floodplain Compliance

Chairman Ridley stated that we are working to become compliant by the end of this fiscal year.

2021-2022 Budget

The commissioners began reviewing the proposed budget for the 2020-2021 Fiscal year.

Video Equipment for Court/Jail

Was on hold because the sheriff did not want to agree to the \$200 per month fee. The sheriff has now agreed to pay the fee. Don Johnson reported that the equipment has been ordered.

Development Authority IGA for Tax Abatements

On hold until the Board of Commissioners and the Development Authority Board can have a joint meeting to discuss and decide on the details of the agreement.

Old Jail and Elections

Commissioner Budde can get the Architect/Engineer out to look at it and possibly give an estimated amount to renovate into office space.

Employee Handbook

Commissioner Tarpley asked the board to have the county attorney review the county handbook and make recommendations on updates. Then we can have a review of the revisions by a selection of department heads and employees.

Internet on pole at Cashtown Fire station

Chairman Ridley stated that he approved a temporary agreement for IWispr to allow the nearby church to receive service and be able to livestream their church services due to the COVID-19 emergency.

After discussion, if it is only servicing the fire station, then it can go on a pole on county property. For it to be able to service others in the area, the board will have to determine an amount to charge for the use of the pole. It would also have to be determined if other companies could also use the poles. There was also discussion of putting up poles at other fire stations and convenience centers to be used in the same way. This could possibly service numerous citizens in the area. Commissioner Brown said if \$100 is too little for the lease of the pole, could we charge \$300? Commissioner Tarpley suggested charging the \$300 and free internet for the fire station. Commissioner Budde said he would rather leave it lower and provide internet quicker for the surrounding residents. Chairman Ridley said to him it was not the goal of the county to make a profit, but if we can get a pole up and whoever wants to put equipment on them, can "service 10-12 people in the area, I am good with that." The board

asked to get the following information from IWispr.

- pinpoint current towers, including the ones on water towers
- show radius of what that tower will serve
- Number of customers in Haralson County

Fire

Commissioner Tarpley questioned a response time to a fire in Waco on the previous Sunday. He noted that the Waco firetruck was the last to arrive. Bushmill, Bremen, and Tallapoosa all beat the Waco truck to the scene. Chairman Ridley said in his opinion, the problem is that we have many younger firefighters that do not know the county like a more established employee would. Commissioner Budde said he thinks it is a twofold problem. First, he said that it is young firemen, which enhances the need for the starting pay to be raised. Second, he does not think the Fire Chief makes these firefighters learn the territory. Chairman Ridley will talk to the Fire Chief about the call.

Chairman Ridley adjourned at 4:26 pm.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk

HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 28, 2020
RETREAT WORK SESSION

Chairman Ridley called the meeting to order at 9:05 am. Commissioners Tarpley, Brown and Budde were in attendance. Commissioner Vines was absent due to health reasons.

Item #1 – Airport Authority Board Reappointment Request

Chairman Ridley reported that the Airport Authority had asked for Cliff Coates to be reappointed to the board for a 6-year term.

Item #2 – 2020-2021 Budget

Discussion on possible raises for employees. A 2% cost of living raise will be figured on the projected expenditures. A possible 3% merit raise to begin in October will be further discussed after reviewing the rest of the budget.

Board of Assessors

To increase the board from 3-5 members it will cost approximately \$4000 per additional member per year.

Sheriff's Department

Sheriff Mixon arrived to meet with the Board. Commissioner Brown stated that the board would like to give the county employees a raise and it was her understanding that the Sheriff had already given his employees a \$2 per hour raise in April. She asked if he was planning on giving them another \$2 per hour raise in July. He said no, he was happy with where he had them at this time. He said that prior to giving the raise, they were losing personnel to higher paying departments and now he is getting some of these employees back. Following more discussion, it was clarified that although he asked for \$1,607,000 on his salary line for the sheriff department, that the proposed could be lowered to \$1,378,000, which is what it would take at the current rate of pay. He responded yes.

Courthouse wall leak

After discussion it was determined that the county will perform the repairs using extreme caution.

Superior Court budget

Chairman Ridley turned the meeting over to Vice Chair Brown for this discussion.

After a phone call, Chairman Ridley stated he was able to take over the meeting again. The District Attorney will be dropping all charges against Chairman Ridley and Mary Ridley due to the ruling of the supreme court in a case nearly identical to the one against the Chairman.

Fire

Haralson County received \$73,000 from the insurance company for the fire truck that was totaled. Chairman Ridley and Chief Walker went to Cobb County to see two trucks that they are selling. They will sell both trucks plus 65 air packs and extra bottles, etc. for \$70,000. This will be enough air packs to put them on all our trucks. Chairman Ridley feels like this is a good deal. Commissioner Budde, Commissioner Brown and Commissioner Tarpley agreed.

The board reviewed the fire budget and discussed several ideas for retaining employees after they have been trained and enticing a more dedicated work force to stay with Haralson County. The final determination was to take out the step raises and use funding in the salary line to pay people while they went to school for eight weeks to get their certification. Currently, a fireman with a FF1 certification starts at \$9.25 per hour and goes to \$9.75 when they finish their FF2 classes. The discussion included raising these amounts up and starting a candidate at \$9.25 while they go to training. The commissioners put in enough to cover 3 positions. These individuals would have to sign a two-year contract with Haralson or pay back the cost of paying them to train if they choose to leave sooner. They would also be required to consider Haralson as their primary employer if they choose to work two jobs. This would give an additional

firefighter per shift to cover when others are out sick or on vacation which should reduce some of the overtime cost or covering a shift with someone who already will have a full schedule.

The board did not finish reviewing all the departmental budgets, so they decided to call a work session at 4:00 pm on Tuesday May 5, 2020, which is prior to the regular meeting.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk



HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MAY 5, 2020
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Ronnie Ridley called the regular meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. Ms. Sandi Couch offered the Invocation and the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners Tarpley, Brown, and Budde were present. Commissioner Vines was absent due to health issues. County Attorney David Mecklin was also in attendance.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Ridley stated that to date Haralson County has 28 cases of COVID-19 and 1 death. He asked for everyone's prayers for Commissioner Vines who is battling health issues.

Finance Director, Don Johnson, gave a financial report through March 30, 2020.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Budde motioned to approve the following minutes as written.

Regular Meeting – March 3, 2020

Emergency Meeting – March 16, 2020

Emergency Meeting – March 26, 2020

Retreat Work Session – April 21, 2020

Special Called Retreat – April 28, 2020

Approval of Agenda

Chairman Ridley stated that Item #7 Cares Act Funding for Transit needed to be added to the agenda. Commissioner Budde stated that he would like a permanent item, Unfinished Business, be added to all agendas. On this one, he wanted to put Website, Recording Meetings, and Safe Dams on it.

Chairman Ridley motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Item # 1 – Mobile Home Late Fees

Chairman Ridley stated that this is for the 2020 Personal Property Mobile Home taxes that were due on April 1, 2020, which is after the Governors Shelter-At-Home order was enacted. Tax Commissioner Sherri Mobley had let the chairman know that the state had recommended waiving the penalties and interest on this tax until May 1, 2020. After discussion, Commissioner Budde motioned to waive the penalties and interest on 2020 Personal Property Mobile Home taxes until June 1, 2020. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Item #2 – 2019 Ad Valorem Penalties and Interest

Chairman Ridley reminded the board that this had been discussed at the work session. This would be waiving penalties and interest on someone who was just now paying the ad valorem taxes that were due November 1, 2019. These were already quite a bit past due when the governor's order was enacted. Commissioner Budde motioned not to waive these penalties and interest. Chairman Ridley and the motion carried 4-0.

Item #3 – DOT Lighting Contract for I-20 Waco Ramps

The county had received a contract from the Department of Transportation for lighting at the Waco ramps. The state would install the lighting and the county will have to pay the electric

bill. Chairman Ridley stated that he had researched this, and the lighting would cost approximately \$40,000 per year. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Brown motioned to not approve this contract. Chairman Ridley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Item #4 – West Georgia Airport Authority Board Appointment

Cliff Coates was serving the unexpired term of Danny Hutcheson which should have ended 12/31/2019. Bob Birky had sent a request from the Airport Authority Board asking for Mr. Coates to be reappointed. Chairman Ridley motioned to reappoint Cliff Coates to the West Georgia Airport Authority Board retro active to January 1, 2020 for a six-year term ending December 31, 2025. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Item #5 – Haralson County Water Authority Appointment

Chairman Ridley stated that Robert Smith's term was up in December. Commissioner Tarpley stated that he would like to nominate Mike Thompson. He stated Mike has a lot of knowledge regarding both water systems, used to be a county fireman. Chairman Ridley stated that he has a problem with the fact the Mike Thompson is a City of Bremen employee. Otherwise, he would be a good choice. The Chairman stated that he felt this is a conflict. The water board was set up with one member from each city and four from the county. This would give Bremen two employees from the City of Bremen. Commissioner Tarpley stated that we are all from the same county and he meets qualifications. Chairman Ridley stated, "they both work for the same mayor." Otherwise, the chairman agreed with Mr. Thompson's knowledge. He asked Attorney Mecklin if this is a conflict of interest. Mr. Mecklin stated possibly a political conflict, but not a legal conflict. Commissioner Budde stated that he knows Mike and he isn't a resident of Bremen and he carries value. Commissioner Tarpley stated at-large could mean folks living next door to each other. This is not where they live, but what they know. Commissioner Brown noted that Robert Smith served at the same time as Allen Poole. We can't discriminate. She said Mike is more qualified. Chairman Ridley stated that he agrees but feels like this takes away from the way the board was structured.

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to appoint Mike Thompson to the Haralson County Water Authority Board. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried 3-1 with Chairman Ridley opposed.

Item #6 – IWispr lease for use of pole at Cashtown Fire Station

Chairman Ridley stated that he had signed a temporary lease for IWispr to use the pole at the Cashtown Fire Station in order to get internet service to the nearby Church so that they could livestream their services. Now the board needs to determine if they will continue this lease. A long discussion followed with several options being brought up. They included putting poles at numerous fire stations and allowing both IWispr and HCI to use them to provide service to nearby residents. Representatives from both companies were included in the conversation. The ARC grant funding that the Development Authority has could be used to put up poles or towers and lease to any company that would like to use them. Following the discussion, Commissioner Budde motioned to extend the lease for 90 days to allow the board to explore all their options and any provider would pay the lease amount. After clarification that IWispr was paying \$100 plus providing the fire station with free internet, Commissioner Budde amended his motion to include the cost to other providers would be the \$100 per month, plus the cost that the county was paying to Exede prior to IWispr giving the internet. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Item #7 – CARES Act Funding for Transit Program

Chairman Ridley stated that the state had notified the county that they will be funding all the transit expenses at 100% until June 2021. In order for this to happen in a timely manner, the board will need to give the Chairman the authority to sign the agreement as soon as it comes

into us from the Georgia Department of Transportation. Commissioner Bennett motioned to give Chairman Ridley the authority to sign this agreement. Chairman Ridley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Item #8 – Unfinished Business

Chairman Ridley stated that he is not good with adding unfinished business. He feels like the items need to be listed on the agenda in advance by subject. Commissioner Brown stated that the proper terminology is Old Business. County Clerk Alison Palmer stated that the commissioners could let her know in advance the updates they want on the agenda. Then it could be listed as old business with the subjects listed under that.

Website -Ms. Palmer stated that she has three companies set to give a demonstration on their websites.

Old Jail Building – Commissioner Budde stated that the architect was worried about COVID-19 and had not been making appointments. Commissioner Budde stated that he would call and try to get an appointment set with him.

Public Participation on Non-Agenda items

None

Commissioner Tarpley stated that he had enjoyed his time on the board and would be here for the next 4 years also. He said this board has been together for one year has made tremendous progress. He said we don't always agree, but great conversation. He said they have plans, organization and are unified. I'd like to see us stay together.

Commissioner Tarpley stated that even though Commissioner Vines has been out sick, that district 4 is not left out. He stated that they all would gladly help those citizens.

Commissioner Budde motioned to adjourn. Chairman Ridley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk

HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MAY 5, 2020
SPECIAL CALLED WORK SESSION MINUTES

Chairman Ridley called the Special Called Work Session to order. Commissioners Tarpley, Brown, and Budde were also in attendance. Commissioner Vines was absent due to health issues.

Item #1 – 2020-2021 Proposed Budget

The commissioners finished reviewing the proposed departmental budgets. They made several recommendations for changes. They want the final proposal to be figured without raises to determine the increase of the proposed budget over the current budget. They will later decide if funding for raises will be added.

Recreation Director Mike Daniel will be asked to attend the next meeting to discuss hiring a company to maintain the fields and to discuss selling field sponsorships.

Chairman Ridley adjourned the meeting at 5:45 PM.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk

HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MAY 19, 2020
WORK SESSION MINUTES

Chairman Ridley called the work session to order. Commissioners Brown, Budde and Vines were present. The Chairman stated that Commissioner Tarpley was running about 30 minutes late and had asked for the insurance discussion to be held until he arrived.

Item #2 – Regional Advisory Council for Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Appointment.

Chairman Ridley stated that this is the board that Commissioner Brown was appointed to for an unexpired term. This is for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2023. Commissioner Brown stated she would like to be reappointed.

Item #3 – Leave Donation Policy

Chairman Ridley stated that he would like to update this policy. Currently, employees can donate vacation leave to other employees who are dealing with a serious health issue. He would like to change this to where the hours are converted into a monetary donation and put a cap on the number of hours that an employee can donate in a year. For example, if an employee that earns \$10 per hour donates 8 hours, it is converted to \$80. Then if the employee who is receiving the donation makes \$15 per hour it is a donation of 5.33 hours. Commissioner Budde stated that he would like the employees to be able to donate sick or vacation. This will be on the agenda for the June meeting.

Item #4 – Canoe Trail Maintenance

Gail Priest from the Haralson County Chamber Tourism committee will be retiring later this year. She has contacted the county to ask us to take over the cleanup, grass cutting, garbage and maintenance for the canoe trails. We currently do not have the manpower to do this since the sheriff's details are not allowed to go out at this time. Commissioner Vines stated we also need law enforcement presence. Commissioner Budde asked if the Marshal could come through on Saturdays occasionally. Chairman Ridley stated that he could, but the Marshal does not have arrest powers. He could only issue a citation.

Chairman Ridley recommended tabling this item until the sheriff is allowing the details to go out and work.

Item #5 – Recreation Fields, Mike Daniel, Director

Chairman Ridley stated that Commissioner Budde had asked Mike Daniel to meet with someone about professionally maintaining the recreation fields. Mr. Daniel received three bids and the least expensive one was for \$10,000. He stated that only included the 10 acres containing the recreation fields. He has 42 acres in addition to upkeep. They are much harder. Hills, etc. He said he would still need the original amount in the budget to keep up the rest of the facility. Mr. Daniel stated that with everything closed, they have had plenty of time to keep up the recreation facility and the other county properties.

Chairman Ridley asked him how our fields compare to everyone else. He answered that our facility looks good even when comparing them to others.

Commissioner Budde said he was only talking about fertilizing and weed control. Mr. Daniel stated that his budget covers fertilizer, weed control, gas etcetera for all 52 acres. The proposals are only for 10 acres.

Chairman Ridley stated that he has been out there numerous times and found the facility well-kept and looking good. His recommendation is to table this until next year because we are heading into some uncertain budget times, possible reduction in revenues, etcetera due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Commissioner Budde stated that citizens say ours aren't as pretty as others. He said he was talking about moving money around in the budget, not adding that amount to it.

Mr. Daniel also asked when he would be able to allow tournaments to be held. Chairman Ridley stated we could not open it up until the governor allows this type of group to gather. He stated that the restrictions could possibly be loosened May 31st.

Item #1 – Health Insurance Proposals, Marcy Heath

Ms. Heath began by giving an aggregate report of the current claim year. In the first nine months, Haralson has had \$277,619 in medical claims and \$357,740 in RX claims paid which is a total of \$635,000 in claims. At this point the county had paid \$417,000. We know that several serious health issues have occurred since then also. Projections are that by the end of the plan year, the county will be over by about half a million dollars. Last year the county was over by 1.9 million dollars. Covenant returned with a 46% increase in premiums.

Ms. Heath stated that she had shopped the group out to numerous carriers. Humana, Cigna, and Aetna declined to quote. Blue Cross Blue Shield and Medova gave several options. Medova is the same type of plan as the county currently has with Covenant. Same network PCHS, Scriptsourcing for expensive drugs, Labcorp covered at 100%, diabetic supplies for free with preferred vendors, etc.

Commissioner Tarpley arrived.

BCBS gave several options, none of which were very affordable. Ms. Heath explained that she was going to hand out packets to the commissioners to take and review so that they would see all the options that have been offered.

Chairman Ridley stated that Ms. Heath had met with himself and the commission office staff and explained several of the options. After reviewing, it looks as if the Medova option Healthy Value 3500 PAN may be the best choice. He stated that some budget figures had been calculated using this option. Also, with this option, the deductible is \$3500, which is less than the current plan and the county could go back to a straight 50/50 reimbursement agreement. This plan has \$5 copay with doctor and \$50 copay with specialist which are both less than the current plan.

Ms. Heath stated that Medova is in discussions with Tanner to try to get them integrated into their network. Trying to work out deeper discounts with Tanner so they will have more competitive rates.

Ms. Heath stated that Medova is a plan that is offered to Chamber members. So far, all of these companies have renewed with Medova for the next year.

Ms. Heath asked if the county would still have the Health Reimbursement Agreement (HRA). Chairman Ridley answered yes if the other commissioners agree. Commissioner Tarpley asked if there would be hoops to jump through. Ms. Heath stated that would be up to the board.

Randy Sanders asked to speak. He stated that they had been the insurance agents for this account for 26 years through numerous commissioners. He was irritated that another broker had tried to steal the account by getting a letter to “exclusively” quote for Haralson County. He finished by saying we appreciate this business; we appreciate the account and we will service this business.

Item #6 – 2020-2021 Proposed Budget

Chairman Ridley stated that everyone had been sent a summary of the budget with the changes discussed at the last meeting. He stated this budget does not include the additional \$65,000 that will be needed for the insurance and does not include raises. He stated this is a good budget. It is approximately \$195,000 higher than last year.

Finance Director Don Johnson stated that ½ half of the yearly amount needed by the DTF was put in a contingency line in 1300 county government budget according to previous discussion of this item. A long discussion followed regarding the drug task force, whether the new sheriff will retain the DTF, can the county apply for the grant and have more coverage in the county, etc.

Commissioner Brown stated that the sheriff had already given his employees a \$2/hour across the board raise. That is why we are trying to figure out how to give the rest of the county employees a raise. Her recommendation was cut the task force budget and use that money for the 2% cost of living raise for the rest of the county employees. The amount needed for the 2% COLA is \$97,537.

Commissioner Tarpley stated he would also like to leave it in the contingency line for employee raises and expect the new sheriff to work within the budget they are given.

Commissioner Budde stated that he would not vote in favor of a budget that does not include a raise.

Chairman Ridley stated we must set a budget amount to be advertised. He stated we are in uncertain times and must consider that revenues could be down as much as 6.5% according to the state, but the Chairman thought it could be down as much as 15%.

After more discussion, the 3% for merit raises was added to contingency and \$65,000 was added for insurance. The amount to advertise for the budget is \$16,565,048. This includes the General Fund and all the Special Service District Budgets.

Commissioner Budde clarified the merit raises would be in October.

County Clerk Alison Palmer asked the board to consider giving the 2% in July and possibly holding off until December to give merit raises after we see how the tax collections are coming in. She stated that in 2008, the board gave a raise in October when the economy was beginning to tank and by January, the county was laying off people, furloughing employees 1 day per pay period, stopped paying dental insurance for employees and began cutting out holidays. So, in October an 80-hour employee who was raised .50 per hour received an extra \$20 per pay period. By January that same employee was losing \$80 per pay period from the furlough. Many employees expressed the sentiment that they wish the county had not given raises and maybe would have had to make such deep cuts later.

More discussion followed regarding the digest and taxes. Commissioner Brown stated that she will not vote to raise taxes to give employee raises.

Chairman Ridley stated that the amount for raises could be put in the contingency line and then when the digest numbers are available, we can reduce our budget numbers but we cannot increase the budget without going through the advertising process again.

Item #7 – Executive Session

Chairman Ridley motioned to go into executive session to discuss land acquisition.

Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

When the board returned, Chairman Ridley motioned to go back into the Work Session.

Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Ridley stated that they had discussed land acquisition and no action was needed at this time.

Chairman Ridley adjourned the work session.

Submitted by Alison Palmer

Certified County Clerk



HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MAY 26, 2020
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Ronnie Ridley called the Special Called Meeting to order. Commissioner Brown offered the Invocation and the board led the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present.

Waive the reading of the previous meeting minutes

Chairman Ridley motioned to waive the reading of the previous meetings minutes. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Ridley gave an update on the Winters Road Bridge. He stated that Representative Trey Kelley had secured \$75,000 grant to help cover the repairs. The quote for the repairs is just over \$97,000 and then approximately \$20,000 more in gravel and expenses for work that the county road department will be responsible for providing. The state requires a matching portion from the county of 30%.

Commissioner Budde asked for details of what we are doing. Chairman Ridley stated that the bridge washed out in the early spring flooding. He stated this will be repairing the footing and the approaches where they are washed out beneath the bridge.

Commissioner Tarpley asked how the county is paying. Chairman Ridley stated with TSPLOST funds.

Chairman Ridley stated that we could not get anyone to bid for the repairs, so the state sent a company out. The only quote the county was able to obtain prior was for a completely new bridge at \$480,000. This bid and company were approved by the state. The Chairman went on to say that they are out there today starting the work and should be completed in 14 days.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Brown motioned to approve the agenda as written. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #1 – Employee Health Insurance for FY 2020-2021

Chairman Ridley motioned to approve the health insurance for the upcoming year as follows:

- Medova Healthy Value 3500 PAN
- Retain Scriptsourcing for RX
- Retain AIMM medical management procedures for choosing a preferred provider for non-emergency procedures.
- Retain the Health Reimbursement Agreement (HRA) with a 50/50 deductible reimbursement provided the AIMM procedures are followed for choosing a provider

Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

The commissioners also wanted to be assured that these requirements and how to use the insurance would be explained in detail to the employees. Ms. Couch assured them that everyone must attend an insurance meeting where it is reviewed in detail. This is also when the HRA is reviewed and signed by the employees. Our office also helps employees throughout the year and Ms. Heath is also available to assist with issues.

Chairman Ridley motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk

HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MAY 26, 2020
SPECIAL CALLED WORK SESSION

Chairman Ridley called the Special Called work session to order. All commissioners were present.

The chairman stated that he wanted to add an executive session to the top of the agenda to discuss an employee issue.

Item #1A – Executive Session

Chairman Ridley motioned to go into executive session to discuss an employee issue. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Upon return, Commissioner Tarpley motioned to return to the work session. Chairman Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Ridley stated that the county had an employee test positive for coronavirus. That employee has been out of the office for 8 days. The county is recommending that the others in the office be tested if they feel they were exposed. If an employee must be tested, then they will have to provide the negative test result to return to work or follow Department of Public Health guidelines if they are confirmed positive.

Item #1 – Employee Health Insurance

Chairman Ridley stated that the commissioners were given the health insurance proposals to review. He asked if there were questions or recommendations. Commissioner Tarpley asked if we were talking about a specific plan.

Chairman Ridley stated the Healthy Value 3500 for \$615.21 month per employee would be his recommendation. Chairman Tarpley asked if the employees would be required to use AIMM. Ms. Heath stated that would be up to the board. Commissioner Tarpley asked her to tell them what AIMM did for the county. Ms. Heath stated that they are a 3rd party medical manager. They help control claims. Ms. Heath had a graph showing the medical claims for three years. The current one is much lower than the last two years. You can't control emergencies, but you can redirect planned procedures in order to reduce expense. She said the report last quarter showed that AIMM had saved the county over \$200,000 in claims at the end of the first nine months. Projections are that it will save approximately \$300,000 over the entire course of the plan year.

After discussion, the consensus is as follows:

- The board will choose the Medova Healthy Value 3500 PAN
- Staying with Scriptsourcing
- Staying with AIMM
- HRA – the county will reimburse 50% of the deductible if the employee follows the AIMM requirements to pick a preferred provider

Commissioner Tarpley then brought up the possibility of Haralson County offering to pay a supplemental policy for those employees 65 and over who qualify for Medicare. He stated that it would save the county a lot of money.

Alison Palmer stated that it is not an insurance issue. It is an age discrimination issue because the county offers employees who can show they are insured elsewhere a .50/hour raise in pay to not take our insurance. To pay for a supplement of \$150-\$225 per month equates to \$1800-\$2700 per year. For a 40 hour/week employee, the .50 equates to \$1040/year. You are offering less of a benefit to those under 65 than those over 65.

Commissioner Tarpley stated he would like for us to have conversations with the employees who qualify for Medicare to try to get them to take it and come off our insurance.

Sandi Couch stated that the county has had these talks with those employees more than one time. Why would they give up the free insurance from the county and start using medicare which comes out of their Social Security checks.

Ms. Heath stated that Part A is free. Part B is not. It is approximately \$144/month and rising each year. Then you also must add on a drug card for about \$24/month.

Commissioner Tarpley stated they wouldn't have the high deductible to meet.

Chairman Ridley asked what we would have to pay the others who don't take insurance if we moved it up to equal a supplement.

Ms. Palmer stated it would have to be about .86/hour.

Commissioner Brown asked how many would be eligible for Medicare. Ms. Couch responded 15-20 employees and a couple of spouses.

Commissioner Tarpley stated the spouses can go to the marketplace. They have great prices. Ms. Palmer stated they were not all that great. She had just received prices from Ms. Heath for her husband.

Ms. Heath stated that the cheapest plan was about \$800 for a crappy policy. If they make more than \$65,000 for the household, the prices go way up.

Item #2 – Ely Elefante Self Defense Classes

Mr. Elefante introduced himself and told about his background. He stated that in the past he has given self-defense classes at the Recreation department. He said these are a good outlet for kids who are being bullied, are not into sports or maybe cannot afford a band instrument. He also could offer self-defense clinics for women, senior citizens, etc. Mr. Elefante stated that he would like to begin these classes again. Does not charge much for these and would pay the county 30% of tuitions that he receives. \$35/month for individual, \$55/month for a family. Would offer adult and children's classes.

Commissioner Budde asked if this would need to go out for RFP.

Chairman Ridley stated that he will look into RFP requirements and will check with the attorney on liability for the county.

Chairman Ridley adjourned the work session.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk



HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 2, 2020
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Ronnie Ridley called the meeting to order. Commissioners Tarpley, Brown, Budde, and Vines were present along with County Attorney David Mecklin.

Fire Chief Brian Walker offered the Invocation and the Commissioners led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Ridley stated that Ms. Sandra Tant's father, Denver Bishop, had passed away and asked everyone to keep the family in your prayers.

Chairman Ridley also announced that the Winters Road Bridge work was due to be finished by tomorrow and the roof on the Callaway Pavilion was due to be completed in the next couple of days.

Finance Director Don Johnson gave a report on revenues and expense through April 30, 2020.

Approval of previous meeting minutes

Chairman Ridley stated that the minutes of the five meetings held in May. He asked if there were any changes to be made. There were none.

Commissioner Vines stated that he was not at the first two meetings, therefore he would be abstaining from that vote.

Commissioner Budde motioned to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2020 Special Called Work Session and the May 5, 2020 Regular Meeting as written. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 4-0, with Commissioner Vines abstaining.

Commissioner Budde then motioned to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2020 Work Session, the May 26, 2020 Special Called Work Session, and the May 26, 2020 Special Called Meeting as written. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Agenda

Chairman Ridley motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Brown seconded. Commissioner Budde then asked if we could wait to vote on the leave policy until the handbook is reviewed. Chairman Ridley recommending voting on the agenda since there is a motion and a second on the table and then they can vote to table that item if they want to do so. Motioned carried 5-0 to approve the agenda.

Public Participation on Agenda Items

None

Item #1 – Regional Advisory Council for Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Re-Appointment

Chairman Ridley motioned to re-appointment Commissioner Jamie Brown to the Regional Advisory Council for Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #2 – Vendor Procedures

Chairman Ridley stated the board has reviewed the changes at a past work session. Commissioner Tarpley did not have the updated version. Commissioner Budde stated he would like to review again and have it fresh in his mind. Commissioner Budde motioned to table until the next work session. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #3 – Health Reimbursement Agreement

The commissioners were given a copy of the current Health Reimbursement Agreement to read. County Clerk Alison Palmer stated this is the same as was discussed at the special work session. Medova has their own Medical Management division, so they will do the same as AIMM. Commissioner Budde stated that it says the documentation will be returned to Alison. He asked that her name be removed in case she was not there. It will be changed to return to the Commissioner's office. Commissioner Budde motioned to approve the HRA as amended. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #4 – Leave Donation Policy

Chairman Ridley stated that the current leave donation policy allows employees to donate vacation time hour for hour. He stated he would like to change that to a monetary amount versus hours. For example, if someone who makes \$10 per hour donates 8 hours of leave, it would go as an \$80 dollar donation so that if it is going to someone who makes a higher per hour amount, it is \$ for \$. Commissioner Tarpley stated that the attorney is reviewing the handbook and he thinks this should wait and be updated with the handbook. Commissioner Tarpley motioned to table this item until the handbook update. Commissioner Bines seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items

County Attorney David Mecklin stated that he serves as the Parliamentarian for the Board of Commissioners meetings. He said he thinks it is great that the citizens are here and that the citizens have a right to be heard. However, there are a couple of rules. You are welcome to be passionate, but respectful. You will be addressing the board, not the crowd. No personal insults, no cursing and be respectful. Make your comments brief, with a limit of 3 minutes each. Mr. Mecklin stated that there is nothing regarding a potential landfill before the commissioners at this time. He finished by saying that he has advised the commissioners to be careful in their responses so as not to jeopardize their independence to participate when anything does come before the commission board.

Scott Cospers stated that his family has a home and business in Buncombe. They have been in Buncombe over 100 years. They have a 100 acre farm and Event Venue that has been in business for 9 years. He stated you can hunt, fish, and hike on this land. There are springs and creeks that feed the Tallapoosa River and flow into Alabama. A landfill will hurt business, property prices, water quality, etc. His sister took a poll on facebook and there were 243 people against a landfill and only 2 in favor.

Randy Patterson stated that he also lives in Buncombe and his family has been there over 100 years. Mr. Patterson referred to the landfill in Polk County and asked the board if they were familiar with that one. He stated that you have an "aroma zone" around a landfill, not to mention the large number of trucks coming and going and the "trash mountain." Mr. Patterson asked the board to keep in mind the many businesses, creeks, the RV camp, more than one event center, etc that would be adversely affected by a landfill. He also stated that there were Indian burial grounds and artifacts all over the area. He said the community is not against industry but are very much opposed to a landfill.

Jeff Dewberry talked about landfill liners and how they will eventually leak and release potentially hazardous waste into the groundwater of the county. They say they won't accept coal ash, but that can be reviewed and altered at a later date. He stated that he is a proponent of industry and infrastructure for the county but is this the kind we want to see here. He asked the commissioners to consider the community when this comes up and asked if it could be brought to a public vote.

Eric Sanders stated that he has recently built a new home in Buncombe and a landfill is not welcome in their community. He said it may be lucrative for some, but landfills leak toxic waste into their water. He stated that Mr. Kaufman has MSW landfills in other places that do accept coal ash. He said that it is his understanding the Mr. Kaufman is taking soil samples and has the property under contract and the citizens deserve to know which of the commissioners is for the landfill. He stated that he has heard that Commissioner Budde and Commissioner Tarpley have had meetings with Mr. Kaufman, and he wants to know when negotiations stop. Mr. Sanders finished by saying, "We do not want a MSW Landfill in Haralson County."

Kevin Boulton stated that he had researched landfills and saw Ernest. He said the county should be concerned and should do their research. How do we prevent toxic waste, screen it, handle aroma, road destruction, etc. But also, when is the land reclaimable, can it promote recycling, collect methane gas for power, and bring in revenue for the county. He said potentially 70 – 75 million over 20 years. He stated the Board of Commissioners would have to negotiate the kind of trash accepted. He stated that questions should be provided to the board in writing.

Ernest Kaufman thanked everyone for coming to this meeting, but unfortunately this is occurring before they have a proposal to present. Mr. Mecklin instructed Mr. Kaufman to address the board not the crowd. Mr. Kaufman went on to say that they would not be taking coal ash or sewer sludge. He said he did not permit the facility in Perry County, Alabama. He also said this site would not be accepting rail cars. It would not exceed 300 acres. He gave his phone number and told where the office is located. Mr. Kaufman said he would be happy to talk to anyone who had questions.

Kenny Cauthen stated Mr. Kaufman explained what he is and is not going to do. "He did not say he isn't going to build a landfill!" Development is good, landfill no.

Angie Barnett said this is the 2nd time here fighting. If I lose, there is a firing range and 2 landfills surrounding us. It will ruin our property value. We have 100 acres and would not be able to do anything with it. "Please don't allow this! And I will NOT talk to Mr. Ernest!"

Randy Patterson stated that the restaurants, golf course, businesses and property owners in the area would not appreciate the "aroma zone." Take care of the industry that we already have.

Tommy Patterson asked how much money is enough? Is there enough money in the whole state to repair after it is destroyed?

Ashley Royer said that she used to commute past the landfill in Polk county and it stinks! She said that Polk is trying to get out of their contract.

Martha Murphy Long stated that this commission board is here to represent the people. She said there would have been more opposition if this had come up earlier. She also asked for this to be put on the ballot for an election by the people. Money is not everything. Her family has been active here for over 4 generations and she hopes the board will consider the future generations when making a decision.

Tonya Hardeman stated that he married and moved here 26 years ago to get away from a landfill. He stated they always stink, tractor trailers coming and going all the time, and the burning stinks also. He asked the board to please consider the community's needs in this issue.

Angie Parton asked how this is going to affect property values. Instead let's bring fiber optic, jobs and other kinds of industry to our county. Let's not destroy it for generation after generation.

Tom Crawford stated that he has been a lifelong resident. He asked the board to look at other areas in Georgia and how a landfill has impacted their towns and communities. He asked that all legal ramifications be checked in advance. Regarding changing what they accept at a later date. No liner is going to last forever. Ask Muscadine and Fruithurst about contaminated ground water. We don't want our kids dying of cancer because of this.

Randy Ellis stated that everyone here has a vested interest in this topic. We'd love to be allowed to vote on this. He asked the board to look at this as if it was going to be placed next to your property and your homes when making this decision.

Christine Wright said she lives in Buncombe and loves it. She said there are several families that have only wells, not city water. They don't want the smell, the traffic or the contaminated water. Please don't destroy our community.

Matt McCord stated that he is the heir to the Thompson farm on Hwy 100. He said the land is protected by a historic land trust. There have been hundreds of Indian artifacts found on this land and since it borders the property of the proposed landfill, he knows there must be many artifacts on that land also. He asked the board to take all of this and the community into consideration when making a decision.

Gary Ellis said there is the old gold mine shaft under ground, Walker creek, other creeks and aquifers in this area. There isn't a trust fund big enough to handle problems in the future. Toxins can seep into these and contaminate the water.

Jackie Williams said he doesn't understand why this has not been transparent. Ya'll were aware. We elect you and we want you to be transparent. I worked in the rubber business for 47 years and rubber leaks. We supplied liners for landfills and they can't be replaced. You cannot make a liner that doesn't leak.

Mr. Mecklin stated that nothing has come before the board yet, but when a zoning application is filed it will be published and there will be public hearings. At this point there have been no applications to rezone received by the county.

Jackie Robert, Mayor Pro Tem of Tallapoosa, stated that the City of Tallapoosa is not in favor of a landfill and she appreciates anything the commissioners can do to keep this out of our county.

Chairman Ridley asked if anyone else wished to speak.

Since no one else came forward, Chairman Ridley motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk

HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 16, 2020
WORK SESSION MINUTES

Chairman Ridley called the work session to order. Commissioners Tarpley, Brown and Budde were present. Commissioner Vines was absent. Avery Jackson was in attendance as the assistant County Attorney.

Item #1 – 2020-2021 Budget Public hearing

Finance Director Don Johnson gave a brief summary of the proposed budget as follows:

- General Fund (100) - \$13,059,802
- Fire (270) - \$2,574,730
- Sanitation (271) - \$439,649
- Recreation (272) – \$321,711
- Planning & Zoning/Marshal/NWGRC (273) - \$168,156

Chairman Ridley asked if anyone had any questions or comments. One citizen asked about the Sheriff's Budget amount in this budget compared to last year. Mr. Johnson gave him the amounts. The gentleman then stated, "so you are not defunding law enforcement." Chairman Ridley answered with an adamant NO!

Item #2 – Vendor Procedures

County Clerk Alison Palmer gave all the commissioners a copy of the Vendor procedures with the changes that had been discussed in prior meetings to review. Mrs. Palmer also stated that the audit on the transit department by the state had just been completed and there would be a couple of items that need to be added to this vendor policy that are required by the state. She is waiting on a model policy from the GDOT.

Commissioner Brown also brought up the possibility of advertising in the Shopper.

Commissioner Tarpley stated that he thought anything over \$20,000 needed to be approved by the entire Board of Commissioners instead of everything over \$50,000.

This item will be put on the July 21, 2020 work session agenda for further discussion.

Item #3 – Haralson County Employee Handbook

The board had previously asked County Attorney David Mecklin to review the current county handbook and suggest any changes he felt needed to occur. Mr. Mecklin has now reviewed the handbook and Mrs. Palmer gave each commissioner a copy of the red-lined handbook from Mr. Mecklin to begin reviewing.

This item will be put on the July 21, 2020 work session agenda for further discussion.

Item #4 – Southern A & E, LLC Courthouse and Old Detention Center Renovation Proposal

Commissioner Budde has contacted Southern A&E, LLC to give the county a proposal for design services to renovate the courthouse and the old Detention center to be used as a courthouse annex. Mrs. Palmer gave all the commissioners a copy of the proposal to review.

Item #5 – Jail fines from Haralson County Cities

Commissioner Tarpley had previously brought up a discussion of the cities adding a 10% add on fee to all fines for the cities to pay the county in lieu of the daily per diem they are currently paying to house municipal prisoners in the Haralson County Detention Facility. This will involve meetings with the city leaders and amending the Service Delivery Strategy. Commissioner Tarpley feels like this will bring in more revenue than the per diems because the county would get the 10% even if the person does not go to jail. The board will discuss this further.

Item #6 – County Vehicle Decal

Commissioner Tarpley stated that all county vehicles should have a permanent decal or markings on both the driver and passenger door identifying them by department. He would like to make it a requirement to mark all county owned vehicles except the sheriff department investigator. Commissioner Budde stated that there should be a deadline to get all vehicles marked. This item will be on the July 7, 2020 Regular Meeting agenda for a vote.

Item #7 – Private property stored in County Buildings

Commissioner Tarpley stated that he felt like the board should require all individuals or private groups to remove any items that are currently stored on county property.

Item #8 – Ordinance restricting the use of Engine Brakes

Commissioner Budde stated that he would like for Haralson County to place signs restricting the use of engine brakes on large trucks through Waco on Hwy 78. He stated that he had spoken to the Department of Transportation and they recommended the board approving an ordinance and then we can place the signs and the county can enforce the ordinance. The board will have Mr. Mecklin draw up an ordinance to be voted on.

Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items

June Anderson asked the Commssioners who is for the landfill. Then she specifically asked Commissioner Tarpley, “David, are you for the landfill?”

Commissioner Tarpley replied that he has not made a decision, that this is a learning time. We were elected to help this county grow. We need to get our facts and everyone needs to get their facts before going out on social media. make a decision when we have all the facts. It’s premature to say now.

Ms. Anderson said she is concerned about her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. It's all about money. Let's talk about the citizens of Haralson County and what we want and water. We want clean water. "Who sold us out?"

Commissioner Tarpley stated that any individual or group has the right to buy land and invest company's due diligence and invest in this community. We also have to do our due diligence. This fellow is gathering facts. No one sold us out. "We have no proposal, nothing."

Ms. Anderson stated very emphatically, "We don't want it, Haralson County does not want it!"

July Nicholas gave the commissioners pictures of her mother on the front porch of the old farmhouse on the family land in Buncombe and gave some history of her family living and working this land for over 85 years. She finished by saying, "I hope you feel convicted to do all you can do to stop this landfill."

Eddie Anderson said she is conflicted about what to say. She said, David, I respect you and like you, but I'm offended at your response to my Sister in Law and I'm offended by your social media comment. Ms. Anderson stated that the only way she found out about this was through Martha Murphy Long on social media. She said they saw a huge landfill while traveling and said "wouldn't it be horrible if we had one of those at home." It will not attract businesses. Ms. Anderson said she is a republican and she went door to door when Mrs. Long's Dad was running for office and she will do it again if she finds out any of the commissioners voted for this landfill.

Jackie Jones stated that she is Bud Jones wife and they own land past Walker's Creek. She said we should not deface our land with anyone else's landfill. She asked the board if they remember when they were running for office. She said I remember all of you saying you were looking forward to working hard and representing us well. This group of citizens is staunch and won't give up. She was upset that they had ever talked to this man. She said he told her, "we know how to do it." She said Douglas County had just turned this guy down. He makes \$70,000 a month and lives miles from the landfill. Mrs. Jones stated that she hopes to have representatives from around these other landfills come and talk to the board about the toxins, waste, and smell and she hopes the board will listen.

Joe Williams stated that he has lived in Haralson County all of his life. He said the county has put money into the Development Authority and they won't be able to bring business in if there is a landfill here. He's talking about industrial to get your mind off what he is really doing. Mr. Williams said we need help with property taxes. Chairman Ridley said we hope to lower the millage.

Sammy Robinson said he goes to Elberton, Georgia several times a month and has to pass a trash pile 200 feet tall. There's no housing, no nothing around it. He called the commissioner

up there and they said the Board of Commissioners has the power to say yes or no. The land is not zoned for a landfill. The board will have to approve a zoning change. We need to work against this. The board needs to step up to the plate at the July meeting and vote no!

Randy Patterson said that the Comcast announcement is a positive note for our county, and he hopes the board will continue to work with the Development Authority to bring more internet to the county.

Jeff Dewberry said it is clear that “We don’t want a landfill. It’s all about money.” A couple of the commissioners say we need to look into this. I don’t think anyone wants it. Check your facts about dry tomb landfills. EPA does not allow landfill without a liner. Dry tombs leak and the residents of the county are left with this problem. Look in Tennessee. They get you in a position where you are not happy, and they leave. These people are professional. They took notes, they are not going away. They are ready to fight. I don’t know why you don’t say No instead of you’re looking into it!

Tom Crawford said the county is unprepared. Preparation is the key. The board can vote. Doesn’t mean legal action won’t happen. No offense to the attorney, they are not experts in this area. I recommend that we get experienced guidance.

Tommy Patterson stated that he has lived his entire life in Buncombe except for when he was in the army. Haralson County is a good community. People help each other. Some things are worth more than money. Think about Brad Vines with cancer. Community raised money for him. We want the county to last for generations.

Martha Murphy Long said this just came out of the blue. She said, Adam Budde you have toured the site? David Tarpley, did you? Ronnie Ridley did anyone send you any communication about their intent. Chairman Ridley stated that Mr. Kaufman “told me he was looking for land for his grandkids to hunt on.” Turns out he lives at the lake in Centre and builds landfills. Mrs. Long asked again if there were any communication in writing to the Board of Commissioners. She said she would like to think the elected officials are here because they care and ask them to put this item on the runoff ballot.

Angie Barnett stated that she lives on Pleasant Hill Church Road. She said she came home one day and there were huge tractors on that land. He said they were getting soil samples. Also told her he was looking for a place for the kids to hunt. She said he asked her to come to Dr. King’s old cabin to see the plans. Said they would buy her house. She said she won’t go and she won’t talk to Mr. Ernest. Ms. Barnett asked if the lawyer will fight for us. Does the county need to get more lawyers, or does she need to get her own lawyer? Chairman Ridley stated that the county has attorneys. Ms. Barnett said if ya’ll vote to do this, we’ll be on our own. Chairman Ridley stated the county has to wait for an application to vote. She said he has the

land under contract. She asked how Mr. Kaufman's program works? Chairman Ridley stated he didn't know. He has not been on the property.

Ouida Eaton stated that Mr. Kaufman told her he was testing the water for the county. He has lied to several people. He is not a good person.

Scott Cospers asked if there were laws on the books to stop this. If not, why? Chairman Ridley stated that there are ordinances against a landfill in an agricultural zoning. He will have to apply to have the property rezoned.

An unidentified man asked who changes the ordinances. Chairman Ridley responded that the commissioners do that.

Mrs. Long stated that Commissioner Budde and Commissioner Tarpley did not answer her earlier question about whether they had met with Mr. Kaufman and toured with him. Commissioner Budde stated he will answer her after the meeting. Mrs. Long said, "I think everyone would like to know."

Gary Anderson asked if the next group of commissioners could vote this back out, because we won't vote ya'll back in!

Tonya Hardeman stated, "We are our brothers' keeper. We elected you to be our keeper."

Kenny Coffman asked the board if anybody has come to them and said they were for this landfill? Commissioner Budde stated that he had people say they were willing to listen. Mr. Coffman said you need to take that and compare to the number of people here and vote against the landfill. "I like the county the way it is now."

Chairman Ridley asked if anyone else would like to speak. An unidentified lady said she just found out about this. This is a small group of people against it. Chairman Ridley gave her the days and time for the Regular meeting and the Work session and said all are invited to these meetings. Mrs. Murphy asked if the county could have a facebook page. Alison Palmer stated that the meetings are listed on the website.

Commissioner Budde stated to Mrs. Long that he wanted to let her know how he met Mr. Kaufman. He said that in February Mr. Kaufman called him and asked him to breakfast at the Turnaround. He didn't talk about land development. I didn't know him. I told my wife later he didn't ask me anything. The first time I heard landfill was in a commission meeting, then saw it on facebook. I never heard that from Mr. Kaufman. Later when Mr. Kaufman asked to meet him and tour, he said he was testing for land development. I am for development, not a landfill. Mrs. Long asked if anyone else was there. He said Eric McDonald went to the meeting. Mrs. Long asked if anyone else on the board had met with him. Commissioner Tarpley said he

has been coming to our meetings since October or November. Then in April he asked me to meet him for lunch at Cracker Barrell. The board has not met with him all together. We have all met privately. Chairman Ridley, said No, I haven't. Commissioner Tarpley said you met with him at your office. Chairman Ridley said, "He came to the office, but I didn't break bread with him!"

Commissioner Tarpley said that Mr. Kaufman is doing his due diligence. If the county had done their due diligence in 2008 on the \$4.1 million dollar piece of property, then we wouldn't be stuck with a piece of property which now only appraises for about \$800,000.

Chairman Ridley said that was not the county, it was the water authority.

Commissioner Tarpley said the "man is doing his due diligence and he does not owe us an explanation." The audience said Oh yes he does! A lady said "he is an outsider that has upset our apple cart, not his." Commissioner Tarpley replied, "we're elected to do our due diligence and you won't let us do it."

Jack Williams said David Tarpley and Commissioners, if ya'll were doing due diligence you'd be telling this guy to hit the road. I told you liners would leak and they will. Commissioner Tarpley said there is the Haralson County landfill ¼ mile up Walker creek with no liner and no records of what was hauled in. A man in the audience said that does not make it right.

A lady in the audience asked when the county can say no to this man. Commissioner Budde replied, when he presents a proposal to the county.

Mrs. Long said if he is friendly with all of you why not save him the trouble and let him know now.

Chairman Ridley said "I know how I will vote."

Commissioner Budde said "he knows I don't want a landfill."

A lady in the audience said she spoke to the EPA and according to them they said the first step is that he has to come to the county and apply for approval, then there is a public hearing and 90 days to vote down request. We have the right to appeal. Mr. Kaufman seeks low income counties and thinks we need the money bad enough to accept a landfill. DNR is not happy because wildlife will be affected. We need to look for a lizard or some endangered species. Our resources don't need to be disturbed.

Randy Patterson asked the board if they could put an item on the agenda for the July 7 meeting to hire an expert in this field to give the county advice. Chairman Ridley said they could do that.

Commissioner Budde stated that Brad Vines family had been told he only has a few weeks. Please pray for him and his family. We will deal with the landfill when we get to it.

Kevin Boulton stated that he attends the meetings and work sessions and he does not recall the landfill being mentioned in one. He asked if that was in executive session where the board discussed purchasing 1100 acres. Commissioner Budde said, "I can't say." Mr. Boulton then asked Chairman Ridley if he could tell them. Chairman Ridley replied, No. Mr. Boulton then asked if the county could purchase the 1100 acres or not. Chairman Ridley replied that it already had a purchase option on it.

Ms. Long stated Madame Commissioner we haven't heard from you. Commissioner Brown stated that the board was advised not to speak about it by legal counsel. She went on to say that she had seen this group attack her two fellow commissioners and she did not appreciate it. She stated that she prays and does her research. A lady in the audience replied, You are supposed to work for us.

Someone else asked if he had a permit to dig. Chairman Ridley stated you don't have to get a permit to dig on agricultural property.

Another man asked about internet. Commissioner Budde told about the Comcast project that was coming and stated that the board was working on a couple of other ways to extend the internet such as adding poles at firestations and other county properties and allowing providers to use them in those communities.

Chairman Ridley asked Eric McDonald to speak about the Comcast project. Mr. McDonald told the audience about the project and said that he hoped this large project would help lure in other companies that could expand off of this one.

Chairman Ridley asked if anyone else would like to speak. He didn't want to leave anyone out.

Lawrence Robbins stated that he has been a citizen of Haralson County for 88 years. He said he knows Brad Vines and he hopes that none of the commissioners will vote in favor of a landfill.

A lady stated that the lady commissioner has made it personal. We are not being hateful, we are upset. We are just finding out about this. What if we don't hear anything else and then there is a landfill. He has samples and is far ahead of us. Land, Freedom, and Family is what we protect. She went on to ask what area the commissioners represent.

Commissioner Brown held up her name plate and said it has our name and district on here. The lady said she wanted to know where each of those districts were. Commissioner Budde answered and told the audience where each commissioner lived and what their district consisted covered.

With no one else asking to speak Chairman Ridley motioned to go into executive session. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 4-0. Chairman Ridley stated that the executive session was a personnel issue.

Item #9 – Executive Session

Chairman Ridley motioned to go into executive session. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 5-0. Chairman Ridley stated that this is for a personnel issue.

Upon return Commissioner Budde motioned to return to the regular meeting. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Ridley stated that the discussion was in regard to a personnel issue and no action needs to be taken at this time.

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk



HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 23, 2020
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

Vice Chair Jamie Brown called the Special Called Meeting to order. Mike Daniel offered the Invocation and Sandi Couch led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Ronnie Ridley and Commissioner Brad Vines were absent due to health issues.

Waive the reading of previous meeting minutes

Commissioner Budde motioned to waive the reading of the June 2, 2020 Regular Meeting minutes and the June 16, 2020 Work Session minutes until the next regular meeting. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Budde motioned to approve the agenda as written. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Item #1 – 2020-2021 Budget

Finance Director Don Johnson gave a brief overview of the proposed budget. She also thank

Commissioner Budde asked to verify that the employee raises were included in these numbers. Mr. Johnson replied they are included.

Commissioner Budde also asked if the Drug Task Force will be funded. Mr. Johnson said they can be funded also. The board will have to amend the budget to put the funds back into that department.

Vice Chair Brown stated that the Commander of the Drug Task Force had met with each commissioner and they now have a much better understanding of what they accomplish. She reiterated that the budget includes the employee raises and the Task Force will be fully funded.

Commissioner Budde motioned to approve the 2020-2021 budget. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Three different citizens asked to speak and apologized for coming off as angry. All stated that they are very emotional about the landfill issue. They all reiterated that the citizens do not want this landfill.

Vice Chair Brown said the board appreciated what the citizens said and they understand that emotions are involved. She said there is no ill will on your part or ours. She also thanked everyone for coming out and stated that “We need you in good times too, not just bad.”

Commissioner Budde motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk



HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JULY 7, 2020
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Ronnie Ridley called the meeting to order. Ms. Sandi Couch offered the Invocation and Chairman Ridley led the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present along with Assistant County Attorney Avery Jackson.

Chairman's Report

Finance Director Don Johnson gave a financial report through May 31, 2020. Commissioner Tarpley asked about sales tax revenues. Mr. Johnson reported that they are coming in a little higher than budgeted at this time. He said this is a little higher than any time in the last 10 years.

Approval of minutes from previous months' meetings

Commissioner Budde motioned to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2020 Regular Meeting and the June 16, 2020 Work Session as written. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2020 Special Called Meeting as written. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried 3-0 with Chairman Ridley and Commissioner Vines abstaining since they were not at that meeting.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Tarpley asked to add Personal Property on County Property and changing the Service Delivery Plan to 10% municipal fines instead of per diem to pay for municipal prisoners.

Chairman Ridley stated that the personal property had already been removed from the county building. Commissioner Tarpley stated that he is referring to the trailer at the sally port of the old jail. Chairman Ridley said the property had been removed from the sally port into the trailer and was waiting for a truck to pick it up. It will be removed soon.

Commissioner Brown asked to add the website to the agenda. Chairman Ridley stated that the staff has been viewing presentations and would be ready to put on the agenda for the work session.

Chairman Ridley motioned to approve the agenda as written. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #1 – Permanent Marking of County Vehicles

Chairman Ridley said this was in the process of being accomplished. Commissioner Budde said he wanted a deadline for completion. He also said he would like for all the vehicles to have a matching decal. Chairman Ridley clarified that the board wants them all to be changed to a matching decal. Commissioner Tarpley stated he wants every vehicle except the sheriff's investigators to be marked. Chairman Ridley stated that the Fire Department has an investigators vehicle also. Commissioner Budde said he wants that one marked with magnets unless they are working an active investigation.

Commissioner Budde motioned to require all county vehicles to have permanent marking by August 1, 2020 with the two exceptions discussed. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #2 – Ely Elephante Self Defense Classes

Chairman Ridley stated that Mr. Elefante had asked to hold self-defense classes at the county gym. Commissioner Budde asked if this will be an extension of the recreation program. Chairman Ridley replied, yes, but Mr. Elefante would collect from his students and pay the county a set amount per week or month. Commissioner Budde motioned to allow Mr. Elephante to hold classes at the gym. Commissioner Brown seconded. Commissioner Tarpley asked if this would interfere with any county programs and will a county employee be here also. Chairman Ridley said it will not interfere because Mr. Elefante will have to set the schedule with the Recreation director and a county employee will be here to lock up the facility. This will be considered when determining the rent that will be required. Chairman Ridley stated that there was a motion and second on the table and called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

Item #3 – Ordinance Restricting the Use of Engine Brakes

County Clerk Alison Palmer read the proposed ordinance. Chairman Ridley explained that there is a section of highway near the feed plant in Waco where the use of the "jake brakes" is a nuisance to the neighborhood. Commissioner Budde stated that a correction should be made to the ordinance. It should be South Waco School Road, not Waco School Road. Mrs. Palmer stated she would correct that.

Commissioner Budde motioned to approve the ordinance restricting the use of Engine Brakes. Commissioner Brown seconded. Commissioner Tarpley stated that we may approve it, but the state may not put up the signs. Chairman Ridley stated that the county will contact the Department of Transportation and request that they put up signs. Chairman Ridley stated that there was a motion and second on the table and called for the vote. The motion carried 5-0.

Item #4 – Discussion of Issues Related to Potential Landfill

Assistant County Attorney Avery Jackson gave a detailed explanation of the process a company will have to go through to have a landfill in the county. He explained the rezoning application and procedure followed by the request coming to the Board of Commissioners for a vote. If the

board denies the request, the company will most likely appeal the decision to the Superior Court of Haralson County. It could go on from there to the appellate court and clear to the Supreme Court in Georgia.

Mr. Jackson finished by stating that there has not been any kind of application made to the county by this company, therefore there is no action to be taken by the Board of Commissioners at this time.

Jay Smith asked Mr. Jackson if you own land in Haralson County, can you appeal to the superior court? Mr. Jackson stated in some circumstances the landowners can join and intervene as a special interest of the landowners. Mr. Smith asked since it will affect our water supply shouldn't all the landowners in the county be able to file a lawsuit? Mr. Jackson said he could not advise the people on this.

Public Participation

Janice Daniel – Mrs. Palmer read an ordinance that shows the Board cares for its citizens. Air, Water, Food, Shelter. Coal Ash is bad for the first three of those. Dangerous to nervous system, causes cancer and birth defects. Very much against the landfill.

Brandon Kerr – Odor, toxic pollutants to land, water, and air. Against the landfill.

Jeff Dewberry – Asked the commissioners, “What if this was going to be in your backyard?” Against the landfill.

Lori Morgan – “We don't need trash to build our Industry. That's why we have a Development Authority.” Against the landfill.

Kelly Hunter – The **roundabout** in Waco is a gateway to industrial development. Haralson County has the opportunity to brand ourselves and make the community strong. “You guys represent us, and we placed our leadership and trust in your hands.” Against the landfill.

Jay Smith - Against the landfill.

Greg Patterson – Mr. Kaufman stated that there would be a truck going in every 8 minutes. That is 164 trucks every day, 5 days a week from 6AM – 5PM. There will be rats, flies, buzzards. Against the landfill.

Lynn Gramling – stated she used to drive a truck for Waste Management. She has a pregnant daughter and a grandchild that live in that neighborhood. She asked the board to fight for their kids. Say no! Against the landfill.

Madria Snelling – moved here from Douglasville. Watched Douglasville go from a nice town to a cesspool. Doesn't want to see Tallapoosa do the same thing. Against the landfill.

Johnny Wright – Mr. Kaufmann told several of you that he was looking for hunting land for his grandkids. Beware of man who speaks with forked tongue. Common sense tells you industry

would not be located around a landfill. This will impact property values, health, and our environment. Against the landfill.

Robert Haynie – Mr. Haynie stated that all the commissioners were put in place by the people here. We don't care about your personal opinions. Government is not a "for-profit" business. If you are in favor of a dump, we don't need you as our commissioners. Against the landfill.

Curtis Eidson – We don't need landfill here. We don't need their money because you are getting our taxes. Our freedoms are being taken away. He stated that he received 3 purple hearts fighting for this country. Against the landfill.

Holly Bentley – I'm the future of Haralson County. Not born or raised here. From Cleburne County Alabama. I went to school with a girl that died of cancer. The next year 2 more died, then another year 4 died. She stated she doesn't want to see the same thing happening here. 83% of landfill liners leak. Against the landfill.

Sheriff Eddie Mixon – Sheriff Mixon thanked everyone for allowing him to serve as your sheriff for the last 16 years. He stated he cares about Haralson County and we don't need a landfill. Let's stand up for each other. Against the landfill.

John Daniel - stated that he heard Mr. Kaufmann speak last night at the Bremen meeting. He said the first year there will be a truck coming in every 14 minutes, 2nd year – every 8 minutes, 3rd-4th year every 5 minutes and by the 5th year every 3.6 minutes. 3000 tons a day. He said as a former state trooper, he had witnessed enough accidents for it to scare him to death to think of that number of trucks coming down one of the most dangerous stretches of I-20 with the Haralson County residents and our families on that road. To know that they wrecked going to a landfill that should not be here. We need to protect our own and each other. Stand up for one another whether it's your district or not. Against the landfill.

Tom Crawford asked how the citizens will know of upcoming actions when there is not a county paper any longer. Chairman Ridley stated it will be in the Gateway Beacon, on the county website and radio and he felt sure it would be on social media.

A question came from someone in the audience about the board knowing about this since October. Chairman Ridley stated we did not know in October. A man was coming to the meeting in October, November, December time frame. He stated he was interested in hunting land. Never mentioned a landfill.

Jeff Williams – stated that the board just voted on an ordinance to take care of the citizens. We expect you to do that in this situation too. Don't let an outsider tell you what he wants. Answer to us. Against the landfill.

Martha Murphy Long - Against the landfill.

Braxus Wilson – (young boy) stated all people have a purpose and if you put a dump on that land, we will all die, and the purpose is forgotten.

Bobby Wilson – drove a truck for Chambers of Georgia. Hauled to an environmentally safe landfill. Closed after a couple of years. 10 years later it is still there 150’ – 250’ high. Still stinks and still has rodents. Stated that he is with the transportation department for the City of Bremen schools. We need to think of the kids and plan ahead. Against the landfill.

Gary Anderson – Googled Blaylock Creek, LLC. What they do, what business they are in. 134 businesses operated from that address. Someone is hiding stuff everywhere. Take care of Haralson County, not a stranger. Against the landfill.

Taylor Jackson – We need industry in Haralson County, but we don’t need this landfill. Family owns Talley Mountain. It is a beautiful area. Would hate for it to be ruined. Against the landfill.

Barry Barger – Don’t let the county go in a negative direction. Against the landfill.

Stephen Reed – stated that he was a 3-year resident of Buchanan. He said preaches at the jail on Thursday nights. He said he came from Douglas County. Mr. Reed said he heard the lawyer say you could not discuss the landfill. But coal ash will disintegrate stainless steel pipe in 2 years. He said you can’t claim ignorance. Better to be respectable and poor rather than rich and a snake in the grass. Against the landfill.

Eddie Anderson – said this is going to be a long fight and cost unbelievable amounts of money. We’re going to have to get organized. Mr. Kaufmann assured them that he will not stop with the commission vote. She stated that they had been researching Blaylock Creek LLC and the piece of property they own is the same as the picture used at the Bremen presentation even though they say that company has no connections to the landfill. She stated that before this is over, the county is going to need help and everyone in the room is going to have to put their money where their mouth is. Against the landfill.

No other citizens asked to speak.

Commissioner Budde stated that everyone had been asked to pray for Commissioner Vines when he was not here. Commissioner Budde asked John Daniel to ask a prayer for Commissioner Brad Vines.

Commissioner Budde motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk

HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JULY 21, 2020
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

Chairman Ridley called the Special Called Meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. Commissioner Brown offered the Invocation and the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners Tarpley, Brown, and Budde were present along with Assistant County Attorney Avery Jackson. Commissioner Vines was absent due to health reasons.

Commissioner Budde motioned to waive the reading of the minutes until the next Regular meeting. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Ridley motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Item #1 – Sunday Alcohol Package Sales Resolution

Chairman Ridley recused himself on this item due to conflict of interest. Vice Chair Brown took over at this time and stated that this had been explained in the work session. She asked if any of the Commissioners had questions. There were none. She asked if there were any questions from the audience.

Allen Williams asked to speak. He stated that as a recovered alcoholic he knew what alcohol does to people and the families and friends around them. He detailed his bout with alcoholism and stated he is vehemently against the board passing this resolution.

Teresa Pearson stated she is not a drinker, but she had talked to someone who had a different point of view. They said if someone is drunk late on a Saturday night and out of alcohol, they are going to get in the car and go get more if they can't get it the next day. If they can get it Sunday, they are more likely to stay home.

Vice Chair asked for a motion. Commissioner Budde stated that he would motion to approve the resolution because he feels like this is something the community needs to decide. Allen Williams stated that the board is in place to make these decisions for the community.

Vice Chair Brown stated we have a motion to place this on the ballot in November. Mr. Jackson stated we need an effective date. After a short discussion, Commissioner Budde amended his motion to approve the resolution to state that if it passes, it will go into effect January 1, 2021.

Commissioner Tarpley seconded the motion stating that he heard each speak from their heart and he feels the people should get a chance to be heard.

Vice Chair Brown called for all in favor to raise their right hand. There were 2 in favor, Commissioner Budde and Commissioner Tarpley. There was 1 against, Vice Chair Brown, and 1 abstained, Chairman Ridley. Vice Chair Brown stated motion passes. County Clerk Alison

Palmer spoke up and stated that it failed. The creative legislation for the Haralson County Board of Directors specifically states that a quorum of the Board is 3, no matter how many are in attendance.

Vice Chair Brown asked if they could get Commissioner Vines back on the phone. Mrs. Palmer stated that in order to vote by phone the commissioner must hear the entire conversation regarding the item to be voted upon. At this time, the only option would be to call another special called meeting before the end of the week. The item must be in the paper next week in order to be put on the ballot.

Carroll EMC Internet Grant

Eric Sanders stated that the county had learned in the fall that Haralson County had been taken off the Carroll EMC grant because a local provider, not IWispr, had stated to the FCC that they could adequately cover the county. He asked for the status of this grant.

Chairman Ridley stated that Carroll EMC had indeed reapplied and left Haralson County off the current grant application, however, they had assured the Chairman that as Carroll EMC members, they still intend to get the same services to the residents of Haralson, just won't be as quick as it would have been with the grant.

Chairman Ridley motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk

HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JULY 21, 2020
WORK SESSION MINUTES

Chairman Ridley called the work session to order. Commissioners Tarpley, Brown and Budde were in attendance. Commissioner Vines was absent due to health reasons. Assistant County Attorney Avery Jackson was in attendance.

Chairman Ridley reported that Firefighter Justin Robinson who collapsed last week while working to extricate a victim in a car accident, died earlier today. He asked everyone to remember his family in prayer and his fire department family.

Item #1 – Sunday Alcohol Sales

Chairman Ridley asked Vice Chair Brown to handle this item. Vice Chair Brown stated that the board had been approached numerous times to place this on the ballot for the voters to decide as to whether have Sunday alcohol package sales in the unincorporated part of Haralson County. She read the question that would be on the ballot.

“Shall the governing authority of Haralson County be authorized to permit and regulate package sales by retailers of malt beverages, wine and distilled spirits on Sundays between the hours of 12:30 P.M. and 11:30 P.M?”

Vice Chair Brown said this would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting for a vote by the board. Assistant Attorney Avery Jackson stated that it is on the agenda for the Special Called Meeting following this work session. A discussion followed of which cities already allow this. Bremen and Waco have Sunday sales, Tallapoosa and Buchanan do not.

Item #2 – Vendor Procedures – tabled

Item #3 – Haralson County Employee Handbook – tabled

Item #4 – Website Proposals

County Clerk Alison Palmer handed out three proposals to the commissioners that had been received for a new website. She explained that each of the three companies specialize in government websites. One is Municode which is the company that codified the county code of ordinances and has them online. One is a company out of Georgia that does several county websites, the Clerk’s association, etc. The other is out of Michigan. They each have sites listed that they have produced. Also, Mrs. Palmer said she will forward a demo site for Haralson County that Southfire put together.

Item #5 – Planning and Zoning Board Vacancy

Mrs. Palmer called Commissioner Brad Vines and put him on speakerphone for this item. Chairman Ridley reported that Phil Golden had moved out of Haralson County leaving a vacancy on this board. Mrs. Palmer stated that she had received three applications for this position.

Pamela Henderson, Timothy Fielder and Gary Anderson. Commissioner Vines stated that he would like to nominate Pamela Henderson for this vacancy.

Chairman Ridley stated that this will be on the agenda for the August regular meeting and anyone that would like to be considered should contact the clerk to get an application.

Commissioner Budde asked if Jim Carden's term had expired. Chairman Ridley stated yes, there were two positions to be voted on.

Commissioner Brown stated that at one time, the board had discussed recording the meetings and live streaming them. Then people could go on the website and watch them.

Kevin Boulton asked if the board still had the proposal from Distex on this? Chairman Ridley asked Mrs. Palmer. She said she would have to follow and see if there is one.

Chairman Ridley stated that the new sound system had come from Distex and reported that the county was going to be able to get that paid for thru the CARES Act.

Item #6 – Requirements for a Distillery

Bruce Cross, Jr. stated that he is asking the county Board of Commissioners to approve an ordinance that allows for a license to manufacture distilled spirits. His family owns and operates Trillium vineyards and would like to produce Port. They would use as much local grains and water as possible and would also have a tasting room. Chairman Ridley directed Mr. Cross to get directly with the county attorney regarding how he would want the ordinance to read. The attorney can put together the ordinance then the commissioners can review it and put it on the agenda for a decision.

Item #7 – Speed limit on Steadman near West Haralson School

Commissioner Budde stated that the speed limit on Hwy 100 in front of West Haralson Elementary is 40 mph. On Steadman Road behind the school, it is 45. Can we get it lowered to 35mph?

Other options were discussed such as making it a school zone which would bring higher fines according to John Daniel, director of Haralson County School transportation. Chairman Ridley also stated there could be flashing signs put up in a school zone.

Chairman Ridley stated this would be added to the agenda for the Regular meeting.

Item #9 – Update on Permanent Marking of Vehicles

Commissioner Budde stated that he noticed the Chairman's vehicle had been marked and that it looks good. He asked about the rest of the vehicles. Chairman Ridley said we are working on it. He was not satisfied with the price that was given, so it had taken a little longer to get it agreed upon. Original price was \$40 per decals. We now have a quote of about \$7 per decal. Will work very hard to get them all marked on time.

Item #10 – Potential Change to Service Delivery regarding 10% fine versus per diem for municipal prisoners

Commissioner Tarpley asked if the county could meet with the cities to discuss making this change to the Service Delivery.

Chairman Ridley asked County Clerk Alison Palmer about the proper procedure for this. Mrs. Palmer stated that she believes the county and cities must meet and agree on the change. The attorneys will have to write up the change to be approved by everyone. Mrs. Palmer will also contact Northwest Georgia Regional Commission to determine if there are any special procedures required.

Sound System Equipment

Chairman Ridley stated that 2 more speakers, an additional microphone and a tall microphone stand will be ordered for the sound system, all of which can come out of the CARES Act funding.

Someone asked if anyone had reached out to the University of West Georgia about recording the meetings. Chairman Ridley instructed her to get the information to Mrs. Palmer.

Someone in the crowd stated, “We did not say the Pledge, can we say it now?”

Chairman Ridley stated we would say it at the beginning of the Special Called Meeting.

Mrs. Palmer stated that Commissioner Vines had asked her to pass on a message from him. He stated that he is sorry he couldn't be at the meeting but felt that it was not an option at this time due to his health issues. He said he loves the citizens of Haralson County and loves his county. Commissioner Vines also asked that everyone be patient and trust the Board to act in the citizens best interest regarding the landfill.

One lady then asked if the Board could go ahead and pass a resolution to not allow the landfill. Mr. Jackson responded that the board cannot act at this time since there have been no applications from the landfill company.

Chairman Ridley adjourned the work session.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk