

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**JANUARY 9, 2018**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

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

Commissioner Tarpley requested a couple of corrections and clarifications on the December , 2017 regular minutes and Commissioner Bennett requested additional discussion be added to an item on the December , Work Session minutes. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve all three sets of minutes for December with the clarification and corrections discussed. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Poole added three items to the agenda as follows:

Item #7 – Executive Session

Item #8 – Acquisition of property for the Tallapoosa Fire Station

Item #9 – School Choice Proclamation

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

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Poole reported on the following:

- The departmental budgets look good. Everyone running around 52%, which is in line for this time of year.
- The Development Authority working on 3 different possibilities.
- Just prior to passing away, Mr. Bill Greene of Tallapoosa donated a piece of land adjacent to the proposed site of the Tallapoosa Fire Station that would make the parcel big enough for the project.
- TSPLOST funds will begin accruing in a few months and plans for the projects are moving forward.

Chairman Poole thanked the departments and their employees for the hard work they perform. He said the county is aspiring to a bigger and better year in 2018.

Commissioner Tarpley asked for an update on the garbage collection. Chairman Poole reported that they are keeping the trucks running the best they can until a new truck is obtained. They are using a roll offs and other vehicles at this time. Three quotes have been received and the lowest is \$238,000. Chairman Poole has been in contact with ACCG regarding the financing for the truck.

**Public Participation on Agenda Items**

None

**Item #1 – Lee/Jackson Birthday Proclamation**

The Proclamation was read and presented by Chairman Poole to Billy Bearden and Nathan Forrister, who were in period clothing. Chairman Poole thanked them for their efforts to retain the history of Haralson County through their organization, Haralson Invincibles, Camp 673. Mr. Bearden spoke about the history of Haralson County and some of the individuals whose ancestors have been a part of our history. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the proclamation and Commissioner Bennett seconded. The motion carried 5-0.

**Item #2 – Reappoint County Attorney**

Chairman Poole motioned to reappoint Julie Cain as County Attorney. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Item #3 – Reappoint County Clerk**

Chairman Poole motioned to reappoint Alison Palmer as County Clerk. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Item #4 – GDOT 5311 Transit Application**

County Clerk Alison Palmer reported that this is the application for funding from the state for the transit department for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. Commissioner Ridley motioned to approve the GDOT 5311 Application. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Item #5 – FTA Drug Policy Update**

Ms. Palmer stated that these are changes to the drug policy for the transit drivers that is required by the state in order to retain the program. Changes include additions to opioid category within the drug test requirements and also updates definitions used within the policies. Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the updated FTA Drug Policies. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Item #7 – Executive Session**

Chairman Poole motioned to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Ridley motioned to return to the Regular meeting. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

County Attorney, Julie Cain, reported that the executive session regarded the possible acquisition of Real Estate and Potential Litigation.

**Item #6 – Corinth Property (Map 112, Parcel 123-A)**

County Attorney, Julie Cain, stated that the county owns the piece of property. There is a recorded deed and that deed does not have any verbiage that would give the previous property owner, Max Wade, the right to first refusal. Therefore, there are two options for getting rid of the property. One is through sealed bids and the other is a live auction. Commissioner Tarpley stated that he remembered the board had voted at the previous meeting to offer the property through sealed bid. In the meantime, past Commissioner Amos Sparks and Mr. Max Wade have brought an agreement clarification to Chairman Poole. Chief Appraiser Hubert Sparks spoke on behalf of Max Wade. He said Mr. Wade and Commissioner Sparks were requesting the Board to vote to amend the deed to reflect the original agreement as it was intended. They felt like this should be allowable since both gentlemen are “still alive and of sound mind.”

Commissioner Tarpley brought up concerns that precedents set by previous board’s actions may cause problems if this property is handled differently. A detailed discussion followed that included the differences in the way properties have been handled and the reasons for those differences.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to rescind the vote from the December 5, 2017 meeting to offer the Corinth property by sealed bid. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 4-1, with Commissioner Ridley opposed.

A discussion continued regarding a live auction for this property. This would give Mr. Wade the right to bid as high as he is willing to go, since it would be in public. The board then discussed minimum bid requirements, auctioneer costs, etcetera. Finally, the board decided to postpone

the decision until the tax assessors could provide the information regarding the Fair Market Value of this property the year prior to the sale to the county and whether or not the county paid that or an escalated amount.

Commissioner Bennett motioned to postpone the decision on the Corinth Property until further information is provided. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

#### **Item #8 – Acquisition of property for the Tallapoosa Fire Station**

After careful consideration, Chief Walker has recommended the location of the new Tallapoosa Fire Station be on the west corner of Hwy 78 and Hwy 100 Spur. There are two parcels of land involved. The main one is owned by Mayor Bridges and the second parcel is an adjacent piece owned by Bill Greene. Mr. Greene donated approximately 1/3 of an acre to Haralson County just prior to passing away. This small extra parcel would make the corner big enough to fit the station and needed driveway. If a fire station is not built at this location, then the 1/3 of an acre would revert back to Mr. Greene's heirs. Chief Walker reported that he has been in contact with the GDOT regarding the entrance to the station, whether or not a deceleration lane would be required, etc. The entrance to the station was approved and no deceleration lane would be required. The final step is the grading plan, which is being completed by County Surveyor Greg Dewberry. This must be approved by GDOT before the land would be purchased.

Commissioner Tarpley expressed concerns with a fire truck having to start off going up the hill. He questioned the location and response times to citizens on the far side of that zone. He also went on to question why certain other pieces of property nearby were not chosen, such as the Ridley property. He felt like some of those would be better choices. He referred to a location further up the 100 spur which would allow the trucks to access Hwy 78 from Golf Course Rd and save the truck from starting at the bottom of a hill.

Commissioner Ridley recused himself from the discussion since one of the property's was owned by a Ridley.

Chief Walker stated that this site would eliminate being caught up by a train because the driver could go either side of the tracks from this location. He also stated that the line of sight from Golf Course at Hwy 78 was not good and went on to say, that even if the other site was chosen, the trucks would still go onto Hwy 78 from the 100 Spur for safety reasons. He said the hill does not worry him.

Chairman Poole stated that he deferred to Chief Walker to recommend the best location for the Tallapoosa Station.

Georgia State Trooper, John Daniel, was asked to give his opinion. He said he thought the intersection of Hwy 78 and the 100 spur would be the safest for the fire personnel and for citizens because it provides a long sight distance for those coming from both directions. He stated that entering 78 from Golf course road would be riskier because the hill top is very close to that road and you cannot see what is coming or if anyone is pulling out into the highway.

Commissioner Tarpley stated that he would not vote to purchase until the grade plans are approved by the GDOT. Chief Walker and all the board agreed with that statement.

Commissioner Ridley motioned to table this item. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

#### **Item #9 – School Choice Week Proclamation**

Commissioner Bennett read the proclamation recognizing the importance of choices of

different types of schools. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the School Choice Week Proclamation. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Public Participation on Non Agenda Items**

None

Commissioner Tarpley asked to revisit the commitment of demolition of the building in the City of Waco. He asked who is going to pay the tipping fees. Chairman Poole stated that he has asked the Haralson County Solid Waste Authority to waive the tipping fees for all city projects. He went on to say that will be discussed at their next meeting on January 16<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Tarpley asked if the county would be reimbursed anything from the city when this property is sold, for the expense of time, etc. that the road department would be putting into this work. Chairman Poole stated that they would be asking for them to pay for the fuel. Commissioner Ridley stated that it had been discussed at one time and he did not feel like it would be a problem. Commissioner Tarpley then asked if Chairman Poole was aware of a sizeable cash donation that was given to Waco along with the piece of property for the purpose of demolishing the building and cleaning up the site. Chairman Poole stated that he was not aware of the money. He said nothing had been committed. He said they would help the cities as they are able. Several things still have to be handled first, such as inspecting for asbestos, checking gas and water lines, etc. before anything is started. Commissioner Tarpley said the owner had given the city the property and a large cash donation because it would be tax deductible as a gift to the city. Chairman Poole stated that he and Commissioner Ridley would look further into the situation and report back to the board. Commissioner Ridley asked, "what is a large cash donation?" Commissioner Tarpley responded, "\$50,000."

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

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
Certified County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
FEBUARY 6, 2018  
REGUALR MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Allen Poole called the regular meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. All commissioners were present. Fire Chief Brian Walker offered the Invocation and the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Poole motioned to approve minutes from work session on January 22, and regular Board meeting minutes on January 9, 2018, with no corrections. Commissioner Ridley seconded motion and motion carried 5-0.

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Poole reported on the following:

- Representing ACCG, he along with our local Delegates, Senator Heath and Representative Kevin Cook meet with Governor Deal. The main topic was the "Drives" hardware which will combine ad valorem and property tax terminals at the Tax Commissioner's office. \$110 million overall with small counties cost at \$15-20,000. ACCG requested the Governor appropriate and issue a State contract to reduce the cost. In 2010, Governor Deal's budget was 17.5 billion dollars, 2018 he proposes \$25 billion. ACCG has asked him to share the services wealth with local municipalities and counties, also consider small counties across the State.

**Public Participation on Agenda Items**

None

**Item #1 – Reappoint Tallatoona Board Member**

Chairman Poole stated Ms. Shirley Farmer requested to be reappointed to the Tallatoona Board.

Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the appointment which was seconded by Chairman Poole. The motion carried 5-0.

**Item #2 – West Georgia Airport Authority Board Appointment**

Chairman Poole reported that Airport Authority Board Member, Larry Hutcheson, sent a letter of resignation due to health reasons. He has also received a letter from Danny Hutcheson requesting to serve the remainder of his term. Chairman Poole motioned to accept his request with a second from Commissioner Ridley. The motion carried 5-0.

**Item #3 – Library Funding- Additional Amount for Current Fiscal Year**

Chairman Poole asked county Finance Director, Don Johnson, to explain where funds can be appropriated for five months. Original request was \$26,886, but at their meeting, the request decreased to \$20,165, with \$15,165 needed for this fiscal year. After reviewing the fiscal year budget with a line item for Tax Assessors' new employee leaves \$15,000 for library.

Commissioner Ridley asked if county employee raises were taken care of and Chairman Poole stated they were, with this being the remainder of the raises. Commissioner Tarpley also stated the difference comes from raises being decreased from 10% to 5%. Mr. Johnson stated \$15,965 is available to fund the library. Commissioner Tarpley asked if monies would be there to fund the Tax Assessors new employee, which Chairman Poole stated since Hubert Sparks, had not hired anyone the amount would be requested later.

Chairman Poole explained the library fee requested was part of a fee to be paid to the West Georgia Regional Library system for the services it provides to the three libraries in the county. Chairman Poole motioned for a line item to address the amount needed for the Libraries. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bennett. The motion carried 5-0.

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

Postponed

#### **Item #5 - Approve Nuisance Abatement Ordinance**

Attorney Julie Cain discussed the new ordinance entitled "Quality of Life" and asked the Board of Commissioners to read over and review for a discussion at the next work session. She stated it is somewhat combined with the "Nuisance Ordinance". This ordinance has several Georgia codes, divided into three divisions:

1. General- nuisance, noise, weeds, ice boxes, pools, etc.
2. Structures- abandoned buildings and structures
3. Abatements-Procedures for Marshall when and what to do

This document includes new laws along with new language to clean up and strengthen the provisions ordinance. Commissioner Bennett recommended rescinding the old policy, but Commissioner Ridley requested time to read over the ordinance. Attorney Cain asked the Board of Commissioners to read over ordinance and email her with any questions. Commissioner Bennett motioned to table this until the next work session which was seconded by Commissioner Ridley. Motion passed 5-0.

#### **Item #6 – Approve Updated Timber Harvesting Ordinance**

Chairman Poole stated he had been riding county roads checking damage from log trucks and has heard concerns from the public. Attorney Julie Cain discussed the updated "Timber Harvesting Ordinance" for cutting and logging timber. Attorney Cain reported she had reviewed all surrounding county ordinances and updated our ordinance from previous 1992 in order to work with County Marshal and Public Works Department to put more strength in the code. This addresses notice requirements, prior to harvesting, authority to shut down work during inclement weather, etc. Commissioner Bennett and Commissioner Tarpley both questioned the \$5,000 bond being replenished. Commissioner Tarpley questioned **section 38-75** involving a bond issue, but Attorney Cain explained how it strengthens the code to be compliant.

County Marshal John Entrekin stated his concerns issuing citations under the old ordinance and said most of our local loggers obey the law with no problems, but the the ones from outside the county do not respect our county rules or pay taxes here. If they damage it, they need to repair it. Commissioner

Robinson stated he doesn't see a problem that cannot be worked out. Commissioner Bennett made motion to approve the ordinance; Chairman Poole seconded motion with Commissioner Ridley abstaining from the vote. Motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Poole stated an item was left off and motion made to add item seven to agenda. Commissioner Robinson seconded and motion carried 5-0.

#### **Item #7 – Garbage Truck Financing**

County Finance Director Don Johnson reported his request to ACCG for a new Road Department garbage truck. This was submitted to ACCG on January 5<sup>th</sup> as a lease-purchase agreement. One bid was received from BB & T through Brent Williams for \$238,376. Proposed 36 month at 2.49%, three years with \$15,726 a quarter to equal \$180,000 principal and \$8,714 interest, with a total of \$188,714. BB & T also financed the Haralson County fire truck. Commissioner Robinson motioned to accept the lease-purchase, which was seconded by Chairman Poole. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Ridley motioned to adjourn, Chairman Poole seconded the motion. This motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Submitted by

Sandra Tant

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MARCH 6, 2018  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Poole stated that the minutes for the two meetings in February had been distributed to the commissioners to review. He asked if there were any changes, additions, or deletions. There were none. Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes and the February 21, 2018 Work Session Minutes. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Agenda**

Chairman Poole stated that he would like to add a Proclamation recognizing the Mount Sinai Baptist Church and Commissioner Tarpley stated that he would like to discuss an item regarding the transit department. Commissioner Ridley motioned to approve the agenda with the additions requested. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Poole reported on his recent trip to Washington D.C for the NACO conference. He attended in his position of President of the ACCG Board of Managers. He stated that several topics were discussed, but one of the main topics was the opioid epidemic in the country. Chairman Poole asked Commissioner Bennett to speak on this topic. Commissioner Bennett stated that it is very widespread and is not only the people you would usually consider having addictions. She stated that it is the working professionals all the way down the line and it includes everything from prescription pills to heroin.

Chairman Poole stated that they also participated in the laying of a wreath at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, which was very moving.

In April the Regular Meetings change back to a 6 PM start time.

Alison Palmer reported that a representative from one of the local logging companies had come in and wanted it clarified that the board did not credit all the road damage in the county to loggers. Ms. Palmer reassured them that the new ordinance was referring to the places where loggers are accessing the roads, not all damage through the whole county.

Chairman Poole stated that IWispr had erected one tower and had spoken to the water authority about possibly using three of the water towers for antennas. It was also clarified that all towers over 35' in height must be permitted.

**Item #6 – Mount Sinai Baptist Church Proclamation**

Chairman Poole read and presented the Proclamation to Ms. Jean Lynch, the church secretary. The proclamation recognized the longstanding of this church in the Haralson County community and the fact that it was the first black church in the county.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the proclamation. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motioned carried 5-0.

**Item #1 – Tanner Health Systems Support Resolution**

Commissioner Bennett read the proclamation in support of the Tanner Health System Application to establish an open-heart surgery program.

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

**Item #2 – Accept Comprehensive Annual Financial Report**

Chairman Poole stated that the commissioners had been given a copy of the CAFR at the work session to review. He stated that there was only one finding and as long as the county had small departments it would continue to be a finding. This is the separation of duties within small departments that deal with money. He asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to accept the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the period ending June 30, 2017. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Item #3 – Nuisance Abatement Ordinance**

An updated Nuisance Ordinance was discussed at the February 21, 2018 work session. At a later date, Commissioner Tarpley met with County Attorney Julie Cain and Marshal John Entrekin to discuss a few parts of this proposed update. Some changes were made to the proposed ordinance. Commissioners Robinson and Ridley were not in favor of voting on a version of the ordinance in which the changes had not been discussed by the full board. County Attorney, Julie Cain was unable to be in attendance at this meeting, therefore the changes were not readily discussed. Marshal Entrekin stated that he was not comfortable moving forward with the cases he was working on until an update had been enacted. After some more discussion, Chairman Poole motioned to approve the Iteration of the Updated Nuisance Abatement Ordinance that was discussed at the work session on February 21, 2018. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Item #4 – Tallapoosa Fire Budget**

County Clerk Alison Palmer stated that this is the budget that the board approved the special district millage for that includes the expenses for that station from November 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 and the funding to build the new station. The total for this budget is \$477,000. \$277,000 will be funded by the millage assessed to the property owners in the City of Tallapoosa and city's Insurance premium funds received from the state that will be approximately \$200,000.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the budget for the Tallapoosa Fire Station. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Item #5 – Waco Fire Station Building**

Chairman Poole stated that the Waco City Council had voted to give the county the building that houses the fire station. There was discussion of this matter. It was determined that the additional cost for accepting this station and the utilities that go along with it is not currently in the budget. Since there were several questions regarding this item, Commissioner Bennett motioned to table this item until further information could be obtained. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Item #7 – Transit Department**

Commissioner Tarpley had some questions about changes with the Transit program. Clarifications were made about charges for services. County Clerk Alison Palmer explained that there is a charge for citizens to use the service according to whether they are going somewhere within their city, within or outside of Haralson County. Recently, the county has opted out of

an additional program through DHS that required an extreme amount of paper work and compliance actions, but had not worked out as represented to the county. For these patrons, DHS was paying the charge, not the citizen, therefore the confusion about the county just beginning to charge for this service. It was further clarified that the people who were going through DHS could still call and schedule rides, but would be responsible for paying the minimal charge themselves.

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

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
Certified County Clerk

## HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

APRIL 3, 2018

### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Allen Poole called the regular meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. Nathan Forrister offered the Invocation and the board led the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present. David Tarpley, District 1. Jamie Bennett, District 2. Ronnie Ridley, District 3. Sammy Robinson, District 4.

Chairman Poole stated that the commissioners had a chance to review the minutes. He asked if there were any changes, corrections, etc. to be made. There were none. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2018 Regular Meeting and the March 21, 2018 Work Session as written. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Tarpley asked to add Item #7 Mutual Aid to the agenda. Commissioner Tarpley motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

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

Chairman Poole stated that the legislative session had ended and that the counties fared well. He gave kudos to the ACCG Policy Council who works very hard to see that the counties are taken care of by the legislature. Chairman Poole reported that the Governor had added 6 million dollars to the state budget to help implement the DRIVES system that the tax commissioners will be required to have.

Commissioner Tarpley asked for a report on the status of the Waco Fire Station and whether or not the county would be taking over the ownership of that building. He also asked for an update on the demolition of the other building in Waco and the county's involvement there. Commissioner Tarpley also asked about the money that was given to Waco to cover the demolition and cleanup of that building. Chairman Poole stated that clarification was needed as to the best way to handle the fire station, either as a long term lease or transfer of ownership. Commissioner Ridley stated that he was at the Waco meeting and at this time, Waco is unsure of the direction they are taking with that building. They are looking into the historical possibilities. After a brief discussion, Chairman Poole stated that the county had not committed to anything except what we are able to do if they decide to demolish it. Commissioner Ridley stated that it was premature to determine the county's involvement until the city decided what they were doing with the building.

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

#### **Item #1 – National Telecommunications (E911) Week Proclamation**

County Clerk Alison Palmer read and presented the Proclamation to E911 Supervisor Holly Ray. Ms. Palmer thanked the 911 employees for the excellent work they do each day to obtain information for the responders so that they can be of optimal service to the citizens and to also keep the responders safe. She also urged any of the commissioners who had not visited the 911 center to do so and see these people in action. Commissioner Sammy Robinson motioned to approve the proclamation. Commissioner Ronnie Ridley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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

Chairman Poole read and presented the Proclamation to Billy Bearden, Nathan & Susan Forrister, who were all in period clothing from the civil war era. Chairman Poole motioned to approve the proclamation. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Item #3 – Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month Resolution**

Commissioner Bennett read and presented the Proclamation to CASA representatives, Belinda Bentley and Lisa Dowda. Commissioner Bennett also stated that she works in the mental health field and sees many of the parents of these children. She urged everyone to report abuse and neglect, but to also try to be a help to others. Ms. Bentley explained what CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) does and stated that there are many ways to volunteer to help these children and they are always in need of additional volunteers.

**Item #4 – Veteran’s Memorial at Historic Courthouse**

At the March work session, the board heard a request from the Buchanan Women’s Club to be allowed to use a small area to create a Veteran’s Memorial Park at the Historic Courthouse. It would consist of a cement slab surrounded by 5 flagpoles, to represent each division of the American Military. Commissioner Sammy Robinson motioned to approve the Memorial. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Item #5 – Tallapoosa Fire Station Location**

Mrs. Judy Ridley is donating a one acre piece of land to be used for the new Tallapoosa Fire Station. This was discussed during the March Work Session. A couple of questions came from that meeting that Fire Chief Brian Walker addressed here. He stated that there was no issues with the Department of Transportation with this location and there are no Right of Way problems. Commissioner Bennett motioned to accept the donation of the property for the Tallapoosa Fire station. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 4-0, with Commissioner Ridley abstaining due to the family connection.

**Item #6 – Haralson County Drug Policy Update**

County Clerk Alison Palmer reported that this is the same update the state required for the Transit department. It must also be updated for any CDL drivers that are employed by the county. Updates include the opioid phrasing and the synthetic drug list. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the addendum to the Haralson County Drug Policy. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Item #7 – Mutual Aid with Bremen**

After a discussion about the mutual aid agreement that the Fire Chief had signed with the City of Bremen, there were still some confusion regarding the issue. Chairman Poole suggested adding this discussion to the work session for clarification. Commissioner Robinson motioned to table this item for further clarification. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Public Participation on Non Agenda Items**

Chairman Poole stated that this office had been in contact with GDOT and supplied some details about the problems with Jacksonville Road and Old Ridgeway Road. The county is trying to get some funding from the state to get these two roads resurfaced due to the heavy additional traffic caused by the state project at the Beech Creek Bridge on Hwy 120.

Chairman Poole also stated that a citizen had offered to patch potholes throughout the county. The Chairman stated that the Public Works director, Bill McConnell had stated that the county road department could do a better job for a lower cost. He reported that inclement weather and storm cleanup had put them behind on regular maintenance, along with a batch or two of bad patch mix. It was decided that this would also be put on the agenda for further discussion at the work session. Bill McConnell and Terry Edwards will be called to attend that meeting.

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

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
Certified County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**APRIL 18, 2018**  
**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES**

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

Commissioner Robinson motioned to waive the reading of the April 3, 2018 regular meeting minutes until the next regular meeting. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Poole added Item #3 – Mutual Aid Resolution with Bremen.

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

**Item #1 – Request for Conditional Use. RKMC Holdings LLC. Located on Pollard., Haralson County Tax Map 0079-0004. From A-1 to Conditional Use for an Event Venue, Map 117, Parcel 45**

Chairman Poole stated that a Public Hearing had been held earlier in the day regarding this request. There was no one in attendance that opposed the request. The Planning & Zoning Board recommended unanimously in favor of approval.

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

**Item #2 – Resolutions to approve Carlton Johnson property and Corinth Road property to be disposed of via live auction**

Auctions of these properties and numerous others the county has obtained were discussed. It was finally determined that these 2 would be sold at auction separate from the others for the sake of time and due to the fact that they were obtained differently.

Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the Resolutions to dispose of these 2 properties at a live auction conducted by Bill McConnell, Public Works Director. Chairman Poole and Commissioner Tarpley asked that the motion include that County Attorney Julie Cain will handle the legal advertising and County Clerk Alison Palmer will send a letter to the previous owners advising them of the time and place of this auction so that they will have the opportunity to bid on the property. Chairman Poole seconded the motion and it carried 4-1, with Commissioner Ridley opposing. The Resolutions to dispose of these two properties were approved.

In further discussion, it was recommended that the other properties all be put up at a public auction with a professional auctioneer. The county handles the legal advertising for these sales, but an auction company will advertise the parcels to be auctioned which could possibly help them bring a better price.

**Item #3 – Resolution Approving Mutual Aid with Bremen**

Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the Resolution approving the Mutual Aid Agreement with the City of Bremen. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
Certified County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MAY 1, 2018**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Allen Poole called the regular meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. Chief Brian Walker offered the Invocation and the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Poole noted that District 4 Commissioner Sammy Robinson was out of town. Commissioner's Tarpley, Bennett, & Ridley were present.

**Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Ridley motioned to approve the Minutes of the April 3, 2018 Regular Meeting, the April 18, 2018 Work Session and the April 18, 2018 Special Called Meeting with the correction of the road name from Rainey Lake to Windy Lake in the work session minutes and the correction to the Mutual Aid item in the Special Called Minutes. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**Approval of Agenda**

Chairman Poole stated that two items needed to be added to the agenda.

- Resolution to accept land from Judy Ridley for Tallapoosa Fire Station
- Resolution to decline to accept the land from Bill Greene for the Tallapoosa Fire Station

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

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Poole urged everyone to keep Coroner Danny Hutcheson in their prayers. He reported that Mr. Hutcheson has had a stroke.

County Clerk Alison Palmer reported that the Recreation Department was hosting a large CAM Sports Girls Fast Pitch Softball Tournament this upcoming Saturday.

**Public Participation on Agenda Items**

None

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

Commissioner Bennett read and presented the Proclamation to Robin Forston, DFACS representative for Caregiver Recruitment and Retention, along with Foster Parents Tim & Carol Files and Mike and Crystal Ramey. One of these families has taken in a sibling group of 3 special needs children. Commissioner Bennett thanked them for their service to our kids. Ms. Forston stated these foster parents need our prayers and our thanks and she went on to say that there

are many ways we can help even if we can't foster kids. She left informational flyers listing these items.

### **Item #2 – Hazard Mitigation Plan Adoption**

Katy Westbrook of Lux Mitigation and Planning Corporation reported to the board that the cities, county, and numerous other agencies met several times over about a year to discuss and determine the parameters of the 5 year Hazard Mitigation Plan for Haralson County. She explained that the federal government requires this plan to be in place in order for Haralson County, the cities, and their citizens to be eligible for assistance after a disaster. The plan has been approved by GEMA and FEMA and now the county and each city will need to officially adopt the plan.

Commissioner Ridley motioned to approve the Resolution Adopting the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

### **Item #3 – The Lodge Alcohol License Request**

Tammie Gray, Haralson County Business License Clerk, reported to the board regarding the Request for a beer and wine license for The Lodge Restaurant. This is the facility that was previously known as the Big Timber Lodge on Hwy 100. Mr. & Mrs. Glaze purchased this and have fulfilled all the requirements to obtain a beer and wine license from Haralson County. Mrs. Glaze stated that they offer fine dining in a casual atmosphere. They are offering lunch and dinner and a Sunday Lunch Buffet.

Commissioner Ridley motioned to approve the application for the Beer and Wine License for the Lodge Restaurant. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

### **Item #4 – Burial of Dead Animals**

At the work session, the commissioners discussed this item. For quite a few years, the Haralson County Road Department has buried large, dead animals such as cows and horses, for citizens for \$150. This is time consuming and poses liability risks for the county. County Attorney, Julie Cain reported that there are state laws codes that address the disposition of dead animals. They include some of the concerns of the board and the marshal including, no dumping, burying at least 3 feet deep, not in wells and not close to a water source. She advised contacting the landfill for permission to dump there.

Chairman Poole motioned for the county to discontinue the service of disposing of dead animals effective immediately. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

### **Item #5 – Planning and Zoning Board Appointments**

Chairman Poole reported that the three members whose terms are expired have all asked to be

reappointed. They are Jerry Wright, Allen Williams and Robert Smith. Chairman Poole opened the floor for additional nominations. There were none.

Commissioner Bennett motioned to close nominations. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Ridley motioned to reappoint Jerry Wright, Allen Williams and Robert Smith to the Planning and Zoning Board. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

#### **Item #6 – Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**

County Clerk Alison Palmer explained that although the county already follows the ADA requirements, the state requires that the county adopt this policy in regards to the transit program in order to continue to receive the state and federal funding for that program.

Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the ADA policy. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

#### **Item #7 – Employee Health Insurance**

Marcy Sanders, the health insurance Agent for the county, reported to the board about the renewal quote from Cigna to continue the current coverage for the employees. Unfortunately, it is a 19% increase from the current premium. There are several fairly big claims and the prescription usage is high. She also stated that there are some options from Blue Cross, Blue Shield. She stated that there is the possibility that quotes will come in from a couple of other carriers.

Commissioner Bennett motioned to table this discussion until the work session on May 16, 2018 in hopes that some good alternative becomes available. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

#### **Item #9 – Resolution to Accept Land from Judy Ridley for the Tallapoosa Fire Station**

Ms. Judy Ridley has offered to donate an acre of land in Tallapoosa in Memory of her late husband, Commissioner Donnie Ridley. Commissioner Tarpley motioned to approve the resolution to accept this donation of land. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 3-0-1, with Commissioner Ronnie Ridley abstaining due to the family connection.

#### **Item #10 – Resolution to Decline to Accept the land from Bill Greene for the Tallapoosa Fire Station**

County Attorney, Julie Cain, stated that this resolution gives Chairman Poole the authority to sign the needed affidavits and documentation allowing this property to revert to the estate of Bill Greene.

Chairman Poole motioned to approve the resolution to decline to accept the land from Bill Greene for the Tallapoosa Fire Station. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**Item #8 – Executive Session**

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

After the executive session, Commissioner Ridley motioned to go back into the regular meeting. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Ms. Cain reported that the executive session regarded Real Property and no action was taken.

**Public Participation on Non Agenda Items**

None

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

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
Certified County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MAY 16, 2018**  
**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Poole called the Special Called Meeting to order and noted that all the commissioners were present. Commissioner Bennett offered the Invocation and the board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to waive the reading of the May 1, 2018 regular meeting minutes until the next regular meeting. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Poole stated he would like to add item #4 – Reduction of county paid portion of the Health Insurance for any dependent coverage. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Item #1 - Request to be rezoned** from A-1 to C-GB for Auto Repair & Used Car Sales. Tommy McLeod. Located at 1120 Hwy 78 West. Haralson County Tax Map 0117-0039 and 0117-0039A. Chairman Poole stated that a Public Hearing was held on this rezoning request prior to the work session earlier today. He reported that there was no opposition raised during the hearing. Chairman Poole asked if there was any discussion of this item. There was none. Commissioner Ridley motioned to approve the rezoning request for Tommy McLeod. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Item #2 – Employee Health Insurance for 7/1/2018-06/30/2019**

Chairman Poole stated that the health insurance options for the upcoming fiscal year had been discussed at the work session. Commissioner Robinson motioned to go with United Health Care Plan A, Option 17 and to include the drug deductible. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Item #3 – Historic Courthouse Proclamation**

Commissioner Bennett read the Proclamation celebrating the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Historic Courthouse in Buchanan. This is one of the items that will be placed in the time capsule this Saturday at the Fair On the Square, to be opened 2092 on the occasion of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Chairman Poole motioned to accept the Proclamation. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Item #4 – Reduction of County paid portion of Family Health Coverage**

Chairman Poole stated that this was discussed in the work session. He asked if there was any additional discussion. There was none. Chairman Poole motioned to reduce the amount of family health care coverage paid by the county by 10% per year until this was completely

phased out. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 4-1, with Commissioner Bennett opposed.

Chairman Poole motioned to add item #5 – County will not pay any percentage of family coverage for new hires. Commissioner Robinson seconded adding this item and the motion carried 5-0.

**Item #5 – Family Coverage for Newly Hired Employees**

Chairman Poole asked if there was any discussion of this item. There was none. Chairman Poole motioned to discontinue offering county payment of any portion of family healthcare coverage effective immediately. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Poole reminded everyone of the Fair On the Square on Saturday May 19<sup>th</sup>.

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

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
Certified County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**MAY 16, 2018**

**WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Poole called the May 16, 2018 Work Session to order and noted for the record that all commissioners were present.

**Item #1 – Employee Health Insurance**

Marcy Heath gave the commissioners a packet of information regarding the Haralson County Employee Health Insurance and the options for the next fiscal year. The current carrier, Cigna, has a sizeable increase. Ms. Heath had requested quotes from numerous other carriers and reviewed the plans, costs, changes, etcetera with the board. The board discussed the options and the pros and cons of each. This will be voted on in the Special Called Meeting to follow this work session.

**Item #2 – Spouse and Dependent Percent of Coverage paid by Haralson County**

County Clerk Alison Palmer reported that last year the board had discussed reducing the amount the county pays by 10% per year until this is completely phased out. The board voted to reduce it by 10% last year. She stated that the board would need to vote to reduce it by 10% per year until phased out or would have to revisit this item every year until it is zeroed out. This item will be added to the Special Called Meeting Agenda.

**Item #3 – Budget**

Chairman Poole stated that his office was reviewing the earlier proposed budget and was updating some of the figures according to more recent numbers. He asked the board which departments they would like to sit down with individually. The ones requested are:

Recreation

Fire

Tax Assessor

Sheriff/Jail

**Submitted by Alison Palmer**

**Certified County Clerk**

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MAY 30, 2018**  
**RETREAT WORK SESSION MINUTES**

Chairman Poole called the Retreat work session to order. All commissioners were present.

**Item #1 – Internet Tower Lease**

County Attorney Julie Cain reported on recommendations for moving forward with the Internet Tower Lease. She stated after consulting with Cary Pilgrim, she thinks the county should proceed according to the following.

- Get Greg Dewberry to survey the piece of property immediately around the tower.
- Get a commercial appraisal that will help determine the Fair Market Value for the lease
- Then lease the ground under the tower to IWispr for fair market lease value. This would need to be renewed on a yearly basis.

Commissioner Tarpley still wanted Mr. Pilgrim to address the board again. The consensus of the rest of the board was that Ms. Cain had already consulted with him and could handle this going forward.

Ms. Cain stated that this would be a legal way to straighten out this situation.

Chairman Poole tasked Ms. Cain with getting Greg Dewberry set up to do the survey and to contact a company to perform the appraisal.

**Clarification of County Marshal**

Ms. Cain stated that the county marshal can issue citations and serve warrants, but does not have arrest powers.

**Folsom Road Closing**

The county has been contacted by Jamestown Properties to ask for a portion of Folsom road to be closed due to dumping, drugs, etc. Ms. Cain stated that this needs to be added to the agenda to start the proceedings.

**Item #2 – Gebcorp Changes**

County Clerk Alison Palmer reported that many years ago when the Gebcorp Retirement Plan was set up, the Magistrate Judge was listed as ineligible due to their part time status. However, in the last year, the Magistrate has continually worked full time hours and is currently being paid at a full time status. Until the state makes the Haralson County position a full time position, he does not qualify to be on the state retirement plan. He has asked to be allowed to participate in the county plan, in which all the other full time elected officials are already able

to participate. Alison will follow up with Gebcorp to see how to implement a change if the board decides to allow this change.

### **Item #3 – Road Department Vacation Schedule**

After discussing the current habit of closing the entire department for the week of July 4<sup>th</sup> and Christmas week, constituting a mandatory vacation, the board concurred that the department needed to manage their employee vacation time the same way all the other departments do this. Employee makes vacation request and if it does not cause a hardship on the department, the department head will approve and put this on the calendar. If someone requests time off and there is already someone else on the schedule, the department head does not have to approve the request. This also helps reduce the number of citizen complaints during these times. Put on June agenda.

### **Item #4 – Budget**

Chairman Poole stated that he and the staff had reviewed the proposed budget and updated some of the numbers according to the latest information. Each commissioner was given a copy of the update.

### **Tax Assessor, Hubert Sparks**

Mr. Sparks was able to give the board some additional details regarding his budget request. The recommended amounts had been dropped to fit his current staff. He is asking for a raise for one employee who will be training and taking on much more responsibility. He is also asking for an additional employee at an entry level rate and for \$16,500 for contract labor to help catch up the work that is behind due to one employee that has been out for a worker's comp injury.

### **Recreation, Mike Daniel**

Mr. Daniel gave a report on the changes and improvements that have been made over the past year and the process to begin hosting tournaments. He will be bringing in more revenue through these tournaments and the concession sales.

Commissioner Bennett reported that the Corinth Baptist Church will be turning the Corinth ballfields back over to the county. A citizen, Brad Patterson, has emailed Commissioner Bennett, requesting to use these fields. She forwarded the email to Mike so that he can meet with Mr. Patterson and determine if this is something that would be beneficial to the county. Mike will also check with neighboring counties and cities to see how much they charge for renting fields.

Another option that was brought up was for the county to auction off the Corinth property if it is not beneficial to us anymore.

After Mr. Daniel left, the board discussed his position with the county and the consensus was to promote him from Interim Director to Recreation Director and increase his pay to that of the former director. Also, it was discussed to raise his assistant's pay to \$11.00 per hour.

### **Fire, Chief Brian Walker and Deputy Chief John Entrekin**

During this discussion, questions were posed regarding ISO ratings and being able to sustain those ratings, step raises and how many would qualify immediately, and maintenance on vehicles. Adding an employee to the Tallapoosa department so that 2 are at that location due to the size of the city and the number of commercial properties there was also discussed.

### **Sheriff/Jail – Eddie Mixon**

The sheriff reported that he intended to give a raise, not across the board, but merit based to some or all of his employees. He stated that he has trouble keeping good employees because of the pay rates. He was also put out that someone had been hired into another department who was previously in the jail. He did not approve of the amount they were being paid and he stated that at the time of hire, this person was still required to wear an ankle monitor.

Regarding the jail salaries, he stated that he intended for them to have a raise also and had instructed the administrator to add those to the budget. Alison Palmer reported that she had spoken to the administrator who told her that the salary request did not include a raise. The sheriff reiterated that he intended to give them one also, therefore it would need to be added to the request.

Commissioner Bennett spoke with the sheriff briefly regarding the services and information available to the inmates who were being released.

### **Appalachian Regional Commission Grant that passes through to Ambucare**

Commissioner Tarpley and Magistrate Judge Brandon Heath brought a complaint to the board regarding the vehicle that was purchased with this grant that Ambucare employee, Carleton Firestone drives. They gave a copy of an incident that occurred that they said happened while he was using this vehicle. Judge Heath said there was a government tag on the vehicle and there was no medical equipment in it either. After some discussion, it was determined that the chairman would speak to Bill Hightower regarding this and if the other commissioners want to talk to him they can meet with him separately if they still have questions following the Chairman's discussion with him. This grant ends in August and the board will have to determine whether the county will remain involved or not and at that time the disposition of the vehicle can be decided.

### **Miscellaneous Budget Items discussed**

Telephones were discussed. Alison & Don Johnson explained that this line item includes fiber,

phone systems, internet, cell phones and fax lines. This is why it is a different from department to department.

Commissioner Tarpley suggested that the land lines to all the convenience centers be cut off. He said he felt sure each of these employees had a cell phone if there was an emergency.

The maintenance was discussed along with the cleaning contract and the fact that the same individual was an employee and also was being paid for the cleaning contract.

Raises versus Christmas bonuses were also discussed. A raise must be sustained each year. A one-time bonus does not. Someone recommended only giving the bonuses to the departments that did not get a raise. This will have to be determined by an attorney. Alison and Don both thought this would be discrimination. Alison will contact the ACCG HR helpline regarding this. Also, Alison and Don will run numbers on different amounts and Full time /Part time scenarios.

### **Miscellaneous Items**

Permanent Decals on all county vehicles is required, with the exception being the Chairman's vehicle, if the board voted to exempt that one.

Policy regarding a county employee running for elected position was brought up and whether or not that individual should have to resign their employment with the county. Alison reported that it was not in the personnel policy and several employees have run and been elected to county office.

Convenience center permit price possibly being reduced for the citizens of Bremen and Tallapoosa so that more would be purchased was suggested also.

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
Certified County Clerk

## **HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**JUNE 5, 2018**

### **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Poole called the regular meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. Pastor Stanley Freeland offered the Invocation and the board led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Poole stated that Commissioner Robinson was out of town, however, there was a quorum, and therefore the business of the county could be carried out.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Poole stated that the minutes of 4 meetings in May had been distributed to the commissioners to review. Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the meetings of the May 1, 2018 Regular Meeting, May 16, 2018 Work Session, May 16, 2018 Special Called Meeting, and the May 30, 2018 Retreat, all as written. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

#### **Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Ridley asked to add the Waco Fire Station to the agenda. Commissioner Ridley motioned to approve the agenda with the addition of Item #7 Waco Fire Station. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

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

Chairman Poole asked Chief Appraiser Hubert Sparks to explain the process for valuing properties for the county and to explain the assessment notices that went out to property owners at the end of last week.

Mr. Sparks stated that values on residential structures have increased. This is market driven. Residential structures are in great demand and some are selling for more than when the market peaked in 2007. The Board of Assessors are held to standards set by the Georgia Department of Audits for the State. The state studies the facts for Haralson County and then determines the Sales Ratio that we are attaining. 38-42 is the acceptable range for this number. Our current sales ratio is 39.74. If we drop under 38, the county loses revenues from public utilities. Under 36 results in fines and penalties for the county. Mr. Sparks also stated that the tax estimate on this assessments come from the current values and the last years millage. This is from state law 48-5-306.

Chairman Poole stated that the board must determine the budget and then the millage rates are figured from those budget numbers. He stated that current projections show that this will be lower than last year's millage, so the estimate of taxes that are on the assessments are higher than they will probably end up.

County Clerk, Alison Palmer, explained more of the process for coming up with the millage and gave an example using the projected millage with the current values on her own property, to give the citizens an idea of the difference between the estimate and the projected amounts.

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

None

#### **Item #1 – Rezoning Request – Haralson County Tax Map 0053-0051, located on Hwy 100.**

##### **Present zoning is R-MHP, requested to go to C-GB – Vote**

Chairman Poole stated that a public hearing was held prior to this meeting for the request. The Planning and Zoning Board recommended approval. Chairman Poole motioned to approve the rezoning request for Tax Map 0053-0051 from R-MHP to C-GB. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

#### **Item #2 – Internet Tower Lease**

Chairman Poole motioned to table this item until the commercial appraisal has been completed. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

#### **Item #3 – Road Department Vacation schedule – Vote**

Chairman Poole stated that Commissioner Robinson had asked for this to be tabled until it could be discussed again in the work session. Chairman Poole motioned to table the item. Commissioner Ridley seconded. Commissioner Tarpley stated that he had once asked for an item that involved his district to be tabled when he was unable to be at the meeting and it was not tabled. He stated this is a county wide item and there are three of the districts represented. Commissioner Bennett agreed with Commissioner Tarpley. Chairman Poole called for the vote and it was 2-2 with Commissioners Tarpley and Bennett opposed. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Ridley withdrew his second. Motion failed.

More discussion followed. County Clerk Alison Palmer addressed a question from Commissioner Ridley about the origin of this item. Ms. Palmer stated that there had been many complaints over the years from employees and citizens. These two weeks that the department close down are the most expensive to plan a vacation during. With the turnover in employees, some do not have leave to cover these mandatory vacation weeks, which is causing a hardship on the employee. Other employees have events or occasions that they would prefer for their vacations. Also, when the department is closed, there are many citizen complaints that cannot be addressed.

Commissioner Bennett stated that she had never worked anywhere that had a set time when you must take your vacation. She stated that it was a matter of managing the requests in such a way that they did not cause problems in the department.

Commissioner Bennett motioned to have the road department follow the same procedures for vacation leave as the rest of the county. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 3-1, with Chairman Poole opposed.

**Item #4 – Folsom Road – Begin process to close a portion of this road**

County Attorney, Julie Cain, stated that Jamestown Timber has requested that the county close the portion of Folsom Road past the last homeowner to the Alabama state line. They are having a lot of problems with people dumping trash, loitering, drug use, etc. Ms. Cain explained that she just needed the approval to begin the process, which includes contacting the other landowners to inform them of the intention to close the road. They would then have the opportunity to object if they opposed this action.

Commissioner Bennett motioned for the county attorney to begin the process of closing a portion of Folsom Road. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**Item #5 – 2018-2019 Proposed Budget**

Chairman Poole stated that he felt like the proposed budget was at a point that the county could start the process to get it approved, starting with the budget advertisement. County Clerk Alison Palmer outlined the proposed budget amounts, which all together came to \$15,498,288. This includes the county-wide and the special service districts. Ms. Palmer also explained the process that follows for setting the millage rates after the budget is approved and the final digest numbers are received back from the state. After some discussion, Commissioner Bennett motioned to advertise the proposed budget. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 3-1 with Commissioner Tarpley opposed. Commissioner Tarpley felt like there were still some items in the budget that needed to have further discussion.

**Item #6 – Waco Fire Station**

Commissioner Ridley stated that Waco came completely under Haralson County Fire July 1, 2017. They would like to get the transfer of the building completed and have the county reimburse them for the expenses for that station from January 1, 2018-June 30, 2018. Chairman Poole stated that the county attorney was working with the Waco attorney to get the documentation for the Waco station completed.

**Item #7 – Executive Session**

Tabled.

Commissioner Bennett motioned to adjourn. Chairman Poole seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
Certified County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**JUNE 21, 2018**

**WORK SESSION MINUTES**

Chairman Poole called the work session to order. Commissioner's Tarpley, Ridley, & Robinson present. Commissioner Bennett via telephone.

**Item #1 – Public Hearing for 2018-2019 Proposed Budget**

Chairman Poole stated that the proposed budget that had been advertised is a total of \$15,498,288. The breakdown is as follows:

- County-wide Budget -	\$12,040,805
- Fire SSD	\$2,532,278
- Solid Waste	\$406,731
- Recreation	\$326,161
- Plan & Zone/Code Enforcement	\$192,313

Chairman Poole reported that we received a late notification that UGA was appropriating the funding for an Agricultural agent for Haralson County. They are requesting that we put into the budget the funds for ½ of the salary, along with taxes and retirement. Request is for \$18,000 for the salary. He recommends that the county approve this request.

Commissioner Tarpley addressed the part time employee that had moved from the Commissioner's office to the fire department. Everyone thought she was retiring. After a lengthy discussion regarding her duties and what she would be doing to help bring the Tallapoosa station on board, it was determined that she would be left in the budget through December.

Commissioner Robinson requested that the road department budget be readdressed. After another lengthy discussion, the consensus was to allow Mr. McConnell to hire four more employees with a starting pay up to \$15/hour according to skills and qualifications and to put a little in his salary line to address current employees according to their qualifications and skills, whose pay is not in line with this starting amount.

**Item #2 – Ambucare/ARC Grant**

Bill Hightower reported on the grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission for the Mobile Integrated Healthcare program. He explained how Keith Wages from the Georgia Department of Health had contacted him looking for a rural, underserved county to apply for this grant that targets the underprivileged. He said they had made more than 700 contacts in 22 months. This program is only for people who are on Medicare or Medicaid or have no insurance at all. The hope is that a doctor or hospital will partner with Ambucare to carry on the program when the

grant term runs out. At this time, Mr. Hightower reported that Dr. Allison Key is probably going to take on this program.

Carlton Firestone added that Dr. Keys and her staff go to the CCC and runs a free clinic. She will also see a patient at no charge for one that is part of this program.

#### **Item #2 – Freeport Exemption Resolution**

County Clerk Alison Palmer explained that the county passed the Freeport exemption in the 1998 election. However, there was not a resolution at that time to accept this exemption. The Georgia Department of Revenue has stated that the county needs to pass a Resolution stating that they accept the results of the 1998 election approving the Freeport exemption.

#### **Item #3 – Georgia EPD Model Erosion Control Ordinance, Greg Dewberry**

Mr. Dewberry stated that in order to remain a local issuing authority for the EPD concerning erosion control, we must update our ordinance to match the current requirements of the state. The county receives a portion of the inspection fees for handling this item for the EPD.

#### **Item #4 – Kimball Pass, Greg Dewberry**

Ms. Kimball was asking for the county to start maintaining this road. According to Greg Dewberry, it is listed on the 1973 road map as a county road. She said it is very overgrown. It is a very narrow, one lane road. Bill McConnell, Public Works Director, stated that Buddy Kimball is the one who had it paved. Terry Edwards, Assistant Public Works Director, stated that the county quit maintaining the road when the person that owns the property on each side threatened to sue the county for being on their property. The county does not have right-of-way deeds for that road. After a little more discussion, it was determined that the county attorney would look further into this item and try to determine:

1. Is it a county road?
2. How wide is the right-of-way?
3. Can the county legally go in and begin maintaining it?

#### **Item #5 – Hands Free Georgia Act – HB 673 – Employee Handbook Policy**

The hands free act goes into force July 1, 2018. In order to protect the county and the insurance carriers, the county needs to put this policy into place that insures that the employees who drive for the county or on county business are aware of the law and the consequences for getting a citation. This policy states that the employee will be responsible for all fines and fees if they get a citation for breaking this law and the discipline will be according to the county policy, up to and including possible termination.

#### **Item #6 – Tallapoosa 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks donation request**

Chairman Poole stated that Tallapoosa has requested a donation to help pay for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July

fireworks. Chairman Poole stated that the county usually gives a donation. Consensus of the board is to give \$250.

**Item # 7 – Executive Session**

Tabled due to the county attorney being ill and unable to attend the meeting.

**Item #8 – Meeting with the Board of Education**

Chairman Poole reported that he, Commissioner Ridley, and Alison Palmer had met with the Superintendent, Jerry Bell, and two of the Board of Education members, Martha Smith and James Watson. Chairman Poole reported to them the requests from citizens for the Board of Commissioners and the Board of Education to have a joint meeting for the citizens to air their concerns about taxes in the county. They declined to have a joint meeting. They said they did not feel like they should exempt any particular group of citizens from the education tax.

Chairman Poole adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by Alison Palmer

Certified County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**JUNE 28, 2018**  
**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

Chairman Allen Poole called the Special Called meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. Commissioners Tarpley, Ridley and Robinson were present. Commissioner Bennett was absent.

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

Commissioner Robinson motioned to waive the minutes of the June 5, 2018 regular meeting and the June 21, 2018 work session until the next regular meeting. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Ridley motioned to approve the agenda with the removal of item#3 – Waco Fire Station Deed. Item was not ready for a vote. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**Item #1 – 2018-2019 Budget – Vote**

Chairman Poole stated that the items that were discussed at the June 21, 2018 meeting had been changed. These included the addition of a portion of the salary for an agricultural agent to the UGA extension office and the addition to the salary line of the road department. Commissioner Tarpley asked if the budget needed to be advertised again since the total increased. Chairman Poole stated that he had contacted the legal counsel at ACCG and they stated it did not have to be re-advertised. After a brief discussion, Chairman Poole called for a motion. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the 2018-2019 combined budgets for a total of \$15,579,596. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**Item #2 – Freeport Exemption Resolution – Vote**

In 1998, after the Freeport exemption was approved by the citizens of Haralson County, a resolution was not voted on to approve the exemption. The state of Georgia required that the county do this now to continue honoring that exemption. Commissioner Ridley motioned to approve the Freeport Exemption Resolution. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**Item #3 – Waco Fire Station Deed – Vote**

Removed from agenda.

**Item #4 – Hands Free Georgia Act – HB673- Employee Handbook Policy – Vote**

Chairman Poole explained that this policy addresses the consequences of violating the new state law regarding cell phone use while driving a county vehicle or driving on county business.

The employee will be responsible for any fines or fees and the discipline will be according to the handbook. Commissioner Ridley motioned to approve the Hands Free Georgia Act policy. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**Item #5 – Clarification of Folsom Road/Folsom Road Spur closing**

County Attorney Julie Cain asked for clarification before starting the process to close Folsom Road past the last homeowner to the Polk County line. Folsom spur is a small spur off of it, and she wanted clarification as to whether that was included in the closing. It was stated that this is very overgrown and not passable. Commissioner Ridley stated this was in his district and that he had spoken with several of the residents on that road and they are opposed to having it closed. If there was a fire in the other direction and that end is closed, there would not be an alternate way out. Ms. Cain stated that the next step is to send letters to all the residents and they will have an opportunity to speak for or against the closing when the county has the public hearing.

**Item #6 – Witcher Property**

Chairman Poole received a call from Freddy Witcher. The chairman had inquired about the county purchasing or leasing the building owned by the Witchers that used to house the state probation office on the Buchanan bypass. He also asked about purchasing the land behind the big bull on the corner of Macedonia Church Road. Mr. Witcher stated they are getting appraisals on both properties and would let him know a sale price when this was completed.

Chairman Poole adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
Certified County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**JULY 10, 2018**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Allen Poole called the regular meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. Mr. Smith offered the Invocation and the board led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Poole noted that all commissioners were present.

The chairman stated that the commissioners had been sent the minutes from the three meetings in June to review. He asked if there were any changes, corrections, or additions. There were none. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2018 regular meeting minutes, the June 21, 2018 work session minutes, and the June 28, 2018 special called meeting minutes. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Poole asked for any changes to the agenda. There were none. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Poole reported that the state DOT had voted to assist Haralson County with the repairs to Jacksonville Road and Old Ridgeway Road, but had not said what amount of funding they will provide. Commissioner Tarpley asked about striping of roads. Mr. McConnell stated that they would be doing some striping, but the road that gets the most complaints is Baxter Road and he wants to wait on that one, because he has included that in the next LMIG request. He would prefer to use the striping funds where they will be beneficial for longer.

**Public Participation on Agenda Items**

None

**Item #1 – Georgia EPD Erosion Control Ordinance Update**

This is the updated version of the EPD Erosion Control Ordinance that the state requires the county to adopt to continue as a local issuing authority for the EPD. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the Georgia EPD Erosion Control Ordinance update. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Item #2 – Waco Fire Station Deed Acceptance**

County Attorney Julie Cain reported that the Waco City Council had approved deeding the Waco Fire Station to Haralson County. The deed includes rights of reversion. If the county ever discontinues using the building as a fire station, ownership will revert to The City of Waco. Commissioner Ridley motioned to accept the deed to the Waco Fire Station. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

### **Item #3 – Executive Session**

Chairman Poole stated that the session was for personnel issues and real property. Commissioner Robinson motioned to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Upon returning, Commissioner Robinson motioned to go back into the regular meeting. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Poole stated the executive session involved a personnel issue that required no action and real property that was the next item on the agenda.

### **Item #4 – Internet Tower Lease**

Chairman Poole stated that the executive session real property portion was to determine the details of this lease. Chairman Poole motioned to approve the lease between Haralson County and IWispr for the small piece of property on Macedonia Church Road behind the livestock pavilion for the Internet Tower. Commissioner Robinson seconded. Chairman Poole asked if there was any more discussion. Commissioner Tarpley stated that he would be voting against this lease, not because he did not want internet, but because he felt that the county had not followed due diligence in getting to this point. Chairman Poole called for the vote and the motion carried 4-1, with Commissioner Tarpley opposed.

Laura Camper, from the Times Georgian papers asked for the details of the lease. Chairman Poole stated that it was a multi-year lease that automatically renews yearly, with the cost being \$100 per month to Haralson County. IWispr would also be required to carry liability insurance of \$1 million.

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

None

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

Submitted by Alison Palmer

Certified County Clerk

## HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

JULY 18, 2018

### WORK SESSION MINUTES

Chairman Poole called the Work session to order and noted for the record that Commissioner Bennett and Commissioner Tarpley were present. Commissioner Ridley, Commissioner Robinson and County Attorney Julie Cain were absent.

**Item #1 - Public Hearing- Rezoning Request by Rae Ann Walters, Haralson County Tax Map 0040-0018, located on Ten Oaks Road. Current zoning A-1. Requesting Conditional Use of 10 acres for an Event Venue.**

Chairman Poole asked Ms. Walters to tell the board about the plans for this venue. She stated that they planned to have weddings on weekends. There is already a barn on the property and they reside on the property. Chairman Poole stated that the Planning and Zoning board had unanimously recommended approval of this conditional use request.

**Item #2 – Comprehensive Plan Amendment**

The Northwest Georgia Regional Commission has recommended an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan to include Broadband so that the county would be eligible for state and federal funds to help with that need. The county will advertise for a public hearing and then will place this on the regular meeting agenda for August.

**Item #3 – Juvenile Court Clerk**

Ms. Becky Robinson, the Clerk of Superior Court spoke to the board recommending that the Juvenile Court Clerk position and duties be separated out from her office. She stated that there are systems and websites that the Juvenile clerk needs to access that she is not currently connected with and is hesitant to pursue since her computer systems came from the Superior Court Clerks Association. Also, removing this from her office would open up some desperately needed space in her office. Ms. Robinson stated that beginning January 1, 2018, she is mandated to have 2 work stations available for attorneys to use for e-filing of cases and documents regarding those cases. She also addressed the desperate need for more room for records.

Removing the Juvenile Clerk from her office would involve finding office space for the employee that is currently serving as Deputy Clerk, adding a part-time individual to help with that duty. Budget wise, the salary and benefits for the employee that would be moving would come out of the Clerk of Court budget, but the county would have to add funds for the part time employee along with the other expenses for a separate office, including utilities, supplies, etc.

After some discussion, the board agreed that there would need to be some research done to determine where we could put this office, where the funds would be coming from, etc.

**Item #4 – Witcher Building**

Chairman Poole heard back from the Witchers regarding the old state probation building. They have had an appraisal done on the property and came back with two proposals. They would be willing to sell it for \$200,000 or lease it for \$1750 per month.

Another option to help with the lack of room at the courthouse would be to use some money to fix up the offices in the old sheriff/jail building and move some offices over there. It could be renamed the Courthouse Annex.

Further discussion and options will have to be researched and discussed.

Alison reminded the board of the Area Commissioner's Luncheon coming up in Douglasville and asked the commissioners to let her know if they planned to attend.

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

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**JULY 18, 2018**

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Poole called the Special called meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. E-911 Director Cathy Thompson offered the Invocation and the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Poole noted for the record that Commissioner Bennett and Commissioner Tarpley were present making a quorum; therefore the business of the county could be conducted.

Commissioner Ridley, Commissioner Robinson, and County Attorney Julie Cain were absent.

Commissioner Bennett motioned to waive the reading of the Regular meeting minutes until the next regular meeting. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Tarpley asked to add Item #2 Executive Session regarding personnel. Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

**Item #1 - Public Hearing- Rezoning Request by Rae Ann Walters, Haralson County Tax Map 0040-0018, located on Ten Oaks Road. Current zoning A-1. Requesting Conditional Use of 10 acres for an Event Venue.**

Chairman Poole stated that the public hearing for this rezoning request was held during the work session and there were no opponents. He also stated that the Planning and Zoning board had unanimously recommended approval of this rezoning request. Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the request for conditional use rezoning. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

**Item #2 – Executive Session**

Commissioner Bennett motioned to go into executive session. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Upon return, Commissioner Bennett motioned to go back into the special called meeting. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Chairman Poole stated that the executive session was about a personnel issue and no action was being taken at this time.

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

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
Certified County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**AUGUST 7, 2018**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Poole called the regular meeting to order. Marshal Tim Wautelet offered the Invocation and the board led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Poole noted that all commissioners were present except Commissioner Ridley, who was absent due to a health issue.

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Poole reported that Commissioner Ridley and past Commissioner Amos Sparks was in the hospital. He asked everyone to keep these two in their prayers.

**Approval of Minutes**

The Chairman stated that the commissioners had been sent the minutes of the July meetings to review. He asked if there were any changes to be made. There were none. Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2018 regular meeting, the July 18, 2018 work session minutes and the July 18, 2018 special called minutes as written. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**Approval of Agenda**

Chairman Poole stated there were four items on the agenda and asked the commissioners if there were any changes they wished to make to the agenda. There were none. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**Public Participation on Agenda Items**

- Jack Dewberry – Item #4 County Administrator – was against adding this position. Stated the county could not afford it and compared it to the Board of Education. He said you can't even speak to that board at their meetings. He said the people elected the board to run the county, not someone that is not answering to the people.

-Tom Hutcheson – Item #4 County Administrator – said he was from a long line of county managers and administrators and he is in favor.

-Yvonne Kimball – Item #4 County Administrator – stated she was in favor of letting the people vote on this item.

-Michelle Boulton – Item #2 Comprehensive Plan Amendment regarding Broadband. Stated she was in favor of this amendment, that there is an enormous amount of money coming down through the federal government for broadband. She asked some questions regarding whether

it would be just the county or could private entities access some of these funds also. Chairman Poole stated that the guidelines would determine that aspect.

#### **Item #1 – Public Hearing – Comprehensive Plan Amendment**

Chairman Poole explained that this would just add a “county need” to the approved comprehensive plan to include broadband. This would qualify the county to apply for funding coming down from the federal and state governments to address the lack of internet in the county. Kevin and Michelle Boulton stated that they were in favor of this amendment. No one spoke in opposition.

#### **Item #2 – Comprehensive Plan Amendment - Vote**

County Clerk Alison Palmer had given the commissioners a copy of the page of the original comprehensive plan that listed needs and a copy of the amended one that show the added line regarding broadband. Chairman Poole asked if there was any more discussion. Commissioner Robinson motioned to amend the Comprehensive Plan to include Broadband needs. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

#### **Item #3 – Bishop Dr. A.L. Henderson Proclamation - Vote**

Chairman Poole asked Alison to read this proclamation celebrating Bishop Henderson’s years of service within several churches in Haralson County and Douglas County. Chairman Poole motioned to approve the Proclamation. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

#### **Item #4 – County Administrator – Vote**

Commissioner Tarpley stated that he gave this proposed ordinance to the commission members who were present at the July work session. He later spoke with Chairman Poole who stated that he felt the need to change the amount that the administrator would be allowed to approve without BOC approval.

Commissioner Bennett read the full proposed ordinance out for all to hear. Commissioner Bennett stated that she had been in favor of this for several years because she had worked in this type of system and saw how well it worked for Douglas County. She felt her position was unique due to her experience with this type of arrangement.

Chairman Poole stated that he did not have a problem allowing the people to vote on this item, but from his conversation with Vaughn Gable, Elections Superintendent, the county does not have enough time to get this on the ballot for the election this year. Chairman Poole also stated that he did not see the need for an additional person in this office. The people have elected him for a term through 2020 and this will not affect him. He reported that the county had received the CAFR again for excellence in financial reporting, has added Don Johnson as the finance director, shifted some duties around and he just does not see the need for this addition.

Commissioner Robinson asked if this had been discussed at a work session with the full board. Commissioner Tarpley stated it had, but Commissioner Robinson stated that he and Commissioner Ridley were absent from that one.

Commissioner Tarpley stated that he had spoken to Vaughn Gable and he thinks there is enough time to get this on the ballot. Commissioner Tarpley went on to say that only 36 counties in Georgia do not have a manager or administrator. He reported that he had met with the Chairman of Carroll County who has 650 employees. He stated that when Mr. Smith took office everything landed on his desk and he was overwhelmed. Now he has put key people around him to handle items so that it does not all land on his desk. Commissioner Tarpley also compared this to a school or hospital board. He went on to discuss the fact that Chairman Poole was out of the office for three days last week. Who was running things then? He said he is asking for a person that is more professional and educated to run things so that the Chairman can be going to all these meetings for the county. He stated that the clerk has so many hats such as clerk, human resources, insurance, and working with auditors, that we can't ask her to be effective and efficient with that and more.

Greg Dewberry was recognized by Chairman Poole to speak. He stated that he did not feel it is fair to compare this to a hospital board because this one would be funded by the people. He also stated that he felt this ordinance had two glaring omissions.

1. What will the Chairman's role be?
2. What will the cost be? He stated that if you were going to put this on the ballot, it should be: "Do you want a county administrator at ??? additional cost to the county?" Mr. Dewberry stated that with the requirements listed, it will not be cheap.

Mr. Gunther was recognized. He stated that he was going to use Commissioner Tarpley's words, "Don't rush this." The citizens need more information before this goes forward.

Commissioner Bennett stated that this would be a support staff position, not taking away the power of the Board of Commissioners. She went on to say that the chairman needs to be out working on behalf of the county, not stuck in the office.

Commissioner Tarpley stated that he got this ordinance from Douglas County, who stated they had ACCG draw it up when they first implemented this position.

Mrs. Dewberry stated this is too rushed. Folks won't understand what is being asked. Why don't you postpone it until more information is given to the people. She said, "you are comparing us to other dimes, and we are the nickel."

Commissioner Robinson stated that some people felt that this office has too many employees as it stands!

Chairman Poole stated that he had been asking citizens what they thought of this and they said, "That's what we elected you to do."

Chairman Poole asked attorney, Julie Cain, if she had anything to add. She said no, she thought it had been pretty well covered, but she had spoken to Vaughn Gable and she was under the impression that there was not enough time to put it on the ballot.

Commissioner Tarpley said the board could vote to put it on the ballot and if Mr. Gable said there was not enough time, then it was over.

Chairman Poole stated that the people had elected him to perform these duties. He said we will call the question.

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to accept the ordinance to create the position of administrator as read by Commissioner Bennett. Commissioner Bennett seconded. The vote was 2 in favor (Commissioner Tarpley and Commissioner Bennett), and 2 opposed (Commissioner Robinson and Chairman Poole). Motion failed for lack of a majority vote.

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

None

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

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
Certified County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**AUGUST 15, 2018**  
**WORK SESSION MINUTES**

Chairman Poole called the work session to order. Commissioners Bennett, Tarpley and Robinson were present. Commissioner Ridley was absent due to health issues and County Attorney Julie Cain was out of town.

**Item #1 – Old Jail/Sheriff Department Building**

Chairman Poole reported that he, Alison, Ms. Couch and Robert Smith had gone over to the old jail building to evaluate the possibility of the county remodeling some areas for much needed office space. There are about 12 areas up stairs for offices and a good sized conference room. There would need to be new flooring, paint, etc. in order to be a decent space. Also, Chairman Poole stated he had contacted Mr. Key, who replaced 2 of the 3 sections of roof a few years ago, to evaluate the roof over the office space area.

Commissioner Tarpley wanted to know what offices was the chairman going to move, and could the Clerk of Court's records be moved. Chairman Poole stated that he only went to evaluate the possibility, that the board would have to determine who was moved to that building and that the county would have to determine if there are stipulations that require certain offices to be in the actual courthouse itself or which could be moved to an "annex."

Commissioner Bennett recommended checking with Probate Judge Hulseby regarding requirements. She also recalled that Ms. Robinson, Clerk of Court, had stated that if any of her records were moved, she would then need an additional employee to station in the annex.

**Item #2 – County Administrator.**

No discussion at this time.

**Item #3 – JAG Grant Announcement**

Alison Palmer, County Clerk, announced that the superior court is applying for a new JAG grant for Judge Murphy's mental health court. The proceeds would be used for surveillance of the people who are participating in the program. The paperwork will be available for viewing in the commissioner's office for 30 days.

**Item #4 – Auction of Carlton Johnson fire property and Ballpark property**

Chairman Poole stated that Mr. Wade did not bid on the property at the auction, but later offered \$3000 per acre. He felt like the required minimum bid was too much. Commissioner Tarpley stated that the motion to auction the property did not include a minimum bid. Chairman Poole stated that the discussion at the time was to put a minimum bid at the amount the county paid Mr. Wade for the property in 1998. Commissioner Tarpley stated that he did

not think this was legal since it was not advertised that way. Commissioner Bennett stated she understood there would be a minimum bid of \$11,000 also. Chairman Poole stated that it was a moot point now since there were no bids on that piece of property. Chairman Poole will consult with the attorney regarding this item before moving forward with the disposition of this property.

#### **Item #5 – Update on Tallapoosa Fire Station**

Commissioner Tarpley asked for an update on this project. Chairman Poole stated that we are almost ready to put out bids. Commissioner Tarpley asked about plans, bids, etc. He also stated that the silt fence needs attention. Chairman Poole stated that Steve Wilson is drawing the plans and the county would be bidding it out in individual sections. There was some discussion regarding this and the amount that Mr. Wilson is being paid. Chairman Poole stated that he is working on an hourly basis as a county employee. Ms. Couch retrieved the details. Mr. Wilson is being paid \$18/hour and has been paid \$1585 since January for his work. Commissioner Bennett was concerned that we were using a retired employee when there are other people in the county who need the work. Chairman Poole stated the county is trying to keep the costs down. Chief Walker will be acting on behalf of the county as the project manager, which has been the practice in the past with these type projects. Alison reported that all bids over \$10,000 are required to go on the Georgia Procurement website and will also be posted on the county website.

#### **Item #6 - Executive Session**

Chairman Poole stated that the executive session was for a personnel issue and asked Public Works Director Bill McConnell to stay.

After the executive session, Chairman Poole reiterated that the session was due to a personnel issue and no action was needed at this time.

Alison reminded everyone of the Special Called Meeting on Monday, August 20, 2018 to set the millage rate. The advertisements had been run and the proposed rate is 10.64 which is lower than the rollback rate, but was all that is needed to fund the budget approved by the board. She also said all the special service district rates are lower except for the sanitation which increased by .09.

Chairman Poole adjourned the work session.

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
Certified County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES  
AUGUST 20, 2018**

Chairman Poole called the meeting to order and offered the Invocation. The Board led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Poole noted for the record that Commissioner Robinson and Commissioner Tarpley were present and Commissioner Bennett had joined the meeting by speaker phone. Commissioner Ridley was absent due to a health condition.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to waive the reading of the August 7, 2018 regular meeting minutes and the August 15, 2018 work session minutes until the next regular meeting on September 4, 2018. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Poole stated that there was only one item on the agenda and asked the commissioners if there were any changes to be made. There were none. Chairman Poole motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**Item #1 – Set Millage Rates – Vote**

Chairman Poole asked County Clerk Alison Palmer to read the Resolution to Levy taxes. They are as follows:

Countywide – 10.64 mills

Haralson County Board of Education (All districts except Bremen) – 15.607 mills

Recreation Special Service District (Unincorporated, Buchanan, & Waco) - .63 mills

Fire Special Service District (Unincorporated & Tallapoosa) – 2.14 mills

Fire Special Service District (Buchanan, Waco, & Temple) – 4.80 mills

Sanitation Special Service District (Unincorporated, Buchanan, & Waco) – .54 mills

Chairman Poole asked if there was any discussion. Alison stated that all of the millage rates were reduced from last year, with the exception of Sanitation, which went up .09.

Chairman Poole motioned to approve the millage rates as read in the Resolution.

Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

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

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
Certified County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**SEPTEMBER 4, 2018**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

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

**Approval of Previous meetings minutes**

Chairman Poole stated that the commissioners have been sent copies of the minutes from the August meetings to review. He asked if there were any additions, changes or deletions. There were none. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2018 regular meeting, the August 15, 2018 work session, and the August 20, 2018 special called meeting. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Approval of Agenda**

Chairman Poole stated that he would like to add an executive session to the agenda for a personnel issue. Commissioner Tarpley stated he would like to add the TSPLOST for discussion. Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Poole reported that the Tax Digest has been approved by the state and the order had been signed authorizing the Tax Commissioner to send out bills and begin collecting the taxes.

**TSPLOST**

Don Johnson, Finance Director, gave a finance report as of July 31, 2018. Commissioner Bennett also asked him to give a report at this time on the TSPLOST. He stated that at this time, after receiving distributions for four months, we have \$536,988 in the TSPLOST account. He stated we have spent \$177 for checks and \$17,706.54 on Loftis Road.

Chairman Poole stated that the state has agreed to give Haralson County \$477,000 to repave Jacksonville Road. The quote currently for that road is \$983,000. So we will have to use some of the TSPLOST to make up the difference. Loftis Road is one of the roads that is on the TSPLOST project list. Chairman Poole stated that possibly the next road on the list that could be addressed is South Georgia Avenue. Chairman Poole asked Commissioner Tarpley if there was something specific he was interested in regarding the TSPLOST.

Commissioner Tarpley stated that he was grateful for the money from the state for Jacksonville Road. He asked if Old Ridgeway is not going to be addressed. Chairman Poole stated that as the money comes in, we can address it, but right now we don't have enough to address both. Commissioner Tarpley stated that Old Ridgeway or Jacksonville Road were neither one on the

project list that the county had approved and if the county is going to use \$477,000 for Jacksonville, then some of these roads that are on that list won't be able to get done. County Clerk Alison Palmer explained that this was not the case. The original project road list comes to \$2.1 million. The projected amount that should come in for road renovations over the five years is \$5.5 million. That list was just the roads that the commissioners felt were the most important to work on from the start. Commissioner Tarpley stated that he stands corrected. Ms. Palmer also pointed out that two of the roads on the original TSPLOST list had been selected by the state to come out of LMIG funds, so that is more that is available.

Chairman Poole stated that the county would use state money and TSPLOST for Jacksonville Road. Our LMIG funding will be used for Carlton Johnson and Kings Gin. Liberty Church Road is the other road that will be finished with LMIG funds. Commissioner Tarpley asked how much Liberty Church Road will cost. Alison replied, \$589,679. Commissioner Tarpley stated, so we received \$800,000 in LMIG? Chairman Poole reminded him that the county has to match 30%. Alison replied that we received \$600,000. Commissioner Tarpley asked if the 30% comes out of budgeted money, not TSPLOST. Chairman Poole stated yes, this is correct.

Commissioner Ridley stated that if the taxes continue to come in at a higher rate than originally expected, we may have even more for roads over the next few years.

Commissioner Tarpley also clarified that if a road was not already on the TSPLOST list, it would not be worked unless the board had discussed and voted on the project. Alison added unless it was on the LMIG list.

### **Announcements**

Chairman Poole asked everyone to keep the people in the county that have lost family members. Specifically, Dr. McBrayer, who lost his wife and Elaine Hutcheson in the loss of her husband, Larry Hutcheson. He also asked everyone to continue remembering Danny Hutcheson in their prayers.

### **Road Striping**

Commissioner Tarpley asked about the striping funds for some of the county roads that had been discussed previously. He said he understands that you don't want to stripe roads that are about to be repaved, but he gets asked about this and it is not necessarily roads that are in his district. Chairman Poole stated that the county is also trying to get extra funding for striping. He said Bill McConnell agrees that two of the worst are Jacksonville Road and Baxter Road. He went on to say that Baxter Road is on the upcoming years LMIG list.

Commissioner Tarpley questioned why this had not already been done. Chairman Poole stated that the county was attempting to get funding that had not come through at this time. Commissioner Tarpley stated that in a report several months back, the chairman had stated that some funds were available. Chairman Poole responded that these were the 30% matching

funds, not the full amount. Chairman Poole stated that we can move forward with the work but without a grant the county will be responsible for 100% of the cost.

Commissioner Tarpley questioned the validity of the auction for the Corinth Property across from the ball fields. He asked if Ms. Cain had reviewed it and come to any conclusions. Ms. Cain stated that she had not been asked to give an opinion, but she would be happy to look into if he would let her know what his concerns were. He stated that the board did not vote on a minimum bid and the advertisement did not list a minimum bid, therefore it was not carried out properly. The Chairman stated that the consensus of the board was that the county would need to get at least the amount paid for the property in the auction.

Commissioner Bennett stated that she could speak to that. She stated that she had discussed this with Hubert Sparks after the meeting and asked him about depreciation of property. She also felt that the county should get at least what it paid for the property.

Commissioner Ridley stated that the county bought the property in 1996 or 1998 and he thought it should bring at least what we gave for it. Chairman Poole stated that this was what he understood from the discussions. He went on to say that nobody bid on the property and now the county would need to decide what they want to do going forward.

Commissioner Tarpley argued that the board did not vote on it and therefore it should not have happened. He went on to list the discussions and actions taken regarding these properties. In April we voted to sell it by live auction. He stated that the board never rescinded the vote from December to sell it by sealed bid. So his question to Ms. Cain was, "Does that motion carry?" Ms. Cain stated that she would be glad to go back and review her notes and the minutes and give an opinion.

Commissioner Ridley stated that he was opposed to a sealed bid from the start. He went on to say that he feels like the board needs to "get the people of this county as much money as we possibly can for this used equipment and this land that we are not using and this is a joke with the sealed bid." He stated he thinks we need to look at avenues to get more money for these items.

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

None

#### **Item #1 – Prepaid Wireless Fee Update Resolution – Vote**

County Clerk Alison Palmer reported that the state had increased the fee amount that is allowed to be charged to \$1.50 and they are changing the way the all the 911 fees are collected. Currently, the county receives the 911 fees from many different carriers of wireless, landline, etc. The fees for prepaid wireless go to the state to be disbursed. As of January 1, 2019, all fees will be paid to the state and the state will disburse them to the counties. This is the only one that needed to be updated before being sent to the state. Commissioner Ridley

asked how much the county received in prepaid wireless last year. Alison replied approximately \$43,000. So Commissioner Ridley stated this update should double the amount received on this particular fee. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the increase of the prepaid wireless fee from 75 cents (.75) to one dollar and fifty cents (1.50). Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

### **Item #2 – Old Jail/Sheriff Building update**

Chairman Poole stated that after some research, it was his understanding that the Probate Judge and Clerk of Superior Court should remain in the courthouse and the others could be moved to an annex. He stated that the board would need to determine which offices would be moved. County attorney Julie Cain modified the statement to Magistrate, Public Defender, & Voter registration could be moved. She also stated that the Superior Court Judge should remain in the courthouse. Chairman Poole stated that we are also waiting on a quote for the roof over the administrative portion of the building. This was not done when the other two sections of the roof were replaced.

Commissioner Ridley said he felt like we need to get a quote on the cost to have the facility ready to move offices in.

### **Item #3 – Tallapoosa Fire Station Project Update – Chief Brian Walker**

Chief Walker stated that everything is moving forward. The county has put out the first phase of bids which are due back September 14, 2018. Chief Walker stated the fabrication of the building, the erection of the new building, the plumbing, the concrete pad.

Commissioner Tarpley stated “we haven’t even seen a plan or approved a bid. Who did that?” Chief Walker stated the plans are in the clerk’s office. Commissioner Tarpley said, “Well, as a board, we haven’t seen the plans and we haven’t seen a bid.” Alison stated that there are no bids yet. They are going out in sections and at this point, we don’t anticipate any of them being over \$50,000.

Commissioner Tarpley stated “No, we not going to skirt the rules by bidding out every piece out there in order to keep it under \$50,000. That’s not good policy.” That’s not good for the people and that’s not good for this county. We need to bid this out as one bid, a turnkey job.” He went on to say that we don’t need to go out and give this to our buddies to keep it under \$50,000 because the rest of this board will never know what was spent on what. He proposed that it be submitted as one bid and that no bids be put out until the board looks at the plans. He also questioned who drew up the plans. Chief Walker stated that, “we did.” Commissioner Tarpley asked, Who is we? Chief Walker stated, himself, along with the CAD system the department has, and Steve Wilson. Chief Walker went on to state that he got quotes on getting a whole set of plans and it was going to cost \$35,000. Commissioner Tarpley asked why we need plans if this is an exact replica of the other one. Chief Walker stated that this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> station we have built and we were the ones that did the plans on the others also.

Commissioner Robinson stated that “this is your third one and we haven’t had any problems with any of them. So, to put out the bid the way some want you to do it will cost the county a lot of money.” Chief Walker stated that we are going by the county policy approved by the commissioners and they are also on the Georgia Procurement website.

Commissioner Tarpley stated that if it is going to be parceled out like this, the board needs to have at least three bids on every increment and this board needs to choose who gets the bid based on the price and their ability. This is not for one man to be able to call the shots just because we are keeping the prices under \$50,000. After more heated discussion, Chairman Poole stated that we have a fire chief that has built two other stations and has saved us money; that is why we need to let this process continue forward. “But, if you want to put this out to bid and it cost us twice as much money and it cost \$600,000-\$700,000, then you help me find the money for it!” Commissioner Tarpley stated that he did not say that. He said again that the board needs to look at a minimum of three bids and make the decisions. Chief Walker stated again that the bids have been put out both on the website and on the Georgia Procurement website and we are abiding by the county policy. Alison stated that the bids that are being put on the Procurement site are going out to 300-400 vendors across the state. Alison went on to state that the board’s vendor procedures for \$20,000-\$50,000 call for the department head and chairman to approve a bid. Commissioner Tarpley argued that they mean for the total cost of a project, “but when you start breaking it down to skirt that issue, it is wrong!” Chairman Poole and Alison both stated that no one is trying to skirt the issue. Chief Walker stated that first the board needs to decide if he is going to act as the general contractor. Commissioner Tarpley stated, “I don’t think you are the general contractor.”

Commissioner Robinson stated, “Brian, if I was you, I would drop out of it. You been tarred up, you been thrown around in this county for a long time, for no reason. If I was you, I would walk out of here and let this board build their own fire station and then let them figure out where to find the money. If you think I would take what you’ve been taking, No way!”

Chairman Poole stated that at this stage of the game, since we have already started this, I would make a motion that we allow the chief to build this fire station. He’s built two previous ones.”

Commissioner Tarpley stated that “maybe you didn’t have a board that cared what the moneys were being spent on.” He went on to state that he was asking for transparency and for this board to entertain each bid of each item of that building and that this board select a contractor that the Chief will supervise.

Chairman Poole motioned to continue to let the fire chief proceed with building this building. If we wait thirty days at a time to review each bid, we won’t ever get it finished. More heated discussion followed.

Chairman Poole re-stated that he motioned to let the chief continue this process and he asked if there was a second. County Attorney Julie Cain asked to clarify the motion. She asked if Chairman Poole was motioning to allow the chief to continue this project, while following the *current policy* that is in place. Chairman Poole stated yes. Commissioner Robinson seconded. Chairman Poole called for the vote. The motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Tarpley opposed.

**Item #4 – Executive Session**

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

Upon return, Commissioner Bennett motioned to return to the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

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

**Item #5 – TSPLOST**

Commissioner Tarpley stated that this item was satisfied in the earlier discussion.

**Public Participation on Non Agenda Items**

Brad Vines asked if the Development Authority was going to start reporting at the meetings. Chairman Poole stated that they had been asked to start attending periodically and he would remind Eric McDonald to do so.

Jack Dewberry asked if the county was planning on widening Liberty Church Road when it is being repaved. Chairman Poole stated that it would be according to specs.

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

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
Certified County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**SEPTEMBER 19, 2018**  
**WORK SESSION MINUTES**

Chairman Allen Poole called the work session to order. All Commissioners were present and County Attorney Julie Cain was present.

**Jail Annex**

Chairman Poole stated that he had received a letter regarding the Witcher Property. They are willing to lease the old state probation building to the county for \$1750 per month and if we later decide to purchase the property, they will remove \$1000 for each month rented from the sale price.

Chairman Poole also stated that we had been working on cleaning up the old jail and starting to determine what will need to be done in order to use it as office space.

Commissioner Tarpley asked about the possibility of putting an addition on the back of the courthouse; cutting into the bank between the building and the upper parking lot. There would only be two doors, one from Probate and one from Clerk of Court. It could be used for storage for both departments.

Commissioner Ridley said he would like for the county to get quotes on cost for both options before making the decision.

Commissioner Bennett stated she would like for the county to use the old jail.

County Clerk Alison Palmer stated that we were waiting on a quote on the roof. She also suggested we go ahead and turn the water on to see if there are leaks that would need to be dealt with as part of any renovation.

Discussion of which departments would be moved followed. County Attorney Julie Cain suggested inviting the departments to the next work session to discuss the issue.

**Legislative Appreciation Dinner**

October 17, 2018 @ 6pm at George Washington Carver Park. Make sure to RSVP.

**Road Striping**

Chairman Poole stated that he had talked to DOT and was able to determine that we could get a little funding for road striping. They said they would extend us a \$33,000 grant with a match of \$13,200. The roads that were on the list are Winters Road, Defnall Road, Mount Zion East Road, Mountain View Clubhouse Road, Hilltop and Largent Way. We can add one if we want since Baxter was on the list to be repaved, but it would be for us to pay. Commissioner Tarpley stated he gets calls about Bush Mill Road. Commissioner Ridley said the roads in his district need repaving worse than striping.

## **Finance**

Chairman Poole reported that the county has approximately \$700,000 in the bank and will not have to get a Tax Anticipation Note this year. We will have enough money to make it through this year. Don Johnson said it looks like we will be adding \$100,000-\$200,000 to the fund balance this year, but the numbers aren't final yet.

## **Area Commissioner's Luncheon**

Alison reported that this will be in Paulding County on Thursday, September 27, 2018. Please let Alison know if you will be attending.

## **Item #1 – Final Budget Amendment, FY 2018**

Finance Director Don Johnson gave the board a copy of the proposed final budget amendment for the previous fiscal year. He stated this will need to be voted on at the next meeting. He told the board to review it and if there are any questions to give him a call.

## **Item #2 – 2019 Holiday Schedule**

Alison gave out a list of the proposed holidays for 2019. Chairman Poole stated that he was requesting to add back a paid holiday to the list. This is Christmas Eve. Commissioner Bennett agreed. This will be on the agenda for the October 2, 2018 meeting.

## **Item #3 – County Attorney RFP**

County Attorney Julie Cain has stated that she will not be renewing with the county next year. Chairman Poole asked the board for the approval to put out an RFP for a new county attorney. A lively discussion followed regarding the timeline of this decision; when the vote will be held and who will be voting; outgoing Commissioner Robinson or after the first of the year when the new Commissioner Brad Vines is in office. Commissioner Tarpley felt like the decision should be postponed until after the first of the year. After the discussion it was determined that we will go ahead and start the RFP process and follow the process that has been followed in the past. Commissioner Bennett later stated that she was ready to get this process moving and clarified that she did not say she wanted to wait until next year to vote on the new attorney.

## **Item #4 – Region 1 EMS Reappointment**

Currently, the term of Carlton Firestone is about to end. This are guidelines and preferences as to who is appointed. Carlton fits the requirements since he is an EMS employee. He has served well for the county for several years and requests to be reappointed. Chairman Poole stated that anyone wishing to bring another nomination may do so at the October meeting. This item will be on the agenda at that time.

## **Item # 5 – Gebcorp Amendment**

Postponed until documentation is received from Gebcorp.

## **Item #6 – Impact of New Programs on Recreation Budget**

Chairman Poole spoke about the effect of the additional programs on the recreation budget

and personnel. He said that we may need to amend this budget if we expect them to continue adding programs. They are stretched thin with personnel. It takes all of them to cover the different activities that are all going on at the same time. Commissioner Bennett asked if there was an open position since Johnny Williams retired. Alison stated no, they had hired an entry level person to do the majority of the field maintenance and he is doing a great job. But, they still just have three full time personnel. Commissioner Bennett asked if we could hire seasonal or day laborers. Commissioner Tarpley stated that this is a good problem to have. However, during the winter it will require less field maintenance. Commissioner Robinson stated he would like to see the county be able to use more of the inmates for this type of work, but not enough eligible to work as a trustee. Chairman Poole finished by saying, no action is needed at this time. He is just giving the board a “heads up.”

#### **Item #7 – Building Ad Hoc Committee**

Chairman Poole stated that he had formed a temporary building committee to review the bids for the fire station. He went on to report that so far about \$12,000 had been spent of the \$350,000 budget for the Tallapoosa Fire Station.

Chairman Poole stated that he went by ACCG while in Atlanta and spoke to their legal department. Also spoke with the former Fulton County Attorney. He reviewed the actions taken with the bid process and the fact that they had all been put on the Georgia Procurement Website. They agreed that the county was not committing any legal violations.

Attorney Julie Cain stated that she had reviewed the law, spoken to ACCG, Attorney Larry Ramsey, and Attorney David Mecklin from Carrollton. They all concurred that as long as the county was acting as its own general contractor, there are no violations.

Commissioner Tarpley disagreed with Ms. Cain. He said you can’t sub out the different sections to circumvent the law. He spoke specifically regarding O.C.G.A. 36-91-22. He said, “We can’t circumvent the law.”

Ms. Cain stated that we are not. Our reasons for bidding out the project in sections are justifiable.

After more disagreeing, Chairman Poole stated that we have heard from our attorney and ACCG and we will move forward with the project as we voted to do at the September 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### **Item #8 – Veteran’s Memorial from the Buchanan Women’s Club**

Chairman Poole reported that the Buchanan Women’s Club had asked permission to move the proposed Veteran’s Memorial from the original site requested to the new courthouse, down on the front lawn by the large gun and flag pole. This item will be on the October 2, 2018 agenda.

Commissioner Bennett had to leave the meeting at this time.

### **Item #9 – Engineering Services**

Chairman Poole reported that he had contacted several neighboring counties to determine how they handle engineering services. Carroll County has an engineer on staff for \$50,000/year. Polk pays an engineer as needed at \$150/hour. Paulding has an engineer on staff for \$90,000/year. Chairman Poole went on to state that he uses Greg Dewberry for questions involving engineering services, permitting issues, etc. This year to date, the county has spent \$33,000 for 634 hours of work, which comes to about \$52/hour.

Commissioner Tarpley stated that many of the services that Mr. Dewberry is being asked to do should be done by the Permits Department. Also, he stated that he felt like there should be more detailed backup information for the invoices and the clerk has none. For example, we paid him \$1500 to inspect two dams. Instead there should have been a letter sent to the stating these dams belong to individuals, not the county. He stated that going several years back there started to be a recurring charge of \$1200 for Mr. Dewberry. He went over the payments for Mr. Dewberry to be the project manager for the Recreation project. He went on to say to say that “originally there was a set of plans for those ball fields, prior to 2011, done by Doug Crawford, who is an engineer for ground development; whereas Mr. Dewberry may have an engineering name, I think his forte is drawing straight lines from one point to the next point and it’s not putting stuff on the ground.” But as some point, someone, a previous board or our chairman decided to throw away those plans that Mr. Crawford did. “Then, we turned around and allowed Mr. Dewberry to draw up another set of plans and he’s milked us for \$230,000, so the board needs to be made aware of a lot expenses that have been paid to him. And I will be glad to sit down and go over any and all of them.”

Mr. Dewberry came forward and said he would be happy to sit down now or later in the meeting and discuss any of these. Commissioner Tarpley started saying he would wait and see. Mr. Dewberry said, “No sir, you have made your accusations today and we can deal with this today.” There is no reason to wait for supporting paperwork; you have the original person here.” Commissioner Tarpley stated that he wants the supporting paperwork. If we pay an invoice, then we’ve got to have paperwork showing the work was performed. Mr. Dewberry said, I think you will find that the invoices are itemized on a per job basis.

Commissioner Tarpley questioned a recurring charge going back to 2016 for Revision of Haralson County Ordinance Book. Chairman Poole stated that it is a requirement that we update our ordinance book periodically. Mr. Dewberry stated that during 2016 we had several situations going on including the rifle range, a sawmill out in the Morgan road area with zoning issues, etc. After discussing this with the Chairman and Robert Smith, the determination was that the county did not have *enough* ordinances to prevent some of these problems from happening. The sawmill should never have been allowed, but because the current ordinances allow a timber mill, there was nothing to stop it. But the county didn’t have anything on the books requiring them to beautify the site, any kind of entrance/exit plan requirements, etc. At

that time, the Chairman asked Greg to begin reviewing the ordinances and working on updating them, but asked him to work on them slow, because the budget couldn't stand a big hit. Mr. Dewberry stated that he has been doing that for 1 day a week to complete this assignment. That is the reason there is a repetitive charge. Commissioner Tarpley stated that he had not seen any updates during his time on the board. Mr. Dewberry stated that the update is not complete yet. His intention is to submit the complete update to the board, the county attorney and the planning and zoning board at the same time for review and then approval. Commissioner Tarpley stated that he would have expected periodic reports on this. He also stated that he did not know who had requested him to do this because planning and zoning did not know anything about it when he asked them. Mr. Dewberry stated that the request came from the Chairman.

Mr. Dewberry went on to reference the commissioner complimenting him on being able to draw a straight line. He went on to say that he is licensed as a professional engineer in this state and three others. He stated "I have a Bachelor's of Engineering Degree from Georgia Institute of Technology, and a Master's of Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology.

Commissioner Tarpley went on to ask about the bill for \$1500 for the two dams. Mr. Dewberry explained that he has been in contact with EPD Safe Dams Division and even though those dams are now owned by individuals, the EPD still holds the county responsible for maintenance and upkeep on the dams since they were built by the federal government and are still considered an asset of the federal government. These agreements date back to the 1950's. He stated he has asked for the backup documentation for this from the Safe Dams Division.

Numerous other items were discussed such as erosion control issues, land disturbing issues and site inspections that Mr. Dewberry has billed the county for and why he was needed to perform the duties. At one point, Commissioner Tarpley stated that some of these duties should have been completed by the Building Inspector and if he was not qualified, then it would be less expensive for the county to get an Inspector that is qualified than it has been to pay Mr. Dewberry to do them.

Chairman Poole stated that there are many items that come up on a day to day basis and until his duties are changed, he will continue to approve the items that are needed to be done to keep the county out of lawsuits, etc.

Mr. Dewberry clarified that all the work that was done on the ball fields was paid for his company, Civil Solutions, to perform, not himself personally. He went on to say his company is civil engineering and land surveying. We did all the surveying, all the staking, and the topographical surveys that the county had to have. There are other employees that I have to pay that work for me also. Commissioner Tarpley asked why the plans that Doug Crawford did were thrown out. Mr. Dewberry stated that they were used as a guideline for the park that is out there and if you lay them down side by side you will see that. But the county had to have a

full set of plans that show everything. The ones Mr. Crawford did were a general site plan. But as we got into the project, there were things that needed to be changed. The way the fields were graded, the way the piping was laid, also changes to save money. As project manager, he billed 4 hours a day, every day at \$50 during the length of the project. That project lasted 14 months. \$56,000 is what I was paid as an individual to manage that project, so for a project that went almost \$1 million that is about 5%, which was well within general contractor rates.

Mr. Dewberry stated that he “will be happy to answer any further questions you have Mr. Tarpley, but I resent the fact that as a professional and consultant who is doing work for the county, all I am doing is providing a service that I was asked to do, just like anybody else providing a service to the county. Commissioner Tarpley cut in and brought up the fact that Mr. Dewberry is an elected official for the county. Mr. Dewberry stated that has absolutely nothing to do with this. Commissioner Tarpley agreed and said he did not have a problem with what Mr. Dewberry had done, “but with the process and the money spent, that if we have qualified people and employees, then we could have done the same thing for thousands of dollars less. That is my point of contention.”

#### **Item #10 – Wautelet Property**

Commissioner Robinson told the board the Tim Wautelet had purchased property off Steadman Road and is moving a home onto the land. He asked Georgia Power to run power to the property. They told him it will be \$10,000 because it is not a road. Commissioner Robinson recommended that the county name the road so that Georgia Power will run the power line. The other two property owners that are down there won't allow Georgia Power to run it across to his property from their land. Chairman Poole asked if it is a good gravel road and Commissioner Robinson stated that it was. Someone stated that it is an easement. Commissioner Tarpley asked who owns the easement. Someone replied that it is owned by some ministry. The county attorney was directed to research this issue and find out if it is an easement. Commissioner Robinson stated that the county needs to figure out a way to help the citizen.

Chairman Poole said while the board is talking about this, the county needs to take action with all the old roads that the county hasn't worked in 15-20 years. If all these people on these roads come up here and decide they want their road worked, it will break the county.

Julie Cain stated that at one time, we discussed getting a task force together to look at these roads and get the county road map updated with the state. This would alleviate all these type of problems going forward.

**Commissioner Robinson** stated that he wanted to address a couple of items. The first was a correction he would like the newspaper to make. He stated that in the last article, Ms. Camper made it sound like he (Commissioner Robinson) had left the meeting angry after the executive session. He stated this was not the case. He had left for a prior commitment without even

going into the executive session. He was aware of the purpose of the executive session and needed to get to another location.

### **Item #11 – Resolution to return the County Government to a Sole Commissioner**

Commissioner Robinson stated that “there has been a lot of discussion by this board as to whether we should change the form of government and hire a county administrator. The citizens I represent have told me that they are NOT in favor of a county administrator and in fact they wish to return to a sole commissioner form of government.” They are tired of the bickering and name calling that go on at these meetings. I just want to inform the board that I intend to make a motion at the next regular scheduled meeting and am asking for the sole commissioner issue to be placed on the agenda for the October Regular meeting.

### **County Maps**

Chairman Poole said regarding the county mapping system for the GIS, we have asked Mr. Appleby to give us a proposal for clearing up our mapping problems in order to help the emergency responders.

Hubert Sparks was asked to clarify. Several departments use the GIS mapping system independently. This would put the GIS hub all in one central location. Will alleviate some of the cost, everyone will work together using one mapping system. There are numerous layers to this. One for fire hydrants, one for water lines, one for parcel lines, one for addresses, one for roads. This system will help many and especially the emergency response. Commissioner Tarpley asked if this is a problem in the municipalities or just in the county. Hubert responded that it was all through the county. Commissioner Tarpley asked if this would mean addresses would be changing all through the county. Hubert responded No, this will enable them to find these addresses. For example, on roads that the numbers are out of sequence, these maps will show the responders where the numbers are located. This system will give coordinates for the address.

Chairman Poole adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
Certified County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**OCTOBER 2, 2018**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Allen Poole called the regular meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. Josh Worthy offered the Invocation and the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Poole noted for the record that all the commissioners were present. Attorney Julie Cain was present.

Chairman Poole stated that the commissioners had been sent the minutes of the September meetings to review. He asked if there were any changes, corrections, etc. Commissioner Tarpley stated that the vote count on Item #4 on the September 4, 2018 minutes needed to be corrected to 4-0 from 5-0 due to one of the commissioners leaving prior to this item.

Commissioner Ridley motioned to approve the September 4, 2018 Regular meeting minutes and the September 19, 2018 work session minutes with the correction noted. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Poole asked if there were any changes to the agenda that the commissioners wished to make. There were none. Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the agenda as written. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Chairman's report**

Chairman Poole asked everyone to keep Danny Hutcheson in their prayers and former Commissioner Kenneth Smith in your prayers. He has just come home from the hospital. Commissioner Tarpley asked about Bobby Entrekin. Chairman Poole said he came home from the hospital about a week and a half ago and is slowly improving.

**Finance Report**

Chairman Poole stated that the fund balance had increased over last year to close to \$2 million. We currently have close to \$700,000 in the bank and will not have to have a TAN for the first time since he has been in office. He went on to state that the board is cognizant of spending the citizen's tax dollars wisely.

Don Johnson, Finance Director, gave a more detailed account of the finances. Chairman Poole asked him to explain the reason for the increase in the Fund Balance. He stated that with the economy improving, the TAVT, AAVT, and LOST proceeds were up considerably over the original budget estimates and Mrs. Ridley, the previous tax commissioner, had closed out her accounts and that led to a one time distribution to the county of just over \$100,000.

## **Public Participation on Agenda Items**

None

### **Item #1 – Final Budget Amendment, FY 2018**

Don Johnson stated that the board had been given this budget amendment at the work session to review. He stated that the only item that had changed since that time is the account for the law library which went from \$1500 - \$1720. Chairman Poole asked if the commissioners had any questions for Don regarding this amendment. There were none. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the final budget amendment for FY 2018. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

### **Item #2 – 2019 Holiday Schedule**

County Clerk Alison Palmer stated that the commissioners had been given a list of the proposed holidays for 2019 at the work session. Chairman Poole stated that this needed to be approved so that the court systems could get their calendars for 2019 set up. Commissioner Ridley motioned to approve the 2019 Holiday Schedule. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

### **Item #3 – Region 1 EMS Appointment**

Chairman Poole asked if there were any nominations for this appointment from the floor. There were none. Commissioner Robinson motioned to close nominations from the floor. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Bennett motioned to reappoint Carlton Firestone to the Region 1 EMS Board for a 2 year term beginning January 1, 2019 and going to January 1, 2021. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

### **Item #4 – Location of Veteran's Memorial**

The Buchanan Women's Club has asked for permission to locate the proposed Veteran's Memorial at the new courthouse near the large artillery gun. There was a conflict with the location at the Historic Courthouse because of a good sized Japanese maple tree. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the location of the Veteran's Memorial. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

### **Item #5 – Resolution to allow the Citizen's to vote on whether to change form of Government back to Sole Commissioner or remain a 5 person Board of Commissioners**

District 4 Commissioner Sammy Robinson stated that he would introduce a resolution that would allow the citizens of Haralson County to determine whether or not they would like to have the government remain a 5 member Board of Commissioners or return to the Sole Commissioner form of government. He stated, "Commissioner have publicly and privately argued, traded insults, practiced the politics of personal destruction, and basically proven to be

a huge disservice to the citizens of Haralson County. Commissioners on this and former boards have belittled guests to this board, attacked paid consultants, and verbally accosted county employees and department heads whose only crime is caring about this county.”

Commissioner Robinson went on to say that he did not know of a single thing that had been accomplished by the board that could not have been done by a sole commissioner. He referenced policies and procedures being established only long enough to be overturned by the next board. He went on to say that 14 years ago this county had been told that the “running of the county government was too big to be trusted to an elected sole commissioner. Now there is a move afoot to create a county administrator position to consolidate all the daily activities of county government in one person who is not even elected by the citizens of this county.

Commissioner Robinson stated that the people he has spoken to in his district would like to see the BOC reversed back to a sole commissioner. He stated, the 5 member board has been a failure and “has done more to injure the perception of this county, its cooperation among its member cities, and increase the cynicism of the general public that any sole commissioner has done or ever could do.”

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the resolution to allow the citizens to decide whether to remain a 5 member board or return to a sole commissioner. Chairman Poole seconded the motion.

Commissioner Bennett stated that she could not sit there and say nothing. She said, “I think it should be noted that, that was his personal opinion and spoken on behalf of a district that he is leaving and it is very ironic, that here we are at the midnight hour, and that we are told what a sorry job we are doing. Well, I take offense to that! Because, I work very hard for the people of my district and the county as a whole. And I am not going to sit here and let somebody tell me, the time I have spent, the six years on this board has been for naught and for nothing. Because it hasn’t! This board has seen a lot of things come to fruition in the last six years and the last fourteen years you have been here.” She went on to say there have been disagreements and discussions and there is no way you can have a board and not have those. She went on to state that the board has been effective and that the sole commissioner is an outdated, antiquated, form of government. She said the people need to have someone to represent and lobby for them in each district. She stated she is not in support of this and no one from her district has come to her requesting this change. She finished by directing to Commissioner Robinson, “Speak for yourself, but don’t speak on behalf of this whole board!”

Commissioner Robinson responded, “I never speak on behalf of the whole board. If you don’t like what I have to say that is fine...but, I have the right to voice my opinion any way I want to, as well as you do. I voiced my opinion and it’s up to the people. If they want it fine, if they don’t, that’s fine too.”

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Commissioner Ridley stated he is going to vote for it. He said he represents the people. "Let them tell us what they want. I think they ought to have the opportunity to reassure us that this is what they want or to go back to whatever."

Commissioner Tarpley stated that he respects what Mr. Ridley has said about letting the people decide. Unfortunately, he was not able to be here a couple of months ago when Commissioner Tarpley had asked for much the same thing regarding a County Administrator. At that time, it was not the wish of this board to allow the people to decide on that item. He went on to say that he "found it odd that a chairman of fourteen years, who has been a past president of ACCG, who knows better than any of us that a form of government with a manager or administrator, is the 21<sup>st</sup> century way of doing things. And that a sole commissioner, which he took the place of in 2005, is the most antiquated form of government that exists in our state today." He went on to say that if there has been turmoil throughout the entire fourteen years that the board has existed, there are only two that have been here from the beginning; the chairman and the commissioner who is making this motion. So, "maybe the problem doesn't lie within the newer ones, maybe it goes back to the beginning and the two original ones that still sit on the board today." He stated that he would not be in favor of going back to an antiquated form of government. He went on to say that there were a lot of other things that come into this, such as getting this through the legislature, when would it be put on the ballot, etc.

Chairman Poole said he wanted to clarify a little bit. He stated that it was an honor to serve in the capacity he did for ACCG. He said he thought that Commissioner Robinson was just giving the people the opportunity to decide. He said a couple of months ago Commissioner Tarpley "brought forth a county administrator. At that particular time, the government closest to the people is the best form of government because you all make the decisions." He said if you want to have a county administrator, the first thing you need is to change the creative legislation to set out what a county administrator has the authority to do. He said his understanding of the current form of government, it gives me (the Chairman) the authority to be your CEO and Chairman of the Board, giving him the leverage to run the daily operations as approved by the board. He went on to say if somebody wants to change the form of government, then you need to go back and change the creative legislation, not come here and force a county administrator on the people. "That is my job. And as long as I'm the chairman and your CEO, then I am going to do the daily operations that is approved by the board." He said that when this first began, they asked if the chairman wanted to be a voting member and he said yes. He wanted the people to be able to see which way he voted on issues and not point guilt to everyone else. He said they were all passionate about their opinions. He asked everyone to respect each other's opinions.

Chairman Poole stated that Commissioner Tarpley had said that come the first of the year, he has his three votes to get a county administrator. If he has, then that is a majority vote and that's okay. But, today we are going to respect each other's opinions. "But the government closest to the people is what's important. So as long as I am here and I am your elected Chairman (and I am not going to run again), then maybe the people or the board may change the form of government. I may be here two years, I may not be here two years."

He went on to state we have a motion and a second.

Commissioner Robinson said, "One thing before you do that. A county administrator, had it gone in, would be the same as a sole commissioner, other than you would be paying for 5 people setting up here including the Chairman and his salary, to do the only thing the administrator is set to do. He would have the power to hire and fire, and this board would have no power. So, it is the same as a sole commissioner."

Commissioner Bennett stated, "That is absolutely incorrect and that is not what I voted for!" She went on to say that nobody has educated themselves on what a county administrator does. She stated that she worked for a county administrator for seven years. She said they are a support staff person and she has said this over and over and over. "It is just like Ms. Palmer, who is the clerk; it is just like Don, who is the finance director; it is just like the county attorney. It is a support staff person, who reports to the board as a whole, who communicates with the chairman day to day, who takes orders from him or her as to what to do. That is what it really is!"

Commissioner Tarpley stated "that there is a document that I have, back from 2005, where the Board of Commissioners sat down and they listed the jobs that the chairman would carry out and they listed their function. The people did not vote on what those functions were. We voted on changing the form of government to a chairman and board. The job delegation was given to that first board when it was enacted in 2005. So, I just want to clarify that the vote did not authorize Mr. Poole to do everything he says it did. The Board enabled him to do it."

Commissioner Ridley said he still did not understand what was wrong with letting the people decide.

Commissioner Bennett stated that there is nothing wrong with that. But, if we are going to do that, let's do it across the board, not pick and choose. She went on to say that she would vote for this today.

Commissioner Tarpley stated, Commissioner Bennett, this is a resolution to go to a sole commissioner.

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Commissioner Robinson stated, "No, it is not." He said this is a resolution to remain a five member board of go back to a sole commissioner.

Commissioner Tarpley asked if the people vote to remain a board would this allow the board to create the position of County Administrator.

Commissioner Robinson said this has nothing to do with that.

Chairman Poole deferred to County Attorney Julie Cain. She said she wanted to clarify a couple of procedural matters. She asked if this is to be presented to the 2019 General Assembly to authorize it to go on a ballot. Commissioner Robinson answered yes. She then asked if they knew which ballot this would go on. Chairman Poole stated it would go on the 2019 general election ballot in November. It would go into effect in January 2021 with salary determined as the chairman's is currently figured.

Commissioner Tarpley stated that the 2019 election would be a low turnout because it is not a county wide election. It would be a very costly election for the county.

Commissioner Bennett asked if we had to vote on it today, because nobody seems to really know what we are doing. She said, "I may have to step back, I may not be able to vote because there are a lot of unanswered questions."

Chairman Poole stated that the logistics could be determined by the county attorney along with the elections supervisor.

Ms. Cain asked if it would part of the motion for it to be a regular election, not a special election.

Commissioner Robinson said he wants to get it started today.

Commissioner Ridley asked Commissioner Robinson if he had contacted the representatives or senator to see if they would introduce this. Commissioner Robinson said, not yet.

Chairman Poole stated that we have a motion and a second and he called the question. Motion carried 3-2 with Commissioner Tarpley and Commissioner Bennett opposed.

#### **Development Authority Report**

Eric McDonald, Executive Director, gave a report on Economic Development activities in the county. He stated that there are several businesses including Barco and Suzukaku, are expanding. He said that some fast food restaurants and retail are looking at some property near Wal-Mart. There are also some prospects looking at land on the southeast corner of Exit #5 in Tallapoosa and another looking at some land at the Waco exit that is about 40% in

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Haralson and 60% in Carroll. There are also some looking at the Bremen exit which would benefit the City of Bremen, but not Haralson County.

Mr. McDonald said one of their problems is that many prospects want tax incentives and free land. He went on to say that some creative tax incentives had been given but that the free lands are not an option for us.

Chairman Poole stated that about 80% of the county budget comes from property taxes. The county must support the Development Authority because they are the ones that market your county and the only way we are going to lower taxes is to bring in more industry and commerce.

Mr. McDonald explained that from two industries alone had paid \$563,520 in county taxes and \$1.463 million in school taxes. If these two were not here, that would be approximately 3 mills added to the property tax bills.

### **School Systems**

Chairman Poole gave a shout out to both the Haralson County and the City of Bremen School systems for having such good graduation rates.

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

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
Certified County Clerk

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HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
RESOLUTION 2018-15

A RESOLUTION TO CALL FOR A REFERENDUM TO ALLOW THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF HARALSON COUNTY, GEORGIA TO VOTE TO CHANGE TO A SOLE COMMISSIONER FORM OF GOVERNMENT OR TO RETAIN THE FIVE MEMBER BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FORM OF GOVERNMENT

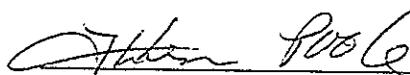
WHEREAS, This Resolution is authorized pursuant to the Official Code of Georgia. The purpose of this Resolution shall be to provide for a referendum to allow the qualified voters of Haralson County, Georgia to vote to change to a Sole Commissioner form of government or to retain the current 5 member Board of Commissioners form of government; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Authority desires that this legislation be introduced during the 2019 General Assembly;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED and it is HEREBY RESOLVED that local legislation shall be presented to the 2019 General Assembly to authorize the Haralson County Governing Authority to provide for a Referendum allowing the qualified voters of Haralson County, Georgia to vote to change to a Sole Commissioner form of government or to retain the current five member Board of Commissioners form of government.

Adopted by the Governing Authority on this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 2018.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
HARALSON COUNTY, GEORGIA



H. Allen Poole, Chairman/CEO

ATTEST:



Alison Palmer, County Clerk

Commissioners voting in favor:

Chairman Allen Poole, Commissioner Ronnie Ridley, Commissioner Sammy Robinson

Commissioners voting against:

Commissioner David Tarpley, Commissioner Jamie Bennett

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**OCTOBER 17, 2018**  
**WORK SESSION MINUTES**

Chairman Poole called the work session to order. All Commissioners were present and County Attorney Julie Cain was present.

**Item #1 – Public Hearing – Rezoning** – Haralson County Tax Map 0012-0002, located on Steadman Rd. Present zoning is A-1; proposed Conditional Use for an Internet only tower.

Chairman Poole noted that the Planning Commission recommended approval for this rezoning request 5-0.

Commissioner Tarpley had numerous questions for IWispr regarding this tower and their progress with the entire project. Daryl Moore from IWispr answered the questions from the commissioners and from audience members. The discussion veered away from the rezoning request into contract fulfillment questions. There was no one in attendance speaking against this request. This item is on the agenda for the special called meeting to follow this work session.

**Item #2 – Public Hearing – Rezoning** – Haralson County Tax Map 0032-0021 and 0032-0023, located on Hwy 100. Present zoning is A-1; proposed Conditional Use for an Event Venue/Bed & Breakfast.

Chairman Poole noted that the Planning Commission had recommended approval of this rezoning request 4-1.

There were no questions and no one speaking against this request. This item is on the agenda for the special called meeting to follow this work session.

**Item #3 – Sons of Confederate Veterans**

Nathan Forrister, from the Sons of Confederate Veterans Camp #673 spoke to the board regarding the memorial they would like to erect at the historic courthouse. This would be dedicated to the ones who fought and never returned home. Many are buried in the cemetery in Knoxville County Tennessee. Mr. Forrister reported that the SCV are requesting a 99 year land grant to place the memorial at the historic courthouse. The memorial will be 6' X 6'. The SCV will for the monument. It will not cost Haralson County anything. They will also pay the cost for the lawyer to draw up the lease. The monument will cost the SCV approximately \$25,000. Commissioner Sammy Robinson stated that he would install the monument for free if the SCV purchased the stone. This item will be on the November 6, 2018 agenda.

#### **Item #9 – Tallatoona, LLC**

Scott Gray, Executive Director of Tallatoona stated that they would like to renew the lease for the property on Macedonia Church Road where the buildings currently reside. They have received a grant for the Headstart program for \$365,000 which will be used in part to replace the old buildings. They are asking to get the new lease in place before permitting begins. They hope to have it up and running by early 2019. He went on to report that approximately \$500,000 is contributed to the Headstart program in Haralson County on a yearly basis.

The board then heard from Lucretia Ware, a mother of 2, who went through the headstart program as a child and then both of her children have benefitted from this program. She spoke about the excellence of this program.

**Pastor Melford Glass** asked everyone to remember the mission for the Thanksgiving meals to those less fortunate and the shut ins and asked for any donations that people could give. This is the 16<sup>th</sup> year for the Thanksgiving meal and on October 27<sup>th</sup>, they will be hosting the 17<sup>th</sup> Hallelujah festival for the children.

Chairman Poole thanked the Tallatoona Representatives for their service to the community. It was also noted that Mrs. Shirley Farmer had served on the Tallatoona Board since 1967.

#### **Item #4 – Road Striping Update**

Chairman Poole reported to the board that the county had received notice that there would be some funding for road striping approved by the state. The RFQ was put out and the contract has been awarded to Peek Pavement Markings for the following roads. Winters Road, Defnall Road, Mount Zion East Road, Buncombe Waco Road, Hilltop Road and Largent Trail.

#### **Item #5 – Sacred Ground Properties Easement**

County attorney Julie Cain explained that Sacred Ground Properties owns the property that the easement to Marshal Wautelet's property. She said they are willing to donate the easement to the county to become a county road. Mr. Key, from Sacred Ground Properties, stated that it is a dead end easement. Ms. Cain stated that her questions for the board would be, why would the county want to take this on as a road to be maintained when several discussions over the past months has been to get rid of these small roads and have the other landowners on the south side of the property been contacted.

Commissioner Tarpley had numerous questions and concerns, such as whether or not this fits the county's ordinance for becoming a road; is the landowner on the other side of the road donating any land and are they in agreement; he was also concerned with whether or not this is being done through the correct process or are we going to be setting future boards up for problems because this was not done right.

Commissioner Robinson stated we need to get into the business of helping people. He stated that if this is not made into a road, Mr. Wautelet will have to pay \$8000 to get electricity run to his house and if it is a county road it will be considerably less. He said this is not a subdivision so the ordinance does not apply. He stated he would like for this item to be put on the agenda for the special called meeting later today and the board can vote it up or down.

Commissioner Tarpley said he is not here to “not help”; He just wants to make sure we do it correctly.

#### **Item #6 – Sunday Alcohol Sales**

Commissioner Sammy Robinson stated that he had been approached by one of the owners of several convenience stores in the county that is asking the board to put the Sunday Alcohol Sales on the ballot for the citizens of Haralson County to vote on. County Clerk Alison Palmer stated that this is an item that would need a resolution. County Attorney Julie Cain was tasked with creating the resolution to be voted on at the November regular meeting.

#### **Item #7 – Haralson County Water Authority Appointment**

Chairman Poole stated that Amos Sparks term on the board of the Haralson County Water Authority ends December 31, 2018. The board will need to vote to reappoint him or to appoint someone else. He asked everyone to be prepared to discuss nominees at the November work session and then put it on the December regular meeting to vote upon.

#### **Item #8 – Folsom Road Closure Update**

County Attorney Julie Cain reported that she had been authorized to proceed with the process to close a portion of Folsom Road along with Folsom Road Spur. She also recommended adding Treat Mountain Spur to the process. The closure would be past the general property owners and is surrounded by the properties owned by the timber company, Jamestown Timber. Commissioner Ridley asked who was requesting this closure. Ms. Cain said it is Jamestown Properties. Commissioner Ridley stated that all the property owners he has spoken to are against having the road closed. After some more discussion, the board agreed that if Commissioner Ridley had been in contact with the property owners and they do not want it closed that it is a waste of money to continue the process.

Jason McGee, the property manager for Jamestown, stated they were requesting it be closed because of trespassing from ATV's, drugs, vandalism, and obstructing hunting leases. He stated that the large fire in the area last year was most likely started by trespassers and that cost the timber company approximately \$200,000. In further discussion, Julie Cain stated that the road department is not maintaining the road. Mr. McGee stated that Jamestown had been maintaining the road at their own expense to enable the logging trucks to be able to access the properties.

The final consensus of the board is to stop the process since the majority of the owners are against the closing. This item was tabled for now.

After a quick discussion:

- November work session was moved up a day to Tuesday, November 20, 2018 at 2:00 PM.
- December Work session, Wednesday, December 19, 2018 time changed to 9:00 AM
- December Regular Meeting was moved to December 19, 2018 at 10:00 AM

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

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
Certified County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**OCTOBER 17, 2018**  
**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Poole called the Special called meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. Ms. Sandi Couch offered the Invocation and the board led the Pledge of Allegiance. All the commissioners and the county attorney were present.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to waive the reading of the October 2, 2018 regular meeting minutes and the October 17, 2018 work session minutes until the regular meeting in November. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 4-0. (Commissioner Bennett was temporarily out of the room)

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

Commissioner Tarpley requested the board wait to begin the meeting items until Commissioner Bennett was able to return.

During this time, County Clerk Alison Palmer reported to everyone that Chairman Poole had been included in the meeting and tour in which President Trump and the First Lady viewed the destruction in South Georgia from Hurricane Michael. During this time Chairman Poole met and spoke with both the President and First Lady.

**Item #1 – Proclamation Honoring Judge Michael L. Murphy**

County Clerk Alison Palmer read and presented the proclamation to Judge Murphy's wife, Carol. Judge Murphy was in court in Polk County at this time and unable to attend. Chairman Poole spoke to Mrs. Murphy and thanked her for Judge Murphy's dedicated service to his community and the Tallapoosa circuit. Mrs. Murphy spoke on behalf of her husband.

**Item #2 - Rezoning Request**– Haralson County Tax Map 0012-0002, located on Steadman Rd. Present zoning is A-1; proposed Conditional Use for an Internet only tower.

There was a public hearing for this item during the work session prior to this meeting.

Chairman Poole noted that the Planning and Zoning Board had recommended approval of this request unanimously. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the rezoning request for the Internet Tower. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Item #3 – Rezoning Request** - Haralson County Tax Map 0032-0021 and 0032-0023, located on Hwy 100. Present zoning is A-1; proposed Conditional Use for an Event Venue/Bed & Breakfast.

There was a public hearing for this item during the work session prior to this meeting.

Chairman Poole noted that the Planning and Zoning Board had recommended approval of this

request 4-0. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the rezoning request for an Event/Bed & Breakfast venue. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Item #4 - Sacred Ground Properties Easement Acceptance as County Road**

This item was discussed during the work session prior to this meeting. Commissioner Tarpley again voiced his concerns with taking this action. Commissioner Ridley was concerned that all of the land for the road was coming from one side/ one landowner. Commissioner Bennett was concerned because there is so much conflicting information, she said she doesn't know whether to support this or not.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to accept the easement as a county road. Chairman Poole seconded. The vote was 2 in favor (Robinson, Poole) and 2 opposed (Ridley, Tarpley) and 1 abstain.

There was some confusion over the vote so Chairman Poole called for a recount. This time it was 2 in favor (Robinson, Poole) 1opposed (Tarpley) and 2 abstained (Ridley, Bennett).

A bit more discussion regarding who would be responsible for maintenance followed. Marshal Wautelet stated that he would maintain it. He wasn't asking for anything other than for the county to name the road so that he could get a better price on running the power lines.

Chairman Poole motioned to rescind the previous two votes. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Tarpley opposed.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to accept the easement as a county road. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Tarpley opposed.

Chairman Poole motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
Certified County Clerk