

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**JANUARY 3, 2017**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Allen Poole called the meeting to order. Ms. Sandi Couch offered the Invocation and the board led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Poole welcomed the new commissioners; District 1 Commissioner David Tarpley and District 3 Commissioner Donnie Ridley.

Chairman Poole stated that the minutes from the December meeting had been sent to the commissioners for review. He reminded everyone that there was not a December work session. He asked if there were any corrections, additions, or deletions to be made. There were none.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2016 meeting as written. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 3-0. Commissioners Tarpley and Ridley abstained since they were not in office at that time.

Chairman Poole asked if there were any changes the board wished to make to the agenda. Chairman Poole stated that he wanted to add a department head report from the new Transit Director, Bruce Poteat. Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Donnie Ridley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Poole stated that the audit had been completed and submitted to the state. He reported that there was only one finding and that was separation of duties within small departments. He had County Clerk Alison Palmer elaborate. Ms. Palmer stated that there are several small departments that have to collect money. There are not enough employees in these departments to be able to completely separate all the steps. She stated this will always be a finding for small jurisdictions. The response to the state is that the duties are separated as much as possible with the small number of employees available in that department.

Chairman Poole also reported that the TAN (Tax Anticipation Note) had been repaid as required by December 31<sup>st</sup> and also was a substantially lower amount than has been drawn in quite a few years. There was only \$500,000 drawn from the loan line.

**Department Head Report**

**Transit – Bruce Poteat** – Mr. Poteat stated that this transit program provides affordable transportation for any resident of Haralson County. He has been director since May 2016. Mr. Poteat gave some statistics showing the increasing number of runs the department is making.  
October 2015 - 507 runs, October 2016 – 561 runs  
November 2015 - 467 runs, November 2016 – 539 runs  
December 2015 - 504 runs, December 2016 – 625 runs

Mr. Poteat stated that our program provides transportation to people that have no other way to go, they are homebound. We take them to doctor's appointments, grocery stores, dialysis, etc. This service is a tremendous benefit to the people of Haralson County. Chairman Poole thanked Mr. Poteat for his report.

**Public Participation on Agenda Items**

None

**Item #1 – Proclamation celebrating the Birthdays of Robert E. Lee and Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson**

Chairman Poole read and presented the proclamation to Mr. Billy Bearden, Mr. Richard Boarts, Mr. James Tolbert, Mrs. Pam Tolbert and Mr. Kyle Clayton, who were all dressed in period clothes appropriate to that time. Mr. Bearden, Commander, thanked the board for the

Proclamation and urged everyone to come to the meetings of the Haralson Invincibles Camp 673. He stated that they loved to teach about the history of that time, not just the confederate history. Mr. Bearden quoted Robert E. Lee. After the war he said, "We failed (about the Confederate effort), but in the good providence of God, apparent failure often proves a blessing." Mr. Bearden went on to say that "we are here in America, all 50 states, we live in a great country."

#### **Item #2 – Appoint Vice Chair**

Chairman Poole motioned to appoint Commissioner Sammy Robinson as Vice Chair. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **Item #3 – Appoint County Attorney**

Chairman Poole motioned to reappoint the current attorney, Julie Cain. Commissioner Robinson seconded. Chairman Poole asked if there is any discussion. Commissioner Tarpley stated that he did not think it was fair to the new board members to be asked to appoint these positions in their first meeting, before they have a chance as a board to discuss all these appointments that are coming up on today's agenda. He feels like it is "highly unfair and probably not in the best interest of the board to do so."

Chairman Poole stated that the it has been the history that the board has always appointed the attorney and clerk at the first meeting of the year, and "with the history of these two appointments that we are making today, I think we do have a grasp on the type of work that the county attorney as well as the clerk have performed over the years." He went on to say "that these two appointments can be brought back up at any time because they serve at the pleasure of the majority of the board and if you don't feel like they are doing their job at that particular time, we can bring it up, we can discuss it and we can call for another vote. But, at this particular time, because these people are not new to the positions, I think that it is in the best interests of the board to go ahead and call the question."

Commissioner Ridley asked if these appointments are for a year and Chairman Poole stated that it is, but clarified that at any time these individuals are not performing to their likes, you have the opportunity to bring it back for another vote. Commissioner Tarpley stated that it is the history of the board to make these appointments today, "but it does not mean we have to continue like trends, just because we've always done something." He went on to say there is nothing that says we cannot postpone these appointments.

Chairman Poole stated there was a motion and a second on the floor and asked if there was any further discussion. There was none. Chairman Poole asked that all in favor of reappointing Ms. Cain as County Clerk and then corrected to County Attorney, vote by show of hands. The motioned carried 4-1, with Commissioner Tarpley opposed.

#### **Item #4 – Appoint County Clerk**

Chairman Poole asked if there was a motion to reappoint Ms. Palmer as County Clerk. Then he went on to say, "The county clerk has served in this capacity for the past 8 years and I think she does an excellent job. I would be remiss if I didn't think that she is doing an excellent job." Commissioner Robinson motioned to reappoint Alison Palmer as County Clerk. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 4-1, with Commissioner Tarpley opposed.

#### **Item #5 – Conflict of Interest policy**

We have not had a conflict of Interest policy, but Chairman Poole would like to put one in place. He does have a form for the Commissioners to sign when they abstain from a vote in order to avoid any potential appearance of conflict of interest in an item. Commissioner Ridley stated that he had one that needs to be discussed. County Attorney Julie Cain stated that she has discussed the contract for gas service with Commissioner Ridley that his company currently holds. She clarified that this contract had gone out to bid and been awarded prior to him

running for office. The county is continuing under a contract that was in place prior to him coming onto the board and it can be further discussed at the work session. Also, Mr. Ridley has a couple of retail establishments in the county that the county employees use, however, there is no requirement that they use them and there is no special services or anything like that. This can all be discussed at the work session so that the county can determine if they need to prohibit that.

For the record, Chairman Poole stated that if there are any votes for use of Commissioner Ridley's businesses, he can abstain or leave the meeting, if he so choose, so that it won't show a conflict. Ms. Cain stated that Mr. Ridley had been very forthright about this before coming onto the board.

After this discussion, Chairman Poole motioned to approve the use of the form for abstaining from a vote and in the future if anyone is abstaining from a vote, they will sign one of these forms. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **Item #6 – Tax Commissioner Letter of Authorization**

Chairman Poole asked Ms. Palmer to explain this item. She stated that this is basically a form that authorizes the Tax Commissioner to accept payments for taxes on behalf of the county governing authority. It also allows for the December interest to not be added until January to allow for processing mortgage company payments and payments received by USPS, UPS, and FedEx.

Commissioner Ridley motioned to approve the Tax Commissioner Letter of Authorization. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **Item #7 – Development Authority Board Appointments**

Chairman Poole stated that at the end of August 2016, the BOC was given a recommended slate of members for the board of the Development Authority. Chairman Poole opened the floor for nominations from the board. Commissioner Tarpley asked that the appointments be postponed until the board has had a chance to discuss, in a work session, the people on the board and any new nominations. Chairman Poole stated that he felt like the new commissioners could have recommended someone at any time, even though they had not been sworn in. Chairman Poole stated that he would take Commissioner Tarpley's disagreement as a motion to table this item until a later time. Commissioner Bennett seconded and stated that she was seconding because she saw two names of people that did not want to be returned to the board. Karen Higgins and Commissioner Kenneth Smith. She stated that she had spoken to Kenneth Smith directly. Chairman Poole stated that he had talked to Commissioner Smith and was told by him, that he would like to remain on the Development Authority Board. Chairman Poole stated that it is possible he has changed his mind. Eric McDonald stated that Karen would like to be replaced and Donnie Boswell stated that Kenneth Smith expressed to him that he would like to remain on the board.

Chairman Poole called the vote to table the Development Authority appointments until it could be discussed at the January 18, 2017 work session. The motion carried 3-2 with Chairman Poole and Commissioner Robinson opposed.

After the vote, County Clerk, Alison Palmer asked if Eric McDonald, Development Authority Executive Director, could be asked to the work session because the slate of current and recommended appointees is not very clear. Commissioner Tarpley stated that he did not think it would be necessary because the document that controls it would make it very clear. They can, but it is not necessary. Chairman Poole asked Eric McDonald and Donnie Boswell to be at the work session, in case there are any questions. Commissioner Bennett asked Ms. Cain if this could be discussed in a work session like a personnel issue since it is discussing people to be appointed.

## **Public Participation on Non Agenda Items**

None

Chairman Poole asked for comments from the board.

**Commissioner Tarpley** stated that he is thankful to be part of the board for the next 4 years. He looks forward to working with his colleagues. He said we all hold district positions but tread a fine line of taking care of their constituents as well as everyone in the county.

**Commissioner Bennett** stated that it is a new year and a new start and she plans to work with the board and hopes they can come to consensus and be united. The people expect them to step up and work together.

**Commissioner Ridley** thanked the people of Haralson County for giving him this opportunity and stated he will do his best.

**Commissioner Robinson** welcomed the two new members to the board, and stated that there are probably already looking for someone to replace you. Recommends "That you buckle up, hold on to your seat, pull that seat belt real tight, because you are going to be in for one hell of a ride!"

**Chairman Poole** gave a "shout out" to the Sheriff on the care of his new facility. He stated that the Sheriff and his staff are doing an excellent job.

**Chairman Poole** also gave a shout out to the fire chief and the water authority for dealing with the drought and the water flow. He also thanked the citizens for reducing consumption by 1 million gallons of water and he believes that God heard our prayers and rain is coming. He stated that the water board is working on some plans for the future. Commissioner Ridley asked for a report on water. Chairman Poole asked Chief Brian Walker to give an update.

**Chief Walker** stated that the water is flowing over the dam and more rain is coming, but if it stops again and does not rain good during the spring, the water level could go back down fairly quickly. He stated that the condition is critical but stable.

**Commissioner Ridley** also asked for a report on the progress from the meeting with the Governor. Chairman Poole stated that the county and water authority is working on prioritizing a list of possibilities for increasing our water, such as exploring the Cartersville Fault for possible well locations, expanding the Anniston connection; Cleburne County is also willing to increase their distribution to Haralson County, dredging Seabreeze Lake, etc. Chairman Poole stated that the Water Authority has appointed Dean Tanner as the new director.

**Commissioner Robinson** stated that he would like to thank the Sheriff for the tour of the new facility a few weeks ago. He complimented him on the condition of the new facility. He said he walked into the kitchen, and "you would have thought you were in Trump Tower, that's how clean that place was."

**Sheriff Mixon** thanked the board for the new facility. He said they have about settled in and appreciate their new facility.

Chairman Poole adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**FEBRUARY 7, 2017**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Allen Poole called the regular meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. The Invocation was offered by Mr. Parker and the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance. All commissioners were present with the exception of District 3, which is vacant.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the minutes for the three meetings held in January; Regular Meeting Minutes from January 3, 2017, Work Session Minutes from January 18, 2017, and Special Called Work Session Minutes from January 30, 2017. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Poole stated that an executive session needed to be added to the agenda for consultation with the county attorney regarding potential litigation. Commissioner Tarpley motioned to approve the agenda as amended to add an executive session. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Poole reported that the board had been in a couple of meetings with the cities regarding the negotiations of the Service Delivery Strategy update that is required as part of the 10 year comprehensive plan update. A second meeting is scheduled for this next Thursday. The public is welcome to attend.

**Public Participation on Agenda Items**

None

**Item #1 – FY 2016 Certified Audited Financial Report**

CPA Rick Hartley, presented the Certified Audited Financial Report (CAFR) to the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Hartley reported that the audit was performed by the firm of Will M. Robinson, CPA, P.C. The county received an unqualified opinion, a "clean opinion" which is the highest opinion you can receive. He stated that this report only listed one finding, which is the segregation of duties in the collection of monies in the very small departments. Not that there is anything wrong, just that the county does not have enough employees in some departments to be able to separate the duties completely. All small local governments have this finding. Mr. Hartley detailed the improvement of the findings over the past few years. He said that there were 8 findings in 2013; down to 4 in 2014 and now down to 1 for 2016. Mr. Hartley went on to break down the Revenues and Expenses and explain the fund balance.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to accept the FY 2016 CAFR. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

### **Item #2 – Building Codes Update**

Chairman Poole stated that these updates are periodically recommended by the state. The county must adopt the codes to be in compliance with state regulations. He said this is just a formality. Building Inspector, Robert Smith, stated that these are amendments to the state codes. He said there are no major changes, just updates such as no sprinkler systems in homes, new codes for decks, etc. Commissioner Bennett asked if the county was already in compliance to these codes. Mr. Smith stated that we were already following these updated codes. Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the Building Code Update. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

### **Item #3 – Development Authority Appointment Process Resolution**

County Attorney Julie Cain presented a proposed resolution from Eric McDonald, Development Authority Director for the process of appointing Development Authority Board members. This revises the original process. In this Resolution, there would be one member selected from each district, and then there would be 2 “at-large,” and the Chairman.

Commissioner Tarpley disagrees with this approach. He does not feel like the commissioners should have an unopposed appointment that is not selected by the whole board.

Commissioner Robinson stated that he feels like each commissioner should have the ability to choose the person from their district that they feel will best represent their district.

Commissioner Tarpley stated that he feels like all the nominees should be put in the pot and discussed and selected by the whole board. He went on to state that he did not believe county employees or elected officials should be allowed on the board either.

Chairman Poole stated that the BOC had always had a member on the Development Authority Board as liaison. He stated that as long as the nominee has the best interests of the county in mind, then he did not think it made a difference if they were elected, employees, or on other boards also.

Eric McDonald stated that the board needs to decide on: residency requirements of a district, chairman or his designee or a commissioner and terms.

Commissioner Bennett stated that she likes the district representation, because she knows she has qualified people in her district that she can seek out, talk to, find out what they bring to the table and could decide if this person will help take us to a higher level. She would expect each of the commissioners to make their selections carefully also.

There was some confusion as to the number of appointees needed now and what their terms would be.

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to table this item and further discuss this at the next work session. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**Item #4 – Fire Truck Lease**

Helen Wilson gave the terms, payment, etc. for the purchase of 3 fire trucks. Total cost of \$803,000. Down payment of \$110,000 for a finance amount of \$693,000 for 48 months, which stays within the current SPLOST. After a discussion, Commissioner Bennett stated that she felt like this item needs to be put on hold until the Service Delivery and funding are finalized. She motioned to table this item and further discuss it at the work session. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**Item #5 – Executive Session**

Commissioner Robinson motioned to go into executive session. Commissioner Tarpley seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Bennett motioned to resume the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Poole stated that the board had reached a consensus to avoid possible litigation by turning the situation over to the county attorney.

**Public Participation on Non Agenda Items**

None

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

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
County Clerk

## HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 9, 2017

### SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Poole called the meeting to order. Police Chief Pesnell offered the Invocation. Chairman Poole led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Robinson was absent.

Commissioner Bennett was tardy.

The Mayors of all 4 Haralson County Municipalities were present along with other city representatives.

County Attorney, Julie Cain, stated that she had divided the services into categories according to whether they were resolved or not at the last meeting.

Sam Price gave a rundown of how the SDS came into being.

#### Need Clarification

- Library – Market the Library as the Haralson County Library to the entire county. Get clarification from the Historical Society as to what historical documents are housed there.
- Inmate Medical - \$35/day. First day free. Cities pay medical. Jail personnel will make great efforts to notify of any medical issues so that the cities can release them out of the facility.
- County Police – Not at this time.
- Probation – break into county and municipal.

#### Further Discussion

- Seniors – Bremen and Tallapoosa feel this should go into a SSD.
- Elections/Voter Registration – Perry Hicks recommended an IGA, which includes payment, for the County to take over Municipal elections and registrations. We will have the registrar meet with the cities to discuss details, cost, etc.
- Sanitation – Mayor Sewell wants to leave this as a SSD. Get the tonnage from the landfill that Waste Industries brings in from the cities and see what the amount would be to add that to the sanitation budget. Possibly add back wood and metal bins to the convenience centers.
- Parks and Recreation – Chairman Poole says the county considers this a county wide service. Perry Hicks said the facility benefits only the unincorporated. Tallapoosa and Bremen feel like this should stay in a SSD. If someone from the city participates, charge them a higher fee. Julie Cain recommended renting the county facilities to cities for overflow during tournaments.  
Matt Cody, Bremen Recreation Director. There is already a cooperative spirit among the recreation departments. He thinks the County facility is a dream land. Would love to work together.
- Roads – Mayor Sewell wants a guarantee that the county will use a portion of the road department budget in the cities. Mayor Bridges feels like the cities should be given a road maintenance program from the county. Mayor Sewell asked the county to pave South Georgia Avenue. Sam Price said maybe the county could undertake a few roads as a part of the county road system. Such as Shedd Rd, Waddell Rd, Steadman Rd. Patrick suggested the county come out and work a couple of dirt roads in Tallapoosa,

mow the ditches and put some gravel. County wide and county will take requests for assistance by the cities.

- Fire – Tallapoosa becoming part of the Fire SSD for the upcoming year. HC can cover any of the unincorporated citizens self-sustained. Chief Entekin stated that Bremen is not self-sustainable for required ISO water flow. He said both departments work great together. Auto Aid is a benefit to the citizens and city of Bremen. Commissioner Tarpley stated that Bremen is as much a benefit to the county as the county is to Bremen. Perry Hicks stated that Bremen has Automatic Aid with Carroll County and does not have to have Haralson to provide for their citizens.

After more discussion, Julie Cain stated that the county needs the tonnage numbers from the cities. Then, the county will put together their proposal and send it to the cities for their review.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by Alison Palmer |  
County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**FEBRUARY 15, 2017**  
**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Poole called the Special Called Meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. Sandi Couch offered the Invocation and the Commissioners led the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present with the exception of District 3 which is vacant.

**Item #1 – Approval of the Comprehensive Plan Update 2017-2027**

Chairman Poole stated that this update had been underway for over a year. The Plan is a collective effort of the county, cities, Development Authority and business leaders of the community. This update was led by Northwest Georgia Regional Commission and is something everyone has to do every 10 years.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the 2017-2027 Comprehensive Plan update. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Bennett recommended having a meeting in each district to relate the contents of this plan to the citizens of the county. This could be combined with educating the community on the details of the Service Delivery Strategy and the effects it would have on everyone.

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

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING  
FEBRUARY 23, 2017**

The Special Called Meeting was called to order by Chairman Poole. The Invocation was offered by Greg Dewberry. The Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Poole welcomed everyone. Commissioner Robinson and Commissioner Tarpley were present. Commissioner Bennett was absent. District 3 is vacant.

The following individuals were heading up the representation of their respective cities:

Mayor Johnny Pope – Buchanan

Mayor Sharon Sewell – Bremen

Phillip Eidson, Tallapoosa City Manager

**Item #1 – Service Delivery Strategy**

County Attorney Julie Cain stated that Bremen City Attorney Sam Price had sent a list of questions regarding the county's SDS proposal that was sent out on Monday.

- A. Community Services – Senior programs. Clarification was made that the county's program is offered county wide and Bremen and Tallapoosa would provide more in depth programs in their cities which would be funded by Municipal funds.
- B. Planning and Zoning – question was regarding the wording of the funding source, *"or from any other unincorporated revenue source as established by General Law by the General Assembly of the State of Georgia where such revenues are established or distributed by on unincorporated population or area."* County Clerk, Alison Palmer, explained that these were the revenues that had been used in SSD's that were received only for unincorporated numbers, such as the county's portion of energy excise tax, Alcohol excise, Bank franchise fees, county portion of Railroad equipment fees, etc. Sam Price asked, So, the revenues that the cities have already agreed for the county to use. Alison stated yes and any future revenues that the county receives solely based on unincorporated population or area. This was clarified for all the Special Service Districts.
- C. Elections – Municipal. Alison stated that this was worded to address any city choosing to have the county take over their municipal elections in the future. Agreement for payment for this service would be through IGA.

- D. Fire and Emergency Rescue – This was clarified to state that Tallapoosa’s current Automatic Aid IGA terminates June 30, 2017, at which time Tallapoosa has decided to become a participant in the Special Service District for Fire and Emergency Rescue effective July 1, 2017. Alison Palmer clarified to City Manager Philip Eidson that this meant Tallapoosa residents would pay the same SSD fire tax for the Automatic Aid that the unincorporated citizens would be paying and that it could change from year to year. Mr. Eidson stated that he understood that point.
- E. Inmate Housing was clarified. The county will house Municipal Inmates per and IGA. Cost will be \$35/day, 1<sup>st</sup> day free and City will pay Inmate Medical costs. The cities will pay the county for this service using Municipal funds.
- F. Libraries – The cities were asking if there is a funding amount from the county for the Buchanan Haralson Public Library at which point, the funds would then be divided equally among the 3 county libraries. Chairman Poole said, No.
- G. Parks and Recreation – funding phrase was clarified earlier for all SSD’s.
- H. Sanitation – after a discussion, it was decided that this would remain a Special Service District with only the Unincorporated, Buchanan, and Waco participating. Tallapoosa and Bremen residents will have to pay an additional fee to use the convenience centers.

The Board of Commissioners scheduled a Special Called Meeting for Monday, February 27, 2017 at 9:00 AM to vote on the Service Delivery Strategy Plan.

After all questions had been addressed, the idea of quarterly meetings between the cities and the county were discussed. Several people thought this would be a good idea and would help clear up changes or issues early on, instead of only during SDS and Comprehensive Plan update years. The first meeting was set for April 6, 2017 at 4:00 PM at the Commissioner’s Office.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to adjourn.

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**FEBRUARY 27, 2017**  
**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES**

The Special Called Meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Poole.

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

Commissioner Bennett was absent due to a communication failure from the Commissioner's office and District 3 is vacant.

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to waive the reading of the minutes of the previous meetings in February until the March meeting. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the agenda. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

**Item #1 – Service Delivery Strategy Update 2017-2027 Resolution**

Chairman Poole stated that every 10 years, we have contentious negotiations with the cities regarding delivery of services to the citizens of the county. This was negotiated in 2014 and now again. He does not think the unincorporated citizens are being treated judiciously. He stated that this document attempts to make things right, but will still impact the unincorporated citizen the most.

Commissioner Tarpley stated that he believes this is a fair document; a tremendous burden on the unincorporated citizen, however, that burden has been shared by the municipalities until now. He went on to say this is not a document that should divide the county and municipalities. We as commissioners have to do number crunching in the budget and try to keep the quality of service at an affordable level.

Commissioner Robinson stated that he does not like the fact that the cities meet without the county and then try to bulldoze over the county to get what they want. They accuse the county of not working together when they are the ones who are not working with us. He went on to say that he is not crazy about this agreement, but will support it.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the Service Delivery Strategy Update 2017-2027. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
County Clerk

## HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MARCH 7, 2017

### REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Allen Poole called the Regular Meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. Mike Daniel offered the Invocation and the Commissioners led the Pledge.

Commissioner Robinson stated that the Chamber of Commerce was video recording the meeting. Eric McDonald stated that it was being live streamed on Facebook.

Chairman Poole noted for the record that all commissioners were present with the exception of District three which is vacant.

#### **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Poole stated that there were quite a few sets of minutes from February that had been sent to the commissioners for review. He asked if there were any changes to be made. Commissioner Tarpley stated that he thought it should be noted in the February 23, 2017 minutes that the cities were represented at this meeting also. Alison Palmer, County Clerk stated she would add that to the minutes.

It was also noted for the record that due to a breakdown in communications, Commissioner Bennett was not notified about the February 27, 2017 Special Called meeting and therefore was absent. Mrs. Palmer apologized for that issue.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the following sets of minutes with the amendment to the February 23, 2017 minutes:

*Special Called Work Session – February 2, 2017*

*Regular Meeting – February 7, 2017*

*Special Called Work Session – February 9, 2017*

*Special Called Meeting – February 15, 2017*

*Work Session – February 15, 2017*

*Special Called Meeting – February 23, 2017 (after amending to include note of the city representatives)*

*Special Called Meeting – February 27, 2017*

Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

#### **Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Tarpley stated that there were several items he would like to add for discussion and updates. After a brief discussion, it was determined that these would be addressed during the Chairman's Report.

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

#### **Department Reports**

- DFACS – Susan Ollis, Interim Polk/Haralson Director and Robin Forston.  
*Ms. Forston* began with an overview of the Foster Care Program in Haralson County and the desperate need for help and more Foster families. She stated that there are currently 96 children from Haralson County in Foster Care. Only 16 spots in Haralson for children. They are fortunate to have approximately 45% of children's relatives step up to take children in, but the rest are sent to different areas of the state. She also reported that there are 25 other ways to help kids in need besides opening homes to them. She left information on

the foster program.

*Ms. Ollis* reported on the “Safe to Sleep” program. This is a program that educates the public on safe Infant sleep practices. She also left information about this program.

- Recreation – Johnny Williams, Director and Mike Daniel, Assistant Director.

*Mr. Williams* first reported on the upcoming programs that have been scheduled along with several events they are negotiating. These include a 5K run/walk on April 1, 2017, a 10 year old girls Dizzy Dean tournament, the Kiwanis Bowl tournament, baseball/softball starting, and possibly a travel ball tournament in the fall.

*Mike Daniel* reported that they had reached out to CAM Sports and USAA Sports to get put on their list to host tournaments. He said that part of the problems here are the lack of accommodations and restaurants to handle the larger events. Mr. Daniel went on to say they are currently working on the details for a soccer program and that they had offered an adult basketball program that did not work out. He also said that they are able do more now that the sod on the fields is established.

Commissioner Robinson complimented the Recreation staff on the cleanliness and good maintenance of the facility.

Commissioner Tarpley discussed specific numbers with them and how many participants from Bremen and Tallapoosa.

Mr. Williams stated that they need to get the approved safety mulch under the playground pretty quickly because the baseball games are about to begin. Since there are no remaining funds in SPLOST for the project, County Clerk Alison Palmer recommended selling plaques for the eight iron benches that are placed around the perimeter for \$500 each. These could be to honor or in memory of someone. She said she would commit to one and there was already someone else who would commit. Commissioner Robinson stated that he would install them at no charge. Mike Daniel stated that they had also discussed hanging banners around the field for a sponsorship fee. It was decided that the Recreation department would purchase the banner after a sponsor had paid, so that all of them would be the same size, quality, etc.

### **Chairman’s Report**

Chairman Poole stated that the work session was going to be moved to March 22<sup>nd</sup> to allow the newly elected commissioner to participate in the discussion. He also stated that the July Regular meeting needed to be changed to July 11, 2017 since the regular day is the holiday. He reminded everyone that beginning in April, the regular meeting time goes back to 6:00 PM. Everyone agreed with the recommended changes.

### **Public Participation on Agenda Items**

None

### **Project Updates**

Chairman Poole stated that the grading at the school bus barn site was nearly complete and the road department would be working, as possible, at the site for the fire burn tower/sheriff qualifying range/animal control site.

The chairman also gave updates on some state legislation. He stated that the TAVT update passed, the “Lame Duck” bill failed and the 911 bill regarding prepaid wireless fees was still being debated.

Commissioner Tarpley asked about the convenience centers. He said that he was told that garbage was piling up at all of the centers. Chairman Poole stated that the truck had been broken down and was supposed to be repaired as of yesterday.

Commissioner Tarpley also mentioned that previous Commissioner Vance Posey has had a stroke and asked everyone to remember him.

Commissioner Tarpley also asked if the Inmate agreement had been finalized. Julie Cain, County Attorney, stated that the agreement was nearly finalized, just a couple of small details that had to be ironed out. It has gone to the sheriff and the cities to review.

**Fire Training Site** - Chairman Poole gave an update on the scope of the fire training tower site. He stated that this is going to be a burn tower, a small area for the sheriff's employees to do their qualifying and an enclosure for large animals (horses, cows,) to be held temporarily by animal control.

The burn tower will consist of conex boxes stacked to make a tower. These will come from the railroad for a minimal cost. The firing range will not be a full fledged firing range, just a small area for the sheriff's employees to use to qualify. A discussion followed as to whether this "firing range" had been discussed with the city of Buchanan or the citizens.

There was quite a bit of incorrect information about this site. A discussion followed with questions and answers to try to clarify each of the items.

**Internet** - Commissioner Tarpley asked about Internet for the Unincorporated area. Chairman Poole stated that he had been in several meetings with NWGRC, ACCG, etc. to try to open up the Digital Economy for Haralson County and other rural areas throughout the state. No funds have been spent at this time on this project.

Commissioner Bennett stated that this would also require citizen initiative to get internet to their locations. The county is not the only ones that needs to be calling providers such as AT&T.

**Roads** – Chairman Poole stated that a bill was in the legislature that would allow the local governing authority to pass up to a 1 cent sales tax to be used strictly for transportation issues.

Commissioner Tarpley asked what the benefit of the facility being built for the fire/sheriff/Animal control would be to the citizens. He stated that the road department was working over there instead of on the roads. He felt this cost would be better used on the roads in the county.

Chairman Poole stated that it would help lower the ISO rating which would be a benefit for the citizens because it will lower their homeowner's insurance premiums. Commissioner Tarpley stated that it was not guaranteed to lower the ISO. He also reported that currently if Animal Control had to pick up large animals, they had to find a private homeowner to allow them to be kept in their pastures.

**Job Descriptions** - Commissioner Bennett asked if all the Job descriptions had been turned in to the Commissioner's Office. Alison replied that there were a couple outstanding and that most of the elected officials chose not to turn theirs in to the commissioners. They had them in their files if they are needed. Commissioner Bennett stated that we need to set one more deadline and if department heads were not complying with deadlines, they need to be brought before the board and written up for insubordination.

**Budget Requests** - Alison stated that budgets are due to be turned in by March 15, 2017. After all budget requests are received, they will be input into the computer and budget hearings will be scheduled.

**Daniel Sims, GBI Commander of the Haralson Paulding Drug Task Force**

Commander Sims stated that he is the GBI Special Agent in Charge of the Haralson Paulding Drug Task Force. He stated that it is one of the most successful multijurisdictional task forces in the state of Georgia. They are in financially good shape. He stated that funds, vehicles, etc.

come back to the county through forfeitures and seizures to the county and the District Attorney.

Commissioner Bennett asked Mr. Sims what the DTF actually does. He stated that they follow up on all kinds of drug related activities through word of mouth, anonymous tips and from law enforcement discovering things. He said he has had a little bit of a slow start here because when he took over, two veteran officers were being transferred of the task force and two new officers were sent to the task force from the sheriff. The new officers are in training and paired with veteran officers.

Chairman Poole asked if the commissioners could go talk to the commander one on one if they wanted to and he responded, yes, he would be happy to talk to them.

Commissioner Bennett stated that she would like to have the DTF report on their successful operations so that the public knows what a drug task force does. To compare us to Paulding and know you are working almost as many cases here as in a county of that size, makes us realize just how much you are doing for our county.

Commissioner Robinson stated that he appreciates what the task force does. He said he cannot understand why the nation cannot get a handle on the drug problem is beyond him. Mr. Sims stated "that it is difficult, because where there is a supply, there is a demand."

Commander Sims gave several statistics such as

- 18% of individuals between the age of 18 and 30 are recreational drug users
- every year the legalization of marijuana comes up in the Georgia Legislature and there are already states that have legalized marijuana which brings a whole new litany of problems
- he said the problem of drugs is not getting better, it is getting worse.
- illegal drugs cost the nation \$600 Billion per year, placing a huge burden on government
- 90% of theft is attributable to drugs

#### **Item #1 – Holiday Change Recommendation**

Chairman Poole stated that he would like to recommend a one time change to the holiday calendar. He suggested switching from November 10<sup>th</sup> for Veterans Day as the paid holiday to July 3<sup>rd</sup> since it is a Monday. This will give the employees a 4 day weekend and since Veterans day is actually Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, everyone can still attend events commemorating our Veterans.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to make the one time change to the employee's holiday schedule. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Robinson stated that he had read a recent article in the paper that quoted a Bremen City Council member as saying "he doesn't trust the Board of Commissioners." Commissioner Robinson took offense and asked the county attorney to find out what the man was talking about. Commissioner Tarpley stated that Mr. Crawford's statement was not the thoughts of the Mayor or the rest of the council. He stated that Mr. Crawford's term is up and Bremen wants the county and it's cities to work together.

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

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MARCH 22, 2017**  
**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Allen Poole called the Special Called Meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. Commissioner Bennett offered the Invocation and the Commissioners led the Pledge of Allegiance.

All Commissioners were present. Commissioner Elect Ronnie Ridley was present, but unable to participate until he is officially sworn in to office.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to waive the reading of the previous meetings minutes until the next Regular Meeting. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

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

**Item #1 – ACCG Lease/Purchase Resolution for Purchase of Fire Trucks**

This item was discussed in the work session prior to this meeting. Commissioner Tarpley stated that he could not vote for this because he felt like it was an “open ended check.” He said that the commissioners had not read the entire lease. County Clerk, Alison Palmer, stated that the total cost of the two trucks is \$528,768, which includes discounts for payment up front and a discount from Pierce Manufacturing for being “piggy backed” onto a large purchase from a municipality in Florida. Haralson County will make a down payment of \$111,350 and the balance to be financed is \$417,418. Payments of \$27,279.45 per quarter will be made for 4 years, which will correspond with the end of SPLOST 6. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the Resolution for the Lease/Purchase of 2 Fire Trucks from Pierce Manufacturing for \$528,768. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 3-1, with Commissioner Tarpley opposed.

**Item #2 – Inmate Housing Intergovernmental Agreements**

The terms of the IGA’s for housing municipal inmates has been agreed upon and after approval by the Board of Commissioners will be ready for implementation. The cost is \$35 per day, with the first day free. The city will be responsible for their inmate’s medical care. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the Inmate Housing IGA’s. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

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

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**APRIL 4, 2017**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Poole called the Regular Meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners. He welcomed the newly elected District 3 Commissioner, Ronnie Ridley. E-911 Director Cathy Thompson offered the Invocation and the board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Poole stated that the commissioners had received the minutes of the three March meetings to review. Chairman Poole asked if there were any changes or corrections to be made to the minutes. There were none. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2017 Regular meeting, the March 22, 2017 Work Session and the March 22, 2017 Special Called Meeting as written. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Poole asked if the commissioners had any changes to the agenda. Commissioner Tarpley stated that he would like to strike item #5, the Resolution for making appointments to Boards and Authorities. Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 3-2 with Commissioner Robinson and Commissioner Ridley opposed.

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Poole asked everyone to keep Rhubarb Jones family in their prayers and stated what a loss this is to the county. He recommended cancelling the joint city/county meeting on Thursday so that everyone will be able to attend the services for Mr. Jones at Mill Town Music Hall. This will be rescheduled.

Prior to going into the first agenda item, Commissioner Robinson asked for clarification on the item that was removed from the agenda. Chairman Poole stated that this was the Resolution that Commissioner Tarpley had created that was an "umbrella" resolution to cover all appointments. After clarification, the agenda was again voted on and was unanimously approved as amended.

**Public Participation on Agenda Items - None**

**Item #1 – E911 National Telecommunications Dispatchers Resolution**

Commissioner Bennett read and presented the Proclamation to 911 Director Cathy Thompson. She thanked the department for their excellent service to the county.

**Item #2 – Confederate History Month Proclamation**

Chairman Poole read and presented the proclamation to Mr. Billy Bearden, Mr. Boarts and Mr. Forrister, who were all dressed in appropriate period clothing. Mr. Bearden stated that the group had researched the last living Confederate Veteran in Haralson County. He said it was fitting that it was the Great, Great Grandfather of Sheriff Eddie Mixon. He told the time and location of their meetings and invited everyone to come learn some of the history of Haralson County.

**Item #3 – Executive Session**

Commissioner Robinson motioned to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Poole stated that it was to discuss a personnel issue.

Upon returning, Commissioner Robinson motioned to go back into the regular meeting. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Poole stated that a personnel issue was discussed and no action was taken.

#### **Item #4 – Handbook – Hiring Procedure Clarification**

County Clerk, Alison Palmer, explained that this was to make the hiring procedure and the Equal Employment Opportunity Procedure in the handbook the same process. The change is that job opportunities will be posted at the Commissioner's Office and to the current employee base first and then on the Website. Then if there are no qualified applicants, it can be advertised in the Gateway Beacon. This was discussed at the March work session.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the Hiring Procedure update. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **Item #5 – Removed**

#### **Item#6 – Development Authority Board Appointment Process Resolution**

County Attorney, Julie Cain, explained that this resolution calls for a member from each district to be nominated by that district commissioner and 3 "at-large" members. If the board cannot agree to the nominee from the district commissioner, another person from that district will be nominated. Nominations for the "at-large" seats can come from the Development Authority board, from citizen input, or from a commissioner. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve this version of the Development Authority Appointment Process Resolution. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

#### **Item #7 – Development Authority Board Appointments**

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to appoint Danny Hutcheson, whose term has not expired, to an "at-large" position until April 2019. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

District 1 – Commissioner Tarpley nominated Dobson Harris. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

District 2 – Commissioner Bennett nominated Gary Broadstreet. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

District 3 – Commissioner Ridley nominated Donnie Boswell. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

District 4 – Commissioner Robinson nominated Pete Bridges. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Poole nominated Richard Davis for an "at-large" position. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

For the last "at-large" position,  
Commissioner Tarpley nominated Kenneth Smith.  
Commissioner Bennett nominated Bobby Mehan.  
Commissioner Ridley nominated Jerry Luckey.  
Chairman Poole nominated Larry Hutcheson.

Chairman Poole called for the vote.

Kenneth Smith – 1 vote, Comm. Tarpley

Bobby Mehan – 1 vote, Comm. Bennett

Jerry Luckey – 2 votes, Comm. Robinson and Comm. Ridley

Larry Hutcheson – 1 vote, Chairman Poole

After reconsideration, Commissioner Bennett retracted the nomination of Bobby Mehan and Chairman Poole retracted the nomination of Larry Hutcheson.

Chairman Poole called for another vote.

Kenneth Smith, 3 votes. Chairman Poole, Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Tarpley  
Jerry Luckey, 2 votes. Commissioner Ridley and Commissioner Robinson.

Therefore, Kenneth Smith is the final “at-large” member.

The Development Authority Board is as follows:

District 1 – Dobson Harris, 4 year term ending April 30, 2021

District 2 – Gary Broadstreet, 4 year term ending April 30, 2021

District 3 – Donnie Boswell, 4 year term ending April 30, 2021

District 4 – Pete Bridges, 4 year term ending April 30, 2021

At Large – Danny Hutcheson, 2 year term ending April 30, 2019

At Large – Richard Davis, 2 year term ending April 30, 2019

At Large – Kenneth Smith, 2 year term ending April 30, 2019

#### **Item #8 – Hospital Authority Board Appointments**

The Hospital Board sent a letter to the commissioners detailing whose terms were ending that do not want to be reappointed. They also sent a list of names of individuals who have expressed an interest in serving on the board. They are as follows:

Wiley Bowman

Lynn Clarke

Martha Smith

Commissioner Robinson motioned to accept the slate of nominees from the Hospital Authority Board. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

#### **Department Reports**

E911, Cathy Thompson

UGA Extension, Dorothea Graham

Permits, Robert Smith

#### **Public Participation on Non Agenda Items – None**

Commissioner Robinson motioned to adjourn. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by Alison Palmer

County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 18, 2017**

Chairman Poole called the Special Called Meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. All Commissioners were present. Greg Dewberry offered the Invocation and the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to waive the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting on April 4, 2017 until the next regular meeting. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Item #1 – Rezoning Request, David and Lora Lepley. Tax Map 102-32. From A-1 to Conditional Use as an Event Venue.**

The Haralson County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing prior to the Special Called Meeting regarding this rezoning request. The Lepley's were in attendance and told the commissioners that they would mostly be using the venue for weddings, but could also have family reunions, meetings, etc.

The Planning and Zoning Board held a hearing on March 21, 2017. All the proper procedures have been followed. The Planning and Zoning Board recommended unanimously to grant the Conditional Use Zoning.

There were no opponents in attendance.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the Rezoning Request from A-1 to Conditional use for the parcel, Tax Map 102-32. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Poole motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
County Clerk

## HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MAY 2, 2017

### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Poole called the Regular Meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. Greg Dewberry offered the Invocation and the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Poole noted that all the Commissioners were present.

**Approval of previous meeting minutes.** Commissioner Bennett asked that the April 18, 2017 Work Session minutes be clarified regarding her position on the Road Closure discussion. She stated that she did not just vote no, but thought it did not need to be taken on as a large project at this time. She stated that this has been discussed numerous times over the past few years.

Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the April 4, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes, the April 18, 2017 Work session minutes as amended, and the April 18, 2017 Special Called Meeting minutes. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Approval of Agenda.** Commissioner Ridley motioned to postpone Item #7 – Water Authority Appointments until they could be further discussed. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Tarpley asked if the Bremen/Haralson Fire Automatic Aid would be discussed. Commissioner Robinson asked to have that put on the May 2017 work session agenda. Chairman Poole stated that the Water Authority appointments would also be put on the work session agenda.

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

#### **Chairman's Report**

Chairman Poole stated that he had just returned from the ACCG Annual Conference in Savannah. He said the President had presented his initiative for the year, Rural Broadband Connection. He stated that this is very important for all of rural Georgia. He also stated that the legislature had approved a TSPLOST which the citizens can vote for an additional sales tax up to 1 cent to use on transportation needs.

Commissioner Robinson extended congratulations to Chairman Poole, who was sworn in as ACCG President at the annual convention. Commissioner Robinson said this is a big honor for Haralson County and for Chairman Poole.

#### **Public Participation on Agenda Items – None**

#### **Item #1 – Foster Parent Appreciation Proclamation**

Commissioner Bennett read and presented the Proclamation to Robin Forston, Foster Parent recruiter for Haralson and Polk Counties, Susan Ollis, DFACS Director, and Dwayne Yarbrough, one of Haralson County's Foster Parents. Ms. Forston stated that Haralson County desperately needs foster parents and stated that there are many other ways to help with the program also. She said they need approved baby sitters to provide time for Foster parents to have a day out, monetary donations for clothes, toys, etc., and many other ways.

#### **Item #2 – Employee Health Insurance**

Marcy Heath, our Insurance Broker, reminded the commissioners of the Humana Renewal quote of \$672 per month per employee and the Blue Cross Blue Shield quote which was higher for a reduced benefit. Ms. Heath stated that Cigna had offered two different insurance plans with very good premiums for Haralson County. Michael Jablow, from Cigna was asked to explain the two options. He stated that the two options are:

1. Level Funded –\$609.64 per month per employee – this is a partially self-insured plan. Your monthly premiums are broken down into three pots. One is for administration, one is a claim pool for all claims under \$50,000 and the other is for the insurance for claims that go over the

cap of \$50,000. At the end of the benefit year, any money left in the claim pool would be divided 50/50 between Haralson County and Cigna. If the claims for the year went over what was in the claim pool, then Cigna pays, not Haralson County.

2. Fully Insured – \$603.60 per month per employee - this is the same type of insurance that we currently have. All claims are fully covered by insurance. No return of premiums.

Mr. Jablow stated that there is a large Cigna network in this area. Cigna has been the state insurance provider frequently over the years and therefore the network is extensive throughout the entire state. He said Cigna has contracts with local facilities for prices lower than Humana. He also said that Cigna would put aside \$20,000 for use in the wellness program. These funds can be used to provide programs, incentives and rewards for the employees.

After the discussion, Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the Cigna Level Funding Option. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

### **Item #3 – DBHDD Region 1 Advisory Council Board Reappointment**

The DBHDD Board requested that Callie Hulseby be reappointed to the position on the board. They stated that she has been an active, beneficial member. Chairman Poole asked if there were any other nominations for this position. There were none. Chairman Poole motioned to close nominations. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bennett motioned to reappoint Callie Hulseby to the DBHDD Region 1 Advisory Board. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

### **Item #4 – DFACS Board Member Removal**

Chairman Poole stated that the county had received a request from the DFACS board to remove Chase Croft from the board. He has not attended any meetings in 2 years. Chairman Poole motioned to remove Chase Croft from the DFACS Board. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

### **Item #5 – DFACS Board Member appointments**

The DFACS board has two openings. Commissioner Tarpley nominated Dwayne McManus. He stated he had spoken to Mr. McManus and he is willing to serve.

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to appoint Dwayne McManus to the DFACS board. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Poole asked if there were any other nominations.

County Clerk, Alison Palmer, stated that a DFACS board member had recommended Captain Wade Williams, from the Sheriff's department. Captain Williams, who was in attendance, declined the nomination.

Chairman Poole motioned to table the second appointment until the next meeting. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

### **Item #6 – Tallatoona Board Member Appointment**

Chairman Poole has resigned from the Tallatoona board leaving an opening that must be filled with an elected official. Chairman Poole nominated Commissioner Jamie Bennett. Commissioner Bennett accepted. Chairman Poole motioned to close nominations. Commissioner Robinson seconded.

Chairman Poole motioned to appoint Commissioner Jamie Bennett to the Tallatoona Board. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Item #7 – Water Authority Board Appointments – Postponed for further discussion**

### **Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items – None**

Commissioner Robinson commended the Fire Department and law Enforcement for the work they do every day. He stated nobody has a clue what these people do. He stated that he came across them

working a house fire in Tallapoosa. One of the firemen busted the door and went into a burning house to try to rescue the resident. Unfortunately, it was too late, but that did not stop them from trying.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to adjourn. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 17, 2017**

Chairman Poole called the Special Called Meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. Commissioner Bennett was out of town and therefore unable to attend. Sandi Couch offered the Invocation and the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to waive the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting on April 4, 2017 until the next regular meeting. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Tarpley asked to amend the agenda by adding an Executive Session. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**Item #1 – Wellness Program Participation Requirements – Vote**

Alison Palmer, County Clerk, reviewed the level of participation discussed in the work session earlier in the day. Chairman Poole motioned to approve the Wellness Program Participation as discussed in the work session.

- If the employee does not reach the required level of participation by March 1, 2018, then they will have to pay 10% of their Health Insurance premium beginning April 1, 2018 for the next 12 months.
- If an adult dependent covered by the Health Insurance does not reach the required level of participation by March 1, 2018, then the employee will have to pay an additional 10% of the dependent coverage beginning April 1, 2018 for the next 12 months.
- If a participant cannot complete a requirement by March 1, 2018 because of the required 1 year and a day between wellness checks, then they will not be charged immediately. They will be required to bring in proof that this checkup has occurred by June 30 or the 10% penalty will be assessed in arrears back to April 1.

Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**Item #2 – Health Insurance Dependent Coverage Percentage Paid by Haralson County – Vote**

Chairman Poole motioned for the county to reduce the percentage of dependent coverage paid by the county to 40%. The employee will pay 60%. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**Item #3 – Executive Session**

Chairman Poole stated that the Executive Session is regarding a personnel issue. Commissioner Tarpley motioned to go into executive session. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to reconvene the Special Called Meeting. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Poole stated that the executive session was regarding a personnel matter and no action was taken at this time.

Chairman Poole motioned to amend the agenda a 2<sup>nd</sup> time to add the choice of provider of the county's Dental & Vision insurance. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**Item #4 – Dental & Vision Insurance Provider**

This item was also discussed in the work session earlier in the day. Chairman Poole motioned to change to Humana Dental and Vision Insurance from Ameritas due to improved benefits for the employees and dependents at equivalent cost. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Poole motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**JUNE 6, 2017**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Poole called the Regular meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. Ms. Sandra Tant offered the Invocation and the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

County Clerk called Commissioner Sammy Robinson by phone and put him on speaker phone so that he could participate in the meeting and everyone could hear him.

Chairman Poole stated that the commissioners had received the minutes for four the four meetings held in May to review. He asked if there were any corrections, additions or deletions. There were none. Commissioner Ridley motioned to approve the minutes of the following four meetings as written:

May 2, 2017 Regular Meeting

May 17, 2017 Work Session

May 17, 2017 Special Called Meeting

May 30, 2017 Retreat Work Session

Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

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

Chairman Poole asked Chief Appraiser, Huber Sparks to explain the assessment notices and the changes that have taken place.

Mr. Sparks explained how the Tax Assessors office is regulated by state laws and mandates that include all aspects of their job. There are regulations that determine how everything from assessments and appraisals are determined, appeals are handled, exemptions are calculated, etc. He stated that his office is evaluated by the State of Georgia every three years in great detail. Mr. Sparks went on to explain the big change in Haralson County is how land value is calculated. He stated that Haralson County Board of Assessors have been reluctant to begin valuation of land this way because it really does not fit Haralson County. It is determining value according to soil type. He explained that this is very important in South Georgia where the agricultural land soil type is a critical part of determining land value. He went on to say that sales prices are rising in the county and that is also a factor in determining Fair Market Value, which is what the assessments are based on, again by state law. Mr. Sparks gave several websites for citizens to refer to regarding their property assessments and the rules and regulations the assessors must follow. He reminded everyone that the appeal deadline is July 10, 2017 at 5 PM.

Chairman Poole asked Mr. Sparks to take a couple of short questions from the audience. There were none.

**Public Participation on Agenda Items – None**

**Item #1 – DFACS Board Appointment**

Chairman Poole stated that this had been discussed in a couple of work sessions and the DFACS board had sent three candidates who had stated they would be willing to serve. They are Bremen Police Chief Keith Pesnell, Pastor Melford Glass and Pastor Mark Stroud.

Commissioner Tarpley nominated Chief Keith Pesnell. Chairman Poole asked if there were any more nominees. The commissioners were all comfortable with any of these three nominees. Chairman Poole motioned to close nominations. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to appoint Chief Keith Pesnell to the DFACS Board. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

## **Item #2 – Haralson County Water Authority Board Appointments**

Chairman Poole reported that these appointments had also been discussed in the work session. Commissioner Tarpley asked to review the Posts and their terms. County Clerk Alison Palmer stated that 2 posts terms had expired. They are Post 1, Robert Smith, whose term should have expired December 31, 2015. The term for this Post should be January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2019, a four year term. The other expired term is Post 3, Amos Sparks. His post expired December 31, 2016. This term should run from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018. This Post is designated as a 2 year term. Ms. Palmer suggested that since the terms are different, the Board should take them one at a time for nominations and appointment. Chairman Poole opened the floor for nominations for Post 1, the one currently held by Robert Smith. Commissioner Tarpley nominated Corey Coats. Commissioner Bennett asked for clarification from the County Attorney and County Clerk because two individuals had approached her and expressed an interest in serving. One was Ray Smith and one was Bill Hightower. Alison responded that she could nominate one for each post since all posts are “at-large” nominees. Commissioner Bennett nominated Ray Smith. Chairman Poole nominated Amos Sparks. Commissioner Ridley nominated Greg Patterson. Commissioner Robinson nominated Robert Smith. Commissioner Bennett motioned to close nominations. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Commissioner Tarpley handed out a short biography on Corey Coats. He asked Commissioner Robinson if he had any questions since he couldn’t see it. He asked Commissioner Tarpley to read it out loud.

County Clerk Alison Palmer reiterated that this is for Post 1 with a term from January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2019. Chairman Poole called for the vote.

Corey Coats – Commissioner Tarpley, Commissioner Bennett  
Ray Smith – Commissioner Bennett. Alison reminded the board that they only get to vote one time for each Post. She suggested that they clear the slate and start over.

Chairman Poole called for the vote again.

Corey Coats – 2, Commissioners Tarpley and Bennett  
Ray Smith – 0  
Amos Sparks – 1, Chairman Poole  
Greg Patterson – 1, Commissioner Ridley  
Robert Smith – 1, Commissioner Robinson

Commissioner Bennett asked if the majority rules. Alison responded that a majority of the Board of Commissioners is always 3. Alison recommended removing Ray Smith since he had no votes and trying again. Commissioner Tarpley asked if they could nominate their person for the next Post if they did not get chosen for this one. Julie Cain, County Attorney, responded , “Yes.”

Corey Coats - 2, Commissioners Tarpley and Bennett  
Amos Sparks – 1, Chairman Poole

Alison reminded the board that we need 3 votes for one person in order to move forward.

Commissioner Bennett stated that the most qualified person is Mr. Coats and that she doesn’t know him, but don’t know why we are debating it.

Commissioner Ridley stated that his nominee is also very qualified and has more time.

Commissioner stated that this should be the decision. Vote on the 2 most qualified.

Commissioner Tarpley asked to vote again.

Commissioner Ridley stated that it wouldn’t have a different outcome.

Commissioner Tarpley asked Commissioner Ridley to vote for Mr. Coats this time and they would vote for Mr. Patterson next.

Commissioner Ridley asked, “Commissioner Tarpley, do you want to change your vote?”

Chairman Poole suggested that since they have to call a Special Meeting to vote on the budget, that this be postponed for further clarification. Commissioner Bennett suggested going into executive session to iron this out. County Clerk, Alison Palmer stated that this is not an allowable subject for a closed session. County Attorney, Julie Cain agreed.

Chairman Poole motioned to table this for further discussion at the work session. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Tarpley opposed.

### **Item #3 – Planning and Zoning Board Appointment**

Chairman Poole opened the floor for nominations. Chairman Poole nominated Phil Golden. Chairman Poole asked if anyone else had a nomination. There were none. Commissioner Ridley motioned to close nominations. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Poole motioned to appoint Phil Golden to the Planning and Zoning Board. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

### **Item #4 – Cancel Automatic Aid with Carroll County and Polk County**

Chairman Poole asked the County Attorney to explain this. Ms. Cain stated that this is cancelling automatic response to these two counties and replacing it with a Mutual Aid Intergovernmental Agreement. Chairman Poole motioned to cancel the automatic response agreements with Carroll County and Polk County. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Tarpley opposed.

### **Item #5 – Approve Mutual Aid Agreements with Carroll County and Polk County**

Commissioner Ridley motioned to approve the Mutual Aid Agreements with Carroll County and Polk County. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Tarpley opposed.

### **Item #6 – Intergovernmental Agreement with City of Temple for Haralson County Tax Commissioner to collect Taxes**

Chairman Poole explained that the former Tax Commissioner had an agreement with the City of Temple to collect taxes for them. Since we have a new Tax Commissioner, Sherri Mobley, we need to have a new agreement for them to continue this practice. Ms. Mobley is in agreement with the IGA. It involves very little money. Commissioner Ridley motioned to approve the IGA with Temple for the Haralson County Tax Commissioner to collect taxes for Temple. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

### **Item #7 – Intergovernmental Agreement with the Development Authority of Haralson County for bringing in Internet**

Chairman Poole explained that the current SPLOST had a provision for \$200,000 towards Internet Infrastructure. The county has explored several avenues, including contacting AT&T for help in bringing Internet to areas of the county that are not currently served. We have reached out to find an entity to try to bring Internet to the rural portions of the county. He stated that the commission had heard from a couple of people with suggestions that ended up not being viable alternatives. In 2016, the Chairman asked Mr. Dewberry to put out an email to try to help find someone who would assist the county with this endeavor. We have a lot of areas in the county that cannot access internet. This is an economic divide for education, economic development and even medical services. He asked Mr. Dewberry to see if we could find a company that could provide this service. We only received one response. It was from IWispr in Gordon County. We met with this company and went to Gordon County to try their services for ourselves. I am asking the board to allow us to join with the Development Authority to work with this company to bring Internet to the county. Alison Palmer outlined the Proposed Plan of Action from IWispr. It includes

- Design and build a heat map to determine the best frequency alignments for the proposed tower locations
- Obtain necessary easements, building permits, licenses etc.

- Build tower locations one at a time until they are all complete, approximately 24 months
- Goal is to have approximately 90% coverage based on population by 2020.
- Buy or rent a local retail space in one of the city centers, probably Buchanan due to its central location
- hire approximately 5 employees for customer service and installations.
- Target goal of 2500 customers in a 5-7 year period

Chairman Poole noted that the attorney that drew up the IGA is one of the most prolific in the state for these type of IGA's. Alison added that the IGA will have certain guidelines and requirements that IWispr must meet within 3 years. These will be very specific and detailed.

Commissioner Bennett thanked Assistant Superintendent Ridley for attending and asked him if the Board of Education would be willing to put up any funds? He stated that is a question for the school board.

Chairman Poole stated that the only funds we have committed at this time are the \$200,000 and IWispr has pledge approximately \$800,000.

Commissioner Tarpley stated that the Chairman's last comment concerned him. He stated that if they could not do the job for the money we have pledged, he did not want them coming back and saying it was going to cost more. Commissioner Tarpley went on to say that he had attended the Development Authority meeting with IWispr. He said the Development Authority board was hesitant because they needed direction from the Board of Commissioners. He said IWispr has not met with this board and he had trouble thinking this is the only company in Georgia that can provide this type of service. He said "he wants Haralson County to be the lead role in how Internet can be brought to rural counties, not the lead role in how not to do it." He went on to state that he was concerned that if this is the only county in the state doing this, how successful is it really going to be. Gordon County is the only county in Georgia that IWispr is working in and that is where they are located and the attorney that has prepared the IGA is their attorney. He said he has been cautioned on this type of service that shoots from high points. He is concerned whether they can even provide 90% coverage. He questioned the fact that they are intending on putting antennas on water towers and only building 2 towers. The Water Authority has not agreed to allow this, to his knowledge.

Chairman Poole stated that the only money that we will be putting up is the \$200,000. This company is willing to bring \$800,000 to the table for Haralson County. He stated there are other companies out there, but none of them stepped up to the plate.

Sandi Couch was one of the staff members that has been involved with this from the beginning. She stated that they have some big competition in their county. They are in conversations with Bartow County. She stated that she personally called several customers as an anonymous person and questioned them about the quality of their service from IWispr. Everyone had positive things to say about their IWispr service. Ms. Couch also stated that "they are going to lose their shirt if they don't make a go of this." It is in their best interests to make this work for Haralson County.

Commissioner Tarpley stated that SPLOST is down and even if the board votes to proceed with this, they need to cut the amount by 7-8%. He also stated that there is new technology coming into play and he wants assurance that we have done a good job in what we are choosing and that the equipment is not out of date when it goes in. Chairman Poole stated that this company had assured him that they update the equipment that they use as it changes. As a matter of fact this is newer technology than they are using in Gordon County.

Commissioner Bennett asked if the county attorney had reviewed the contract. She stated that she had reviewed the contract and had been in conference with Mr. McCrae. However, she reminded the board that she was not at the work session where this was discussed. Commissioner Bennett wants to make sure that if this company does not do what they say or

go out of business that Haralson County does not lose their investment. Ms. Cain stated that her understanding is that this is in the form of a grant to IWispr and the contract will have a clause about unearned grant funds. She stated that she had discussed this with Mr. McCrae and she knew the Development Authority had been involved and had reviewed the contract also.

Eric McDonald, Development Authority Executive Director, stated that one of the Development Authorities areas of expertise is structuring deals and this is why they are involved in this deal. The state constitution says you can't and the state constitution says we should." The IGA between the BOC and HCDA says, "We want you to go out and seek this public benefit in the form of rural internet access. We are going to give you \$200,000 to accomplish that goal." It then it outlines how we are going to use that and then this even specifies the company to use. We will go purchase \$200,000 worth of equipment and then lease it to the company for the next three years for \$10. At the end of the 3 year period, providing they have met the performance requirements, which will be negotiated, that will satisfy both sides, we will sell them the leased equipment for \$100. IWispr is estimating that their portion will be close to \$800,000.

After some comments from the audience, Chairman Poole called for a vote. Chairman Poole motioned to approve the IGA with the Development Authority to pursue Internet service for Haralson County residents. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Tarpley opposed. He stated that he is in favor of a project of this magnitude, but wants to make sure we have dotted our I's and crossed our T's.

#### **Item #8 – Executive Session**

Commissioner Ridley motioned to go into executive session. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Poole motioned to reconvene the regular meeting. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Poole stated that the executive session was regarding a personnel issue.

#### **Public Participation on Non Agenda Items**

The board heard from Mr. Grubbs regarding the increase in his valuation and taxes and he also spoke about senior school taxes and asked the board to look out for the senior citizens.

Commissioner Bennett motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**JULY 11, 2017**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Allen Poole called the regular meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. Commissioner Bennett offered the Invocation and the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Poole noted for the record that all the commissioners were present.

Chairman Poole stated that the minutes of the three meetings in June had been sent to the commissioners to review. He asked if there were any changes or corrections to be made. There were none. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the minutes of the following three meetings as written:

June 7, 2017 Regular Meeting

June 14, 2017 Retreat Work Session

June 21, 2017 Work Session

Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Poole asked if there were any changes to the agenda. There were none. Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the agenda as written. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Poole stated that he would reserve the right to speak later, but due to the length of the agenda, he did not have a report and there would be no departmental reports.

**Public Participation on Agenda Items**

None

**Item #1 – County Administrator**

Commissioner Tarpley stated that although he had not always felt this way, he has come to appreciate the staff in this office. However, he still feels that this county needs the expertise that an administrator would bring to the table. He said that the sole commissioner and traditional form of government is quickly going away. He went on to read the duties of an administrator from the ACCG guidebook. He also went on to detail the knowledge and personal traits this person should have.

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to create the position of County Administrator and hire someone to fill the position by January 1, 2018.

Commissioner Bennett seconded and went on to say that from her experience at Douglas County as assistant to the administrator and from research she supports this motion.

Chairman Poole stated that at this time he was not in favor of creating this position. He called for the vote. The motion failed 2-3 with Chairman Poole, Commissioner Ridley and Commissioner Robinson opposed.

**Item #2 – 2017-2018 Budget**

Chairman Poole stated that he was asking the board to vote on and approve the proposed budget, knowing you can amend it at any time. Then Chairman Poole motioned to approve the budget as proposed at \$15,067,396. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion.

Commissioner Bennett stated that it was her understanding that the board was going to look at the final FY 2017 numbers and decide on the budget after July 21<sup>st</sup>. Commissioner Tarpley agreed with Commissioner Bennett saying we left yesterday's meeting thinking we would have any questions answered between July 20<sup>th</sup> and the August 1, 2017 meeting to vote. They

budget that is requested is over \$1 million higher than last year's original budget. He stated he would not approve a \$15 million budget without seeing final numbers. Chairman Poole stated that we have been working on this budget since the first of April and then yesterday, one day before the vote, you come with many questions.

Commissioner Tarpley stated that the questions were not answered. You, the people, are hearing his concerns and the reason a County Administrator came up. He said that the ACCG handbook states you do not have to go through local legislation to have an administrator. He stated he could not vote for the budget.

Commissioner Ridley stated that he missed the opportunity to explain his vote regarding the administrator. "If we need a county administrator so bad, why do we need to put \$80,000 more in the budget and create another position? I am in business. The people I hire pay their own way and I make money off of them. I don't have to add money to my budget to add somebody else. That is why I voted no on the administrator."

Commissioner Bennett stated that she felt like we could get an administrator for less than \$80,000. She was not about to add \$80,000 to the budget. "I saw that position save money and make money as I worked in government. They can get the best prices; negotiate budgets with department heads, etc. That is a support staff person that will not cost \$80,000. It is no reflection against the job that our Chairman does, or our Clerk or anybody. My vote was for a support staff person to help this office. We don't have a finance director. We don't have a budget director. That's another position that all other counties our size have. Government has grown, times have changed. Two or three people can't do all these jobs. They would save enough money to pay for themselves.

Commissioner Robinson stated that at one point there was a discussion about, "just because other people do it, does not mean we have to do it. Just because other counties have those positions does not mean we have to have it.

Alison Palmer asked to clarify the \$80,000 amount. She said that this is not just the salary. This would be for salary, insurance, FICA, retirement, etc. She went on to state that it would cost the county that much to hire a person of that quality.

Chairman Poole stated there is a motion and a second to approve the proposed budget and called for the vote. The motion carried 3-2, with Commissioner Tarpley and Commissioner Bennett opposed.

### **Item #3 – Haralson County Water Authority Board Appointments**

Chairman Poole stated that there are two positions on the water authority board whose terms have expired. He referred to County Clerk, Alison Palmer, to give the specifics. She stated the first one is Post 1, with a term that should have run from January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2019. This is the post currently held by Robert Smith.

Chairman Poole opened the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Robinson nominated Robert Smith.

Commissioner Tarpley nominated Corey Coats.

Commissioner Ridley nominated Gary Patterson.

Commissioner Bennett motioned to close nominations. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Poole called for the vote.

Corey Coats – 2, Commissioner Bennett and Commissioner Tarpley

Robert Smith -2, Chairman Poole and Commissioner Robinson  
Gary Patterson -1, Commissioner Ridley

After conferring with the County Attorney Julie Cain and County Clerk Alison Palmer, he removed the nominee with the least votes, which was Gary Patterson and called the vote again.

Corey Coats - 2, Commissioner Bennett and Commissioner Tarpley  
Robert Smith -3, Chairman Poole, Commissioner Ridley and Commissioner Robinson

Robert Smith was re-appointed to Post 1 of the Haralson County Water Authority Board for the term of January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2019.

Alison stated that the next Post to be voted is Post 3. This is the only 2 year term on the board. It is currently held by Amos Sparks and the term should run from January 1, 2017- December 31, 2018.

Chairman Poole opened the floor for nominations for Post 3.  
Commissioner Tarpley nominated Corey Coats.  
Commissioner Ridley nominated Gary Patterson.  
Chairman Poole nominated Amos Sparks.

Chairman Poole motioned to close nominations. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Poole called for the vote.

Corey Coats – 1, Commissioner Tarpley.  
Gary Patterson – 2, Commissioner Bennett and Commissioner Ridley.  
Amos Sparks -2, Chairman Poole and Commissioner Robinson.

Mr. Coats was removed from the vote and Chairman Poole called for the vote again.

Gary Patterson -2, Commissioner Bennett and Commissioner Ridley.  
Commissioner Sparks, - 3, Commissioner Tarpley, Chairman Poole and Commissioner Robinson.

There was some confusion following the vote. Commissioner Bennett thought the votes had been miscounted and Chairman Poole asked everyone to raise their hands again.

Gary Patterson – 3, Commissioner Tarpley, Commissioner Bennett and Commissioner Ridley.  
Amos Sparks – 2, Commissioner Robinson and Chairman Poole.

County Clerk Alison Palmer stated that this was not the way the original vote went and asked for clarification. There was a heated exchange between Commissioner Tarpley and Chairman Poole.

For clarification the vote was called a final time. It went as follows:

Gary Patterson -2, Commissioner Bennett and Commissioner Ridley  
Amos Sparks -3, Commissioner Tarpley, Chairman Poole and Commissioner Robinson.

Amos Sparks was re-appointed to Post 3 of the Haralson County Water Authority Board for a term from January 1, 2017- December 31, 2018.

#### **Item #4 – Quality of Life Ordinance**

Chairman Poole had Julie Cain, County Attorney, explain this ordinance. She stated that this is the ordinance that the county has worked on for a few months. It addresses properties that have garbage, vacant swimming pools, needs post fire cleanup, etc. It gives the county process

to get the properties cleaned up and the consequences for the property owner if it falls to the county to clean up.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the Quality of Life Ordinance. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Item #5 – Tax Anticipation Note**

County Clerk Alison Palmer stated that Bank of the Ozarks is the only one that has responded with an offer for the TAN. Synovus stated they do not offer these and one other bank did not reply. Bank of the Ozarks is offering the \$1 million loan line for an interest rate of 1.95% and a \$1000 loan fee. Ms. Palmer stated that she does not expect to have to draw any more than last year which was \$500,000 and does not expect to need a draw until the middle of August.

Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the TAN. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Item #6 – 2018 County Holiday Schedule**

Alison Palmer pointed out that the only change to the normal schedule is removing the Veterans Day Holiday since it falls on Sunday and giving the employees Christmas Eve off since it is on a Monday. She stated the Veterans day holiday could be put back on the schedule in 2019.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the 2018 Holiday Schedule as presented. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Item #7 – Change Percentage collected from the Board of Education from .25% to 2.5%**

County Attorney Julie Cain stated that the Board of Education currently pays .25% to the county to collect their taxes. State law allows up to 2.5%. The county would have to vote to change this and then send it through the legislature to make a change to the local legislation. Commissioner Robinson motioned to change the percent collected from the Board of Education to 2.5%. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Item #8 – TSPLOST**

After a discussion regarding whether the cities would want to get together immediately and sign an Intergovernmental Agreement to make it a full 1 cent sales tax, Commissioner Robinson motioned to table the vote. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

The cities will have to get back to us within seven days.

**Item #9 – Executive Session**

Commissioner Robinson motioned to go into executive session. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to go back into the regular meeting. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Poole stated that the executive session was regarding a personnel matter and no action was taken at this time.

**Public Participation on Non Agenda Items**

None

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**AUGUST 1, 2017**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Allen Poole. 911 Director Cathy Thompson offered the Invocation and the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Poole noted for the record that Commissioner Tarpley was out of town and unable to attend, but since there was a quorum of the board, business could be completed.

**Approval of previous meeting minutes**

Chairman Poole stated that the minutes had been sent to the board to review for the three meetings in July. He asked if there were any corrections, changes, etc. to these minutes. There were none. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2017 Regular Meeting, the July 10, 2017 Special Called Work Session and the July 25, 2017 Work Session. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**Approval of Agenda**

Chairman Poole stated that Commissioner Tarpley had asked for item #3 Development Authority Appointment to be postponed until he returned so that he could have a nomination prepared. When no one responded, Commissioner Bennett asked the Chairman if he was making that in the form of a motion. He responded, Yes, he would make that into a motion. Commissioner Bennett said that in respect of Commissioner Tarpley's request, she would second the motion. Chairman Poole asked if there was any discussion. Commissioner Robinson asked if the Development Authority had made a recommendation for the vacancy. Chairman Poole stated that the Development Authority Board had recommended Jerry Luckey. With no more discussion, Chairman Poole called for the vote. The motion failed 2-2, with Commissioners Ridley and Robinson opposed. County Clerk Alison Palmer clarified that it takes 3 votes of the Board for a motion to pass.

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

**Chairman' Report**

Chairman Poole reported that he would like to put the pest control of all the county facilities out to bid. We currently have several companies handling different facilities and we are getting complaints about one of the companies. Currently runs approximately \$1400 per month. The Chairman said we hope to get improved service and prices by putting all the buildings into one contract.

Chairman Poole asked that everyone keep Denver Bishop's family in their prayers due to the loss of his wife, Willie Bishop (Sandra Tant's Mother). He also asked everyone to keep the Coy Thornton family in their prayers due to his passing.

Chairman Poole spoke about the upcoming TSPLOST referendum and explained the benefit to the county. He stated that we had a very good, productive meeting with the cities regarding this referendum.

**Department Head Reports**

**- Helen Wilson, Accounts Payable Clerk, Commissioner's Office.**

Ms. Wilson gave a report on the work that goes into the fiscal year end and upcoming audit. She explained insurance open enrollment, year-end close out of payroll and accounts payable in the computer system, starting a new fiscal year, and the details of the audit process which goes for several months following the end of the fiscal year.

Chairman Poole stated that his staff does a very good job of juggling their duties and handling all the work that comes through this office and producing excellent results.

#### **Public Participation on Agenda Items**

- **Jack Dewberry.** Mr. Dewberry said that if an item is on the agenda and there are enough members of the board here to do the business of the county, then you should do that business even if one of the board members is absent!

-**Donnie Boswell.** Mr. Boswell asked what the county plans to do with the old jail building and could it be sold. Chairman Poole stated that several options had been discussed, but no decisions have been made. Commissioner Robinson stated that he was against spending one penny on that facility. County Attorney, Julie Cain, stated that it could be auctioned or have a sealed bid process to sell it.

#### **Item #1 – Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Policy Update**

Eric McDonald, from the Development Authority stated that the requirements of the state had been met, including a public hearing, in order for the Commission Board to vote on the policy update. Chairman Poole reminded everyone that this had been discussed in a prior meeting also.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the RLF Policy update. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

#### **Item #2 – Associated Industrial Riggers RLF Loan**

This was also discussed in an earlier work session. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve a RLF Loan to Associated Industrial Riggers. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

#### **Item #3 – Development Authority Board “At-Large” appointment**

Chairman Poole opened the floor for nominations. Commissioner Ridley nominated Jerry Luckey, who was recommended by the Development Authority Board. With no other nominations, Commissioner Robinson motioned to close nominations. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Ridley motioned to appoint Jerry Luckey to fill the unexpired term of Kenneth Smith, which ends April 30, 2019. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

#### **Public Participation on Non Agenda Items**

None

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

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**NOVEMBER 7, 2017**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Allen Poole called the Regular meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. Tallapoosa Council member Bobby Parker offered the Invocation and the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Poole noted for the record that all commissioners were present.

Chairman Poole stated that the commissioners had the chance to read over the meeting minutes from three meetings in October. He asked if anyone had changes, additions or deletions to any of these. There were none. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2017 Regular Meeting, the October 18, 2017 Special Called Meeting and the October 18, 2017 Work Session Minutes. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Poole stated that he would like to add two items to the agenda. The first is the Firefighters Cancer Coverage. The second is to designate the Felton Fire Station as Roy McKibben Memorial Station. He asked if the Board had any other changes to the agenda. There were none.

Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Poole stated that he had been to several district meetings around the state regarding the upcoming legislative session and the items that are important to counties. They include E911 fee reform, tax reform, and the broadband initiative.

County Clerk Alison Palmer reminded the board that Haralson County would be hosting the Area Commissioner's luncheon on Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup> at the commissioner's office.

**Public Participation on Agenda Items**

None

**Item #1 – Proclamation requesting that the new Bridge on Hwy 120 over Beech Creek be named in Memory of Harold Blackmon.**

Chairman Poole read and presented the Proclamation to Judge Blackmon's widow, Pat Blackmon, and his son, Jason Blackmon. Chairman Poole recalled the many services that he performed for Haralson County. The proclamation will be sent on to the State to request that the bridge be named in Judge Blackmon's memory.

## **Item #2 - Dedicated Fees Urging Resolution**

Chairman Poole asked Alison Palmer to read the Resolution. It will also be sent to the state to urge the legislature to dedicate the fees that have been statutorily designated to the purpose they were intended. Many of these fees get diverted to other programs. If they are designated fees, they cannot be diverted to some other purpose.

Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the Dedicated Fees Urging Resolution. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

## **Item #3 – Haralson County Board of Assessors Appointment**

Sandra Tant's term is ending in December 2017. She has written a letter to request that she be reappointed to her position for a term 6 years beginning January 1, 2018. Chairman Poole nominated Sandra Tant. There were no other nominations.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to close nominations. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Poole motioned to reappoint Sandra Tant to the Haralson County Board of Assessor's. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

## **Item #4 – Haralson County Water Authority Appointment for Commission Board Member Seat**

This is the seat that is currently held by Chairman Allen Poole. Commissioner Tarpley asked to speak before nominations were made. He reviewed the funds that had been designated for water from SPLOST 5 & 6, the land purchased by the Water Authority that was unable to be used because mussels were later found in the creek, and the fact that the authority could sell that land at any time. He stated that he felt like the board needed to put new members on this board who would make good decisions.

Chairman Poole stated that he felt like the authority had made the best decisions based on the information they had before them at that time. He opened the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Robinson nominated Chairman Allen Poole. Commissioner Bennett nominated Commissioner Tarpley. There were no other nominations.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to close nominations. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Poole turned the meeting over to Vice Chairman Sammy Robinson since the Chairman was one of the nominees.

Vice Chair Robinson called for all in favor of Chairman Allen Poole to motion with a raised hand. There were 3 in favor, Commissioner Ridley, Vice Chair Robinson and Chairman Poole. Commissioners Bennett and Tarpley were opposed.

Vice Chair Robinson then called for all in favor of Commissioner David Tarpley to motion with a raised hand. There were 2, Commissioner Tarpley and Commissioner Bennett. Commissioner Ridley, Vice Chair Robinson and Chairman Poole were opposed.

Vice Chair Robinson stated that Chairman Poole had been reappointed to his seat on the Water Authority.

#### **Item #5 - Haralson County Water Authority Post 2 Appointment**

Chairman Poole stated that this is the post currently held by Bob Downey. Commissioner Bennett asked to speak. She said she believes in term limits for these boards. She stated that she thinks they should consider new people, with new ideas. She stated that in the past she did not support Amos Sparks for reappointment and he was her appointment several years ago when she was first on the board. Commissioner Bennett went on to say that she did not support her chairman for reappointment today. Neither of these was personal and she feels that they should give others a chance to serve on these boards. She concluded by saying that when it becomes controversial, as this board has in the past few years, maybe that is a signal that it is the time to look for people.

Chairman Poole opened the floor for nominations. Commissioner Robinson nominated Bob Downey. Commissioner Tarpley nominated Dr. Stanley McCain. With no other nominations, Commissioner Robinson motioned to close nominations. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Poole asked for all in favor of Bob Downey to raise their hands. Commissioner Ridley, Commissioner Robinson and Chairman Poole were in favor. Commissioner Bennett and Commissioner Tarpley opposed.

Chairman Poole asked for all in favor of Dr. Stanley McCain to raise their hands. Commissioner Bennett and Commissioner Tarpley were in favor. Commissioner Ridley, Commissioner Robinson and Chairman Poole were opposed.

Chairman Poole stated that Bob Downey had been reappointed to the Water Authority Board.

Commissioner Ridley asked to speak. He stated that he had attended all the water board meetings except for one since he was elected. He said they are in the middle of some negotiations that are going to affect this county for years to come and he does not feel like they need to change people in mid-stream. And that is why he voted the way he did at this time.

**Item #6 – FY 2018 Budget Amendment #2**

Alison Palmer explained that this amendment will move the funds from the holding line to each department to cover the raises that were given after the evaluations had taken place. The amount that is being divided out is \$77,187. Commissioner Tarpley asked how much that leaves in the holding line. Alison stated that it leaves approximately \$34,000.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve Budget Amendment #2. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Item #7 – Discontinue Mutual of Omaha Group Disability Insurance Coverage effective December 31, 2017**

Alison Palmer explained that this policy had begun on July 1, 2017 and to this date the bills have many errors, missing employees, wrong premium amounts, etc. The county never even received a bill until October 20, 2017. Ms. Couch had been in contact with the agent and the company representative many times since early August regarding these issues and they are still not corrected. Ms. Palmer stated that it had become an accounting nightmare for this office and asked that the group policy be cancelled and let the employees take individual coverages that are offered through other companies.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to terminate the Mutual of Omaha Insurance policy effective December 31, 2017. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Item #8 – Firefighters Cancer Coverage**

Chairman Poole stated that the county had received the quote from ACCG for the Cancer coverage required by the state. The quote was much better than previously anticipated and considerably lower than the amount budgeted. Commissioner Tarpley asked how the extra funds that had been budgeted for this would be used. He asked if the county could use this money elsewhere. Alison replied that it had to stay in the fire budget because fire is a Special Service District. Commissioner Tarpley then motioned to restrict the use of these extra funds. Alison asked for the board to finish the current agenda item and then address the remaining funds.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the ACCG Firefighters Cancer Coverage Policy. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Item #10 – Restriction of funds remaining on the Firefighters Cancer Insurance Budget line**

Commissioner Tarpley motioned for the funds remaining in the FF Cancer Insurance budget line to be unavailable for use without a vote of the Board of Commissioners to amend that budget. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Item #9 – Designate the Felton Fire Station as the Roy McKibben Station**

Past Commissioner, Amos Sparks, spoke to the board. He said the Friends of Felton is requesting that the BOC designate the Felton Fire Station Community Center as Roy McKibben Memorial Community Center. He went on to say they would like to house artifacts and memorabilia to his service in the military at this location also.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the Designation of the Felton Fire Station as the Roy McKibben Memorial Fire Station and Community Center. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Public Participation on Non Agenda Items**

Kevin Boulton - spoke on Internet, future plans, FCC regulations, etc.

Julie Cain, County Attorney, spoke regarding the rules of Public Participation. She stated that for items on the agenda, you can sign up beginning 10 minutes prior to the meeting. For an item that is not on the agenda, you must call in the week prior to the meeting and either meet or speak with the Chairman or the clerk regarding your topic. Ms. Cain went on to clarify that this is a business meeting and needs to move at a faster pace. It is not that your commissioners don't want to hear from you, but due to the time constraints in meetings, you are responsible for contacting your individual commissioners to voice your concerns.

Jimmy Echols – did not show up.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
Certified County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**NOVEMBER 15, 2017**  
**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Poole called the Special Called Meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. He stated for the record that all commissioners were present.

E911 Director Cathy Thompson offered the Invocation and the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Bennett motioned to waive the reading of the minutes until the December 5, 2017 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Poole stated that a Public Hearing had been held prior to this meeting for the purpose of public comments on the two agenda items.

**Item #1 - John Stogner Zoning Request for Rezoning from A-1 to Conditional Use as an Event venue, Map 0068-Parcel 0032, Haralson County, GA**

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the request for rezoning. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Item #2 – Angela Awalt Zoning Request for Rezoning from A-1 to Conditional Use as an Event Venue, Map 0079-Parcel 004A, Haralson County, GA**

Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the rezoning request. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
Certified County Clerk