

HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DECEMBER 1, 2015

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Allen Poole. The Invocation was offered by Fire Chief Brian Walker and the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Poole noted, for the record, that Commissioner Dobbs was absent.

Chairman Poole stated that the board had been sent the minutes to review for three meetings. He asked if there were any changes that needed to be made. There were none. Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2015 regular meeting minutes, the November 18, 2015 work session minutes and the November 30 2015 special called meeting minutes, all as written. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the agenda. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Poole reported that Building Inspector, Robert Smith is continuing to improve. He also stated that the Marshal, Gary Folsom, was improving and learning to use his new prosthetic. He reported that Elections Supervisor, Vaughn Gables wife was improving and that the Sheriff, Eddie Mixon was recovering well from his back surgery. He asked that everyone keep these folks in their prayers.

Department Head Reports

Commissioners Office, Alison Palmer. Mrs. Palmer reported on the activities in the office at this time of year. Business License renewals have gone out. The staff is preparing for the end of year reporting that is required by the state and federal governments for employee reporting, contractor reporting and Immigration reports. Currently, they are setting up the employees and dependents in the software system to be able to send out the new ACA reports to the federal government and the employees. Also, the 2016 trash stickers are now available, which requires verification of whether the resident lives in a city or in the unincorporated county.

Senior Programs, Rhonda McCoy.

Mrs. McCoy gave the board an overview of the programs and activities offered to the senior citizens on a regular schedule, such as aerobics, bible study, line dancing and the newest one, which is pickleball. She also reported on the day trips and overnight trips they have enjoyed and the ones that are planned for the future.

Chairman Poole stated that there was a petition at the senior center that was being circulated for signatures to go to the Board of Education requesting that they attempt to lower the school taxes on the senior citizens in the county.

Emergency Management (EMA), Chief Brian Walker.

Chief Walker stated that the county EMA is the department that is the direct contact with the Governor's office in case of storms or disasters, through GEMA. They are the ones responsible for the logistics and reporting to get the reimbursements when a disaster is declared that includes Haralson County. Also responsible for keeping up sirens, emergency plans, and quarterly reports that are required by the state. Haralson county receives approximately \$14,000 per year in state funding for this department.

Elections Superintendent, Vaughn Gable

Mr. Gable stated that they had recently worked with the school boards and their attorneys on the ESPLOST ballot and election. He stated that it passed but voter turnout was extremely low. Only about 16% voted. This special election cost approximately \$17,000. He said he has to follow state requirements for elections, no matter how large or small. He answered a question from the chairman regarding voters in the county. Mr. Gable stated that there are

approximately 13,500 active registered voters and 3000 inactive. Only 2100 participated in the ESPLOST vote. He gave the schedule for the upcoming year of elections beginning with qualifying during the first week of March 2016. He stated that all county positions would be up this year with the exception of a couple of commission districts and a couple of school board districts. He also reported that if anyone currently holding office, intends on running for a different position with a different term, then they needed to notify his office no later than January 1, 2016 so that qualifying for their current position could also be opened up in March. Otherwise, it would require a special election which would cost the county approximately \$17,000, also. He reported that the county primary would be May 24, 2016. If a runoff is required, it will be July 26, 2016 and then the General election will be November 8, 2016.

Public Participation on Agenda Items

Mr. Dewberry spoke regarding school taxes for seniors. Commissioner Bennett stated that the board had reached out to the BOE in the past with no results. She reminded everyone to think about who you vote for as school board representatives. Hubert Sparks, Chief tax appraiser, stated that the Board of Assessors had also reached out to the BOE regarding senior taxes and was informed that if they gave the seniors an exemption, the rest of the citizens would be overly burdened to make up the difference. Chairman Poole reminded everyone of the petition at the senior center and stated that he would ask to be allowed to speak at the next school board meeting on behalf of the senior citizens.

Item #1 - Consent Agenda

- (a) WARRS Memorandum of Understanding
- (b) Development Authority Board Reappointment of Danny Hutcheson
- (c) Region 1 EMS Board Reappointment of Chief Brian Walker
- (d) 2016 Budget Amendment #1
- (e) Procedures for Financial Administration of Grants

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Item #2 Airport Authority Board Vacancy

Chairman Poole nominated Bob Birky, a retired Atlanta Police helicopter pilot. He asked if there were any other nominations. There were none. Commissioner Robinson motioned to close nominations. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to appoint Bob Birky to the Airport Authority Board. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Item #3 - Haralson Board of Health Vacancy

None of the commissioners had any recommendations for this appointment. Chairman Poole asked everyone to explore any possibilities and bring ideas to the work session.

Item #4 - Possum Drop New Year's Eve Sponsorship

Commissioner Robinson stated that with the Peach Drop possibly not happening, the possum drop would possibly draw a much larger crowd than usual. The Board agreed that they would only sponsor one event per year, either the 4th of July fireworks or the Possum Drop. Since the county sponsored the 4th of July this year, they would not be able to do a second donation, however the board agreed that the City of Tallapoosa could use the recreation buses to shuttle people to and from the parking areas.

Item #5 - Convenience Center Sticker Price

The board had discussed this at the work session retreat in September. Chairman Poole stated that the average cost for the sanitation per sticker for the last couple of years is \$120. Since the cities opted out of helping pay for sanitation through taxes, Commissioner Robinson motioned for the cost of the convenience center stickers for the city residents to be set at \$120. The cost of the sticker to unincorporated residents would be free since their taxes help pay for that service. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Item #6 - Jail Project Guaranteed Maximum Price

Eric Johnson stated that the R K Redding Construction, Inc Guaranteed Maximum price of the construction of the jail was \$4,874,899. This includes a contingency amount for the owner and the general contractor to be used for any unexpected problems. This had been discussed and explained in detail to the BOC in the special called meeting held on November 30, 2015.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the GMP. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Public Participation on Non Agenda Items

David Greene spoke regarding a complaint he has against the West Georgia Mud Park and the noise nuisance to neighbors of the park. The board agreed to look into the matter and verify that the owners were abiding by all county ordinances and zoning.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
County Clerk