

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**JANUARY 5, 2016**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Allen Poole called the meeting to order. Fire Chief Brian Walker offered the Invocation and Commissioner Robinson led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Poole noted for the record that Commissioner Smith and Commissioner Dobbs were absent due to personal reasons.

Chairman Poole stated that the minutes had been sent out to the commissioners to review prior to this meeting. He asked if there were any changes to be made to the minutes. There were none. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2015 Regular meeting and the December 16, 2015 work session as written. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

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

**Public Participation on Agenda Items – None**

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Poole reported that he had suspended the department head reports until the next meeting, due to the length of the agenda for this first meeting of the year.

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

Commissioner Robinson read and presented the proclamation to Nathan Forrister and various members of the Haralson Invincibles Camp #673, who were dressed in clothing from that period in history. Mr. Forrister thanked the board and then presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Board of Commissioners and staff for their efforts in presenting these proclamations.

**Item #2 – County Credit Card Ordinance and Resolution**

Chairman Poole reported that this is the resulting Ordinance and Resolution required by O.C.G.A. 36-80-24 which went into effect January 1, 2016. This regulates the usage of credit cards and purchase cards of elected officials. They will be required to sign a user agreement and abide by the policies and procedures set forth within this ordinance. County Attorney, Julie Cain, has worked with the sheriff and the chairman set the terms of this agreement. Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the new Credit Card Ordinance and Resolution. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

### **Item #3 – IT Proposal**

Chairman Poole stated that this item was discussed in the work session. After numerous complaints about IT problems, the commissioners were considering a proposal from Bill Brown to work as a part time county employee to meet the IT needs of the county. His proposal was \$50/hour for up to 800 hours a year. This equates to \$40,000 per year. This would be a savings to the county. Current IT provider charges \$95/hour. Chairman Poole motioned to approve Bill Brown as the new IT provider. Commissioner Robinson seconded. Commissioner Bennett stated she was abstaining. Chairman Poole asked County Clerk Alison Palmer to contact Commissioner Dobbs by phone to get his vote on this item. While Mrs. Palmer was contacting him, Commissioner Bennett stated that the reason she was abstaining had nothing to do with Mr. Brown, but it was because the board did not advertise and get bids for this work. Chairman Poole stated that this was because Mr. Brown would be acting as an employee, not a contractor. Commissioner Bennett stated that it would only have cost the price of an ad in the paper. When Mrs. Palmer had Commissioner Dobbs on the phone, she explained the question at hand and asked Commissioner Dobbs for his vote. He stated that he was in favor of hiring Bill Brown to take care of the IT. Chairman Poole stated the motion carried 3 in favor, 1 abstaining. A couple of people in the audience questioned the phone vote. Chairman Poole stated that we did not use it often, but had done it a limited number of times in the past. He stated that it had been cleared by the County Attorney.

### **Item #4 – Building Code Update**

Chairman Poole asked Mrs. Palmer to give a quick overview of this item, which had also been discussed at the work session. Mrs. Palmer told the updates that were required by the state in order to keep the Building Code ISO at the current low level. Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the Building Code Updates. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Item #3 – Revisited**

Prior to moving on to the next item, County Attorney, Julie Cain, asked to make a statement regarding the phone vote on Item #3. She said she wanted to clarify that this had been discussed and approved through the previous county attorney, that she had not had a chance to review this for herself.

### **Item #5 – Board of Health Vacancy**

Chairman Poole stated that there were two nominations for this appointment. They are Bobby Mehan and Zack Bush. He asked if there were any more nominations from the board. There were none. Commissioner Robinson motioned to close nominations. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Chairman Poole then asked for a motion to approve Bobby Mehan as the appointment to the Board of Health. Commissioner Bennett motioned; Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 3-0. Chairman Poole stated that he would check with the Health board and find out if it is possible to add a position for Mr. Bush.

**Item #6 – Superior Court Clerk Supplement**

Chairman Poole had Mrs. Palmer explain that this was for the additional duties added to the Superior Court Clerk for being responsible for the Board of Equalization and handling these addition duties. It was explained that this was another mandate by the state. There was no guidance on what this amount should be. The Board had previously discussed \$1000 per year. Commissioner Robinson motioned to pay the Superior Court Clerk and additional \$1000 per year for handling the Board of Equalization. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

**Item #7 – FY 2015 Budget Amendment #2**

Chairman Poole asked Mrs. Palmer to explain. She explained that this is the final budget amendment for FY 2015 to account for the TAVT funds, to account for the shortfall in the LOST funds due to the large reimbursement that was made to a Haralson County business that had overpaid for quite some time. It also allotted the funds to cover overages throughout the county for the year and ended with a balance of \$280,000 going to the fund balance. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the FY 2015 Budget Amendment #2. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

**Item #8 – Transit Application Resolution**

Chairman Poole stated that this is the resolution required to approve the application for state and federal funds to help the county support the transit program. Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the resolution. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

**Item #9 – Reappoint County Attorney**

Chairman Poole stated that Ms. Cain had done a very good job during her first year as the county attorney and motioned to reappoint her as the county attorney. Commissioner Robinson seconded and motion carried 3-0.

**Item #10 – Reappoint County Clerk**

Chairman Poole stated that appreciated the skills and experience Ms. Palmer brought to the county in different areas of handling county business. He stated she had a good relationship with ACCG and other counties. Chairman Poole motioned to reappoint Alison Palmer as County Clerk. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

**Public Participation on Non Agenda Items**

Kathy Taylor spoke to the group regarding the upcoming West Georgia Crusade that is being put on with Go Tell Ministries and Evangelist Rick Gage. She stated that the event will be held April 24-27, 2016 at the Haralson County High School Stadium. She also stated that a Kickoff Banquet will be held January 25, 2016 at the West Georgia Technical College. She stated that seats or entire tables are available for purchase. All monies will go to cover the crusade costs.

David Tarpley spoke regarding a report that had a deadline that was missed by the commissioner's office and also spoke regarding the vote on the IT. He felt like that was not a proper vote.

Chairman Poole stated that the missed deadline was in the process of being corrected. Alison Palmer took responsibility for the missed SPLOST Expenditures report and stated that it would be in the newspaper this next week. She apologized for missing this deadline.

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

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 2, 2016**

Chairman Allen Poole called the regular meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. 911 Director Cathy Thompson offered the Invocation and the board led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Poole stated for the record that all commissioners were present.

Chairman Poole stated that the minutes of the January meeting had been sent to the board for review. He asked if there were any changes to be made. There were none. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the minutes of the January 5, 2016 meeting as written. Commissioner Dobbs seconded and the motion carried 4-0. Commissioner Smith abstained since he was not at that meeting.

Chairman Poole stated that he would like to amend the agenda and add an executive session as item #2 and stated that there was a personnel issue to deal with. Chairman Poole motioned to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Poole reported on the Recreation Project and urged everyone to go see the progress.

**Public Participation on Agenda Items**

David Tarpley asked to be able to wait until after item #1 had been discussed to speak. He said it may not be relevant after the item has been discussed. David Greene chose to wait also.

**Department Head Reports**

**Fire Department** - Lieutenant Dave Wade gave a year-end report on the Fire Department. He stated that from 2014 to 2015, there was an increase of nearly 300 calls. He gave the commissioners a handout detailing the types and number of calls the department had responded to in 2015. These included calls ranging from Hazardous conditions to Rescue and Emergency Medical call to fires, service calls and Good intent calls.

**Animal Control** – Jackie Brown, shelter manager, gave a year-end report on animal control. She stated that she started with the animal control facility when it opened. They started with 7 full-time employees and 1 part-time employee and now they run the facility with 3 full-time and 1 part-time. She stated that there had been 1543 calls answered by going to a home. They handled 1398 animals including dogs, cats and pot-bellied pigs. They work hard to get the animals reclaimed by owners, adopted, or rescued by a group. Ms. Brown addressed the issue of parvovirus that had been brought up to the chairman. She stated that the parvovirus they use is a very good quality and is \$700 a barrel compared to the \$3500 that was paid in the past. She

stated that the people in the department know what they are doing and work with people in many different situations.

**E-911** – Cathy Thompson, director, gave a year-end report of the E911 center. Mrs. Thompson stated that there were 87,762 phone calls answered during 2015. 4275 were hang up calls, mostly by children playing with a phone. This resulted in 63,006 calls being dispatched. She explained that sometimes numerous calls come in about a single incident such as a wreck. She stated that the Sheriff and Bremen Police were highest call volume. Mrs. Thompson also stated that the dispatchers volunteer their time outside of work, such as with Shop with a Cop, Information booths at festivals, and visiting senior centers and schools for public education events. She told of a situation where 3 of the dispatchers got together and gave an elderly couple who were stranded in the county during bad weather a \$100 gift card to help them pay for a room and a meal. Ms. Thompson closed with an interesting fact. She said 911 service is never disconnected, whether it is a landline or cell phone, even if service is disconnected.

#### **Item #1 – IT Employee – Vote**

Chairman Poole stated that this vote had been taken last month, and included a vote by phone of one of the commissioners. The county attorney said they either had to be here or had to be on a conference call where they could hear the entire discussion of the item. So, Chairman Poole asked for a motion to approve the IT employee. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the IT employee. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Bennett opposed.

Someone from the audience asked if there was not going to be any discussion. Chairman Poole responded that they were just taking the vote again. The discussion was at the prior meetings. Commissioner Bennett stated that the difference was at the last meeting the chairman called it a contract and this time it is listed as an employee. She asked if this meant his price tag is going up. As a full time employee, he would have access to benefits and insurance. She stated that she was against this because it had not been done fairly, that nobody else had a chance, and that is why she voted against this. She said her question now is whether he is going to be an employee with insurance and benefits, or is he going to be a contractor. Chairman Poole asked Alison Palmer, County Clerk, to answer that question. She stated that Mr. Brown is listed as a part-time employee, which does not qualify him for insurance or benefits.

#### **Item #2 – Executive Session**

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

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

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

**Public Participation**

David Tarpley – spoke against the IT vote

David Greene – also spoke against the IT vote

After they had finished, Chairman Poole stated that with the amount of personal information that is on the county's computer systems, he feels it is his responsibility to see that this information is kept secure by whoever the county chooses to perform the IT services and he feels like this is the best option for the county at this time. He reiterated that numerous complaints from different departments had come in to this office regarding the problems with the IT, therefore, when Mr. Brown made a proposal the Chairman felt it was his duty to bring it to the board for discussion, which he did at the December work session where all the commissioners were present.

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

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MARCH 1, 2016**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Poole called the Regular Meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order and Commissioner Bennett offered the Invocation. The commissioners led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Chairman noted for the record that Commissioner Robinson and Commissioner Dobbs were absent, but there was still a quorum, therefore, county business could be conducted.

Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on February 2, 2016, the Work Session on February 17, 2016 and the Special Called Meeting on February 17, 2016. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Chairman Poole asked to amend the Agenda to include Item #3 Executive Session regarding a personnel issue. Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

**Chairman's Report**

The Chairman reported that the county had received the Certified Audited Financial Report for FYE 2015. He reported that there was only one finding that the county would always have while we have very small departments that deal with money. There is not enough of a segregation of duties in these departments that only have one or two employees. He reiterated that it did not apply to the Commissioner's office. The chairman also stated that the list of findings has improved every year.

**Public Participation on Agenda Items**

None

**Department Head Reports**

Road Department – Terry Edwards, Assistant Public Works Director. Mr. Edwards reported that the treacherous, rainy weather had wreaked havoc with the county roads, culverts, and schedules. He stated that they were working diligently to repair and work the roads, etc as soon as possible. They had major delays receiving pipes due to the large amount of rain throughout the area and state. Many companies were backlogged getting pipe out to everyone. He stated that the road department had also been helping with the parking lots and other items at the Recreation Project.

Recreation Project – Greg Dewberry, Project Manager. Mr. Dewberry reported that they were working hard to get the finishing touches on this project, so that it could open on time for the first baseball games during the first week of April. He stated that this had been a challenge since they had shown 20" of rain at the facility from Halloween until New Year's day. He went through a list of all the items that had been a part of this project and the cost of each, giving everyone an idea of the scope of this project. He stated that there were 25 separate bid

events, 17 of which were awarded to county businesses. This is a 75% local participation rate. The Grand Opening will be announced as soon as it is scheduled. He hopes all the commissioners will be able to attend the festivities.

Ann Crim, the director of Keep Haralson Beautiful stated the KHB will be providing recycle bins for use at the Recreation facility as promised.

Recreation Department – Johnny Williams, Recreation Director. Mr. Williams stated that this was a very exciting time for his department. The first practice on the new fields was earlier this week. He stated that they had just finished basketball and were getting ready to start volleyball for the first time. He also reported that the baseball participation is higher than in the past and that for the first time, Haralson County would have T-ball and 5-6 year old boys and girls would be separated.

#### **Item #1 – Jim Grubiak Proclamation**

Commissioner Bennett read the Proclamation honoring Mr. Grubiak for his 34 years of work with ACCG, the Association County Commissioners of Georgia, serving as their chief legal counsel. Mr. Grubiak has been a tremendous asset to the Association and the member counties.

#### **Item #2 – Recognition of County Clerk**

Chairman Poole announced that Alison Palmer had received her Master's Certification as a County Clerk at the February 2016 clerks training institute in Macon. He explained the requirements for this certification, which included 10 classes over two and a half years and a major project at the conclusion. He stated that Mrs. Palmer has been working on a complete update of the Haralson County Employee Handbook for her project. Chairman Poole and his staff also presented Mrs. Palmer with her certification plaque and a bouquet of roses.

#### **Item #3 – Executive Session**

Commissioner Smith motioned to go into executive session. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

After the session, Commissioner Bennett motioned to go back into the regular meeting. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

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

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

Gary Broadstreet, Broadstreet Contract Services, Inc., General Contractors. After telling about himself, Mr. Broadstreet explained that he did not feel like the county was issuing their business licenses properly. He felt like one of the companies that had bid and won a contract for the batting cage pavilion was not properly licensed as a general contractor. He insisted that everyone that did any of this kind of work was required to have a state contractor's license and

3H Construction, which is owned by Chairman Poole's brother, did not have a state license. He went on at length about this.

When he was finished, Chairman Poole asked Helen Wilson, who manages business licensing for the county to explain the way the county handles the licensing. Ms. Wilson stated that if the state requires a license, such as for a contractor, electrician, cosmetologist, then the business owner had to produce a copy of their license before the county would issue a license. She went on to state that not all aspects of construction require a license, such as a roofer, a handyman, or remodeling. She went on to state that these people could not pull a permit to work in the county, that the property owner acted as their own contractor to pull a permit and then when the project is finished the county building inspector would come out to inspect and approve the work. However, if you wanted your business license to say construction or contractor in any way, then you would have to have a stated license. She stated that 3H is on the books as 3H Remodeling and Consulting.

This caused David Greene to ask the board several times if they thought it was ethical for the chairman's brother to be awarded a contract. Before the board could respond, Greg Dewberry responded for them. He stated that in a small county like Haralson, it is practically impossible to use local vendors without them either being related to a commissioner or friends with one, or connected to one of them in some way. He went on to state that this was not the first time that an immediate family member of one of the commissioners had won a bid and worked on this project. He went on to state that the bid from 3H was one of 4 that were received ranging from \$60,000 to the highest of the 4, which was from Mr. Broadstreet, at \$97,000

Chairman Poole stated that his only role in the bid opening process is to be present to see that it is carried out properly. He also stated that this bid is on hold because the project fund possibly won't have enough money to proceed with this item.

Commissioner Smith asked to make a statement. He said after much thought and prayer and discussions with his family and heart doctor, that he has decided not to seek re-election.

Chairman Poole stated that everyone appreciated Commissioner Smith's service to the county over the past 3 years.

Commissioner Bennett motioned to adjourn, Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 5, 2016**

Chairman Poole called the regular meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. Commissioner Bennett offered the Invocation and Commissioner Robinson led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Poole noted for the record that Commissioner Smith was absent.

Chairman Poole stated that the minutes had been sent to the commissioners to review prior to the meeting. He asked if there were any changes to be made. There were none. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2016 Regular Meeting and the March 16, 2016 Work Session as written. Commissioner Dobbs seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

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

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Poole asked Greg Dewberry to report on the Ribbon Cutting of Phase 3 of the Recreation facility and Senior walking trail, which was Monday, April 4, 2016. The first sets of games went well and were very well attended.

Chairman Poole reported that the project took approximately fourteen months and almost \$1 million from SPLOST funds spent on the project with close to 75% completed by local vendors.

Mr. Dewberry stated that he has contacted Norfolk Southern asking for a donation of old railroad crossties to use to line the parking lot. There was some confusion and some vehicles were blocked in by others. He encouraged everyone to visit the facility. The citizens he has talked to at the facility were very complimentary.

**Public Participation on Agenda Items**

None

**Departmental Reports**

**- Commissioner's Office, Helen Wilson**

Mrs. Wilson stated that she was reporting today on the many responsibilities of the accounting side of the Commissioner's Office. The following stats are for the first three months of 2016:

- 1763 A/P invoices entered resulting in 944 checks
- 364 Deposits resulting in 438 Cash Receipts totaling \$3,459,453.61

- 294 active employees, 1893 Pay checks issued, 1228 Direct deposits
  - 6 pay dates, 12 electronic tax deposits
  - 7 new hires, 12 terminations
  - Total Payroll of \$1,614,026.42
  - Employee paperwork includes births, deaths, divorce, marriage, and name changes that also have to be sent on to all the insurance companies, retirement companies, etc.
  - 13 Insurance deductions, 6 retirement deductions and 7 child support/garnishments deductions balanced each month to the payroll deduction register
  - 228 Business licenses, generating \$37,152
  - 3535 Convenience Center stickers, which must all verified and recorded
  - Receive monies for, distribute monies from and reconcile 27 Funds each month.
  - Maintain records for liability insurance for 34 buildings, approximately 215 vehicles, equipment, all accidents and claims
  - Maintain records for Workers Compensation insurance including reporting claims, classifying employees for proper coverage, annual audits, renewals, etc.
  - Maintain work orders on needed maintenance on buildings, IT, Computers, Phones, Plumbing, Heat & Air units, plumbing, to name a few.
- **Tax Assessors Office, Hubert Sparks**  
Mr. Sparks began by stating that January through April 1<sup>st</sup> is his department's busiest time of the year.
- There are several deadlines that occur on April 1<sup>st</sup>, including property returns (real and personal), filing for exemptions such as Homestead, CUVA, and FLPA.
  - Field work includes appraising new construction, renovations, sales, and returns.
  - In May, the Board of Assessors along with the Chief Appraiser and one other employee all attend CAVEAT in Athens. This is training and updates on all legislative changes for the year.
  - Tentative date for Assessment Notices is May 26, 2016. There are approximately 20,000 notices sent out at this time.
  - Cell tower appraisals have been concluded. For a cost of \$27, 496 to Haralson County, this will add approximately \$66,894 in tax revenue each year.

**Item #1 – E911 Telecommunications Week Proclamation**

Chairman Poole asked County Clerk Alison Palmer to read and present this proclamation. Cathy Thompson, E911 Director, was in attendance to accept the Proclamation on behalf of her department. She thanked the board for the recognition and stated that she was proud of her employees and thanked them for always doing an excellent job and going above the call of duty each and every day.

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

Chairman Poole read and presented the proclamation to Commander Billy Bearden of the Haralson Invincibles, Camp # 673, along with several others dressed in period clothing. Commander Bearden thanked the board and explained to the audience some of the things that they do. Such as placing flags on all known confederate soldiers' graves on Confederate Memorial Day, keeping graves clean, educating about the civil war and this regions participation, along with several other items.

### **Item #3 – Lifelink Resolution**

Commissioner Bennett read the Lifelink Resolution. She urged everyone who is not already an organ donor to become one. You can sign up when renewing your driver's license or go online and sign up on the Lifelink website. She stated how important this is to those waiting on organs and also stated, "We can't take them with us."

### **Item #4 – FYE 2015 Audit Report**

Chairman Poole stated that each of the commissioners had been given a copy of the Audited Financial Report for Fiscal Year End June 30, 2015 to review. He stated that this is the best audit report the county has ever had. He asked the board if there were any questions. There were none so he asked for a motion to accept the audit report. Commissioner Robinson motioned to accept the FYE 2015 Audit Report. Commissioner Dobbs seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

### **Item #5 – Tallapoosa Trash Stickers**

Commissioner Robinson asked that the BOC rescind the vote from the March 1, 2016 meeting which stated that the BOC would pay rent to the City of Tallapoosa for use of the piece of land that the Tallapoosa convenience center occupies instead of giving them three (3) stickers for their citizens to use. He stated that the city did not want the county to pay rent. After a short discussion, Commissioner Robinson motioned to give the City of Tallapoosa 2 stickers to use for the convenience centers in lieu of paying rent. Commissioner Dobbs seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

### **Item #6 – DFACS Board Appointment**

Chairman Poole stated that he had received a letter from Libby Smith, director of the Haralson County DFACS Department requesting that the BOC appoint Brian Walker to the vacancy on the board. Chairman Poole went on to report that he had asked Chief Walker if he would be willing to serve on this board and he responded that he would. Chairman Poole then asked if there were any more nominations for the appointment. There were none. Commissioner Robinson motioned to close nominations. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Robinson then motioned to appoint Chief Brian Walker to the DFACS board.  
Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**Public Participation on Non Agenda Items**

None

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

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MAY 3, 2016**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

The Regular Meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Allen Poole. The Invocation was offered by Sandi Couch and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Robinson. Chairman Poole noted for the record that Commissioner Smith was absent due to health reasons.

Chairman Poole stated that the minutes of three meetings had been sent to the board for review prior to this meeting. He asked if there were any changes to be made. There were none. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2016 Regular Meeting, the April 20, 2016 Work Session, and the April 26, 2016 Special Called Meeting as written. Commissioner Dobbs seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Poole asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. There were none. Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**Public Participation on Agenda Items**

None

**Department Head Reports**

**Senior Programs, Rhonda McCoy.** Ms. McCoy said first of all, it is a privilege and a joy to work with the seniors and that they were a blessing to her. She urged everyone to volunteer time to work with seniors. Ms. McCoy stated that some of the daily activities include walking, pool players, group discussions around the table over coffee, and card playing. Weekly activities include line dancing, aerobics, bible study, and pickle ball. Monthly includes bingo and some day trips, such as a visit to Smith Farms in Heflin and to Little Jerusalem in Cullman, Alabama.

The seniors are looking forward to a seven day trip to Niagara Falls in June, with 100 signed up to go. Then, in October, they will be taking their first cruise to New England and Canada.

Chairman Poole also informed everyone that the ½ mile walking track and 2 pavilions had been completed on the Seniors SPLOST Project. The pavilions will have grills and picnic tables for use.

**Fire/EMA, Chief Brian Walker.** Chief Walker stated that fire calls are up this year and that the department had been very busy. He said they are also preparing for a visit from the ISO inspectors, which he expects to happen fairly soon. Chief Walker stated the goal is for the ISO

rating to go down from a 5 to a 4, which will reduce insurance premiums for the citizen's homeowners insurance.

Chief Walker reported on the search the past weekend for an 82 year old woman with Alzheimer's who had wandered away from her home at 10:30 am on Saturday and was found at 9:30 am on Sunday. He reported that the Bremen Police Department K9 unit and one other K9 unit had been brought in, along with the GSAR (Georgia Search and Rescue) Unit and a 10 unit horseback team. These and the Haralson County Firefighters searched through the night over approximately 400 acres. She was found Sunday morning in surprisingly good shape.

Chief Walker reported that they had also searched one well and one lake for a body. None were found.

EMA – Chief Walker stated that Haralson County was included in a federal disaster declaration from the heavy rains and floods earlier this year. He reported approximately \$200,000 worth of road damages, washouts, etc. He reported that he hoped to be able to get approximately 80% of that back. He reported that Robert Bell is working with Bill McConnell and Terry Edwards at the road department on the documentation needed to make this happen.

Chairman Poole stated that he was going to take executive privilege and swap item #1 and #2 on the agenda.

#### **Item #2 – Foster Parent Month Proclamation.**

Commissioner Bennett read and presented the proclamation to foster parents, Andy and Laura Owen. Mrs. Owen stated that there was an enormous need for foster parents in Haralson County. She said that there were 14 homes in the county and approximately 180 children in need of care, therefore they are spread all around the state and siblings are often separated.

#### **Item #1 – R. K. Redding Construction, Inc. Proclamation**

Chairman Poole read and presented the Proclamation to Randall Redding. He congratulated Mr. Redding on the 25 year anniversary of his company. He also thanked Mr. Redding for all his work and contributions to the community.

#### **Item #3 – Highland Rivers Board Reappointment**

Chairman Poole reported that Highland Rivers had written a letter requesting that Haralson County reappoint Faye Ward to their board. They stated Ms. Ward had served diligently and with great compassion and stated that she is an asset to them. Chairman Poole asked if there were any other nominations. There were none. Commissioner Bennett motioned to close nominations. Commissioner Dobbs seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the reappointment of Faye Ward to the Highland Rivers Board. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**Item #4 – Planning & Zoning Board Vacancy**

Chairman Poole asked the board if there were any nominations for the vacancy on this board. There were none. Commissioner Bennett motioned to table this item until the next meeting. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**Item #5 – FYE 2016 Budget Amendment #2**

Chairman Poole asked Alison Palmer to explain this amendment. She stated that this is to account for the revenue above what was budgeted for the Insurance premium. The breakdown is as follows:

\$77,618.34 additional Insurance Premium funds  
(\$33,500.00) Repair & Maintenance vehicle – Fire  
(\$ 6318.34) Tires – Fire  
(\$37,800.00) Fund Balance SSD Fire

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve FYE 2016 Budget Amendment #2. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**Item #6 – Telecommunication Request for Proposal**

Chairman Poole stated that this had been discussed at the work session. It is for the actual phone service. Commissioner Bennett asked if the county had a maximum amount they would allow. Alison explained that there was not a cap, however the board has the option of accepting one of the proposals or rejecting them all if they choose to do so. This is not a request for bids, so price is only one of the factors that determine which option is chosen. This RFP is to get companies to suggest a solution to the county's phone service issues.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the RFP for telecommunication service to be released. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**Item #7 – Fire Inspection Codes Update**

Chief Walker explained that Haralson County does not currently have an approved set of Fire Inspection codes. Waco, Buchanan, and Haralson County must approve the codes. ISO requires this. They are codes that relate to inspecting commercial businesses for fire safety. After a business is inspected, they are given a report on safety issues that need to be addressed, such as blocked exits, no fire extinguishers, etc.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the Fire Inspection Codes. Commissioner Dobbs seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**Public Participation on Non Agenda Items**

None

Chairman Poole recognized the West Georgia Go Tell Crusade and commended the great number of people and work it took to bring it here and to make it the success it was. He said that over 12,000 people attended over the 4 nights it lasted. Commissioner Bennett stated over 600 commitments were made and also commended the crusade committee.

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

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
County Clerk

## **HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**JUNE 7, 2016**

### **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Allen Poole called the regular meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. Cathy Thompson offered the Invocation and the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Poole noted for the record that Commissioner Smith and Commissioner Dobbs were absent.

Chairman Poole stated that the commissioners had been given the minutes of last month's meetings to review. He asked if there were any changes to be made. There were none. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2016 Regular Meeting and the May 18, 2016 Work Session as written. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Chairman Poole stated that he would like to amend the agenda and add two items. The first item is the Conditional Use Zoning request by Bremen Farms and the second is the percentage of dependent health care coverage that the county pays. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

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

None

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

Commissioner Bennett asked that everyone keep Commissioner Smith and his wife Aletha in their prayers. Commissioner Smith is still hospitalized.

#### **Department Head Reports**

None

#### **Item #1 – Brayden Dryden Proclamation**

Chairman Poole read and presented Brayden with a proclamation for being the winner of the Keep Haralson Beautiful Earth Day Poster Contest. There were over 400 entries in the contest and Brayden's poster received the most likes. Jim Winchester, from Keep Haralson Beautiful, was also on hand for the presentation.

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

The board reviewed the different options for the health insurance for the county employees at the May work session. Marcy Heath reported that Cigna, Apollo, and Blue Cross Blue Shield had declined to quote. Aetna and United came back with quotes higher than the Humana renewal.

She quickly reviewed the proposal that seemed to be the best option for the county and the employees. Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve Humana option #3. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

### **Item #3 – Employee Handbook Update**

Alison Palmer, County Clerk, reported that the update had been worked on for several months and the proposed update had been given to the commissioners to review. Alison stated that some of the changes were to outdated policies, others were required by the insurance companies to help keep claims down. Chairman Poole asked if there was any discussion from the board on the proposed handbook. There was none. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the handbook update effective July 1, 2016. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

### **Item #4 – 2017 Proposed Budget**

Chairman Poole presented the proposed budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017. He asked the board to review the budget and be ready to discuss it at the work session. He also reported that they would need to decide to raise the millage rate by 1 mill or to make cuts to this proposal.

### **Item #5 – JAG Grant Announcement**

Alison Palmer reported that the Superior Court had applied for a Justice Assistance Grant to be used for mental health issues in Haralson County. The grant application will be available for review at the Commissioner's Office for the next 30 days.

### **Item # 6 Conditional Use Zoning Request – Bremen Farms, LLC.**

Wayne Godfrey, of Bremen Farms LLC, has requested Conditional Use zoning for land on Morgan Road in Bremen. Tax Map 88, parcel 1. Land Lot 69-84-85. Chairman Poole reported that there had been a public hearing on this request just prior to this meeting. Chairman Poole motioned to approve the zoning request. Commissioner Bennett seconded. No action was taken due to a 2-1 vote with Commissioner Robinson opposed. No majority vote either in favor or against. The item was tabled until the next meeting.

### **Item #7 – Percentage of Dependent Insurance Coverage Paid by County – Vote**

This item had been discussed at a couple of different meetings. It had been discussed that the county would phase out paying any portion of the dependent coverage. Commissioner Robinson motioned to reduce the percentage the county pays by 10% per year beginning July 1, 2016. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

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

None

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

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**JUNE 15, 2016**  
**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

Chairman Poole called the June 15, 2016 Special Called Meeting to order and offered the Invocation. The board led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Poole noted for the record that Commissioner Smith was absent due to health reasons.

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

Chairman Poole stated that he would like to add two items to the agenda. He would like to revisit the percentage of family coverage paid by the county and would also like to add the vacancy on the Planning and Zoning Board.

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

**Item #1 – Conditional Use Zoning Request – Bremen Farms, LLC.**

There was a public hearing on this request on June 7, 2016. This is the request for property located on Morgan Road. Tax Map 88, parcel 1, Land Lot 69-84-85. Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve this zoning request. Commissioner Dobbs seconded and the motion carried 3-1, with Commissioner Robinson opposed.

**Item #2 – Percentage of Dependent Health Coverage paid by the County.**

Chairman Poole stated that he would like to recommend that the county leave the percentage the county pays toward dependent health care coverage at 50% this year and begin to phase this out next year, which would give the employees time to explore their options and determine what is best for their family. Commissioner Bennett motioned to rescind the June 7, 2016 vote to reduce the percentage paid by the county on health coverage for dependents and leave it at 50% for the 2016-2017 budget year. Commissioner Dobbs seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**Item #3 – Planning and Zoning Board Vacancy.**

Chairman Poole stated that he would like to nominate Jim Carden to fill the vacancy on the Planning and Zoning Board. He asked if there were any other nominations from the board. There were none. Commissioner Robinson motioned to close the nominations. Commissioner Dobbs seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Poole motioned to approve Jim Carden to fill the vacancy on the Planning and Zoning Board. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Dobbs seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**JUNE 30, 2016**  
**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

Chairman Poole called the June 30, 2016 Special Called Meeting to order and Tallapoosa City Councilman Bobby Parker offered the Invocation. The board led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Poole noted for the record that Commissioner Smith was absent due to health reasons.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to waive the reading of the minutes of the previous meetings until the next regular meeting. Commissioner Dobbs seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

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

County Attorney, Julie Cain, stated that this meeting was for the board to take action on several items that have been discussed in previous meetings or public hearings. She reminded the audience that you need to wait to be recognized by the chair before speaking.

**Item #1 – Telecommunications RFP – Vote**

Chairman Poole asked Alison Palmer, to give a quick review of the 2 proposals and their amounts. Alison stated that Parker Systems had given a proposal that offered better support at a considerable monthly savings from the current provider. Commissioner Bennett corrected her that Parker was the current provider. Alison stated that was correct. She had stated that backwards. Digital Agent is the provider that offered 24/7/365 support, along with training, and several safeguards to the system, for an approximate \$2200 per month savings. She stated that this is the RFP that is recommended by IT Employee Bill Brown and the staff that had evaluated the proposals. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the acceptance of the Digital Agent Telecommunications Proposal. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**Item #2 – 2016-2017 Budget**

Chairman Poole stated that the board had several options to choose from. The first is the proposed budget of \$14,448,675, which would require the millage rate to be increased by 1 mill. The second is to cut \$500,000 from the proposed budget by reducing the combined departments operated by the sheriff by that amount. The third option is to close two convenience centers, cancel the .25 raise for full time county employees and cut approximately \$100,000 from both the road department and the fire department. He stated that he was going to propose an amendment that would possibly keep the board from closing the two convenience centers. When questioned, none of the commissioners were in favor of proposal 1

or 2. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve proposal number 3. Budget amount \$14,078,816. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**Item #3 – Executive Session**

Chairman Poole stated that an executive session was needed to discuss potential litigation. Commissioner Robinson motioned to go into executive session. Commissioner Dobbs seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

After returning, Commissioner Robinson motioned to reconvene the Special Called Meeting. Commissioner Dobbs seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Poole reiterated that the executive session was regarding potential litigation and no action would be taken at this time.

Commissioner Dobbs asked to speak. He stated that rumors were going around that he had abandoned District 3. He stated that was not true. He has a family member in the hospital in critical condition in Atlanta. He stated that family always comes first with him. He reiterated that he had not abandoned his position and he would continue to look out for his district through the end of his term.

Commissioner Bennett asked everyone to continue to remember Commissioner Smith, who is still hospitalized.

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

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
County Clerk

seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**JULY 12, 2016**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Allen Poole. Commissioner Jamie Bennett offered the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Sammy Robinson. Chairman Poole noted for the record that Commissioner Kenneth Smith was absent due to health issues.

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Poole stated that the commissioners had been sent a copy of the minutes for five June meetings to review. They are:

- June 7, 2016 Regular Meeting
- June 15, 2016 Work Session
- June 15, 2016 Special Called Meeting
- June 23, 2016 Special Called Work Session
- June 30, 2016 Special Called Meeting

Chairman Poole asked if there were any changes to be made to any of the minutes. There were none. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve all of the June minutes as written. Commissioner Dobbs seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Chairman Poole stated that he would like to amend the agenda by deleting Item # 4 Carroll EMC Grant Recipients and adding an executive session.

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

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Poole and Commissioner Bennett both asked everyone to keep Commissioner Smith in their prayers. He has been transferred to the Rehab unit at Higgins Hospital and is slowly improving.

Chairman Poole stated that he would like to speak from the heart. He said he is concerned with the direction of our country, all the horrendous acts of violence. He stated that it didn't matter if you were black, white, or a different nationality; we are all entitled to our rights equally. He asked that everyone stop and take a minute to think about the direction our country has taken. We don't have the same house, street, or church, but all are due the freedoms that men and women died to protect. Don't resort to violence. Pray for the healing of our land and country.

He stated that he had listened to the service for the five Police Officers and this had weighed on his heart.

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

None

### **Item #1 – West Georgia Regional Library Excellence Award to Mary Jarrell**

Roni Tewksbury, director of the West Georgia Regional Library System, thanked the Board for their support of the libraries in Haralson County. Teresa Jones and Jana Gentry were also in attendance to help present the award. This is the Excellence for Support of Library Award. This is for going well above the call of duty. She said Mary Jarrell has been a part of the Library in the old Courthouse from the beginning. She has served on local, regional, and county boards and is at every meeting and fundraiser.

Mrs. Jarrell stated that it is an honor to receive this award and she appreciates it. She went on to say the staff, Jana and Chris, give excellent service. She said there are many dedicated Friends of the Library and volunteers. She also thanked the county and city officials for their support. "Thank you All!"

### **Item #2 – Rezoning Request – Randell Richardson. Hwy 27**

Chairman Poole stated that a Public Hearing had been held regarding this request prior to this meeting. Chairman Poole also reported that the Planning and Zoning Board had unanimously recommended approval of the request. He asked the board if there were any questions. There were none. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the rezoning request by Mr. Richardson. Commissioner Dobbs seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

### **Item #3 – Transit Authorizing Resolution**

Chairman Poole asked County Clerk, Alison Palmer, to explain this item. Mrs. Palmer reported that the county had been approved for the Federal Transit funds for the Transit 5311 program. They asked that approval of an Authorizing Resolution be completed in order to avoid any interruptions in service. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the Authorizing Resolution for the 5311 funding of the Transit program. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### **Item #4 – Executive Session**

Commissioner Dobbs motioned to go into Executive Session. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to go back into the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Dobbs seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Poole reported that the executive session was to update the Commissioners on potential litigation. He stated that no action was taken.

**Public Participation on Non Agenda Items**

None

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

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**AUGUST 2, 2016**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Poole called the regular meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. He noted for the record that Commissioner Dobbs was absent. Mike Daniel offered the invocation and the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Poole stated that the commissioners had been sent the minutes of the two July meetings to review. He asked if there were any corrections or additions. There were none. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the July 12, 2016 regular meeting minutes and the July 20, 2016 work session minutes as written. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 3-0 with Commissioner Smith abstaining since he was not in attendance at those 2 meetings.

Chairman Poole stated that an executive session needed to be added to the agenda. He asked the board if they had any changes to the agenda. There were no others. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**Chairman's report**

Chairman Poole reported that he and Mr. Brown had met with Metropolitan communications at the boot camp to iron out some radio issues that needed to be addressed. He stated that the project is moving along well and we expect to be able to move into the new facility around the first week of September.

**Public Participation on Non Agenda items**

Scott Roberts – IT Contract.

Mr. Roberts stated that he was at the June 23, 2016 Special Called Work Session where Mr. Brown reviewed the Telecommunications Proposals that had been received. He asked if Mr. Brown had revealed to the board that Cabot Howell, his son, was Vice President at Digital Agent, the company that was awarded the contract. Commissioner Bennett immediately stated that, he certainly had not. She stated that the board had been manipulated from the beginning and she was "irate and disappointed". She went on to state that they were in charge of putting the phone system in and it had never worked properly. She said, "Ask Terry Edwards or other county employees." Chairman Poole corrected her and stated that they were not here to finish putting in the phone system. There was further discussion about the RFP and how it was handled. Commissioner Bennett said the board was not following policies they voted on in 2014. Chairman Poole stated that the RFP was handled correctly. Commissioner Bennett then asked the county attorney if she could take back her second of the vote that awarded the contract. Ms. Cain responded that "she did not know the answer to that right off the top of her head".

**Department Head Reports**

- Mike Daniel, Recreation Department reported that they had just finished the first season of baseball and softball at the new fields. He said that it was a wonderful season and everyone really enjoyed the new facility. He also reported that concessions did excellent. Football and cheerleading registration numbers are up from last year and the department is looking forward to the upcoming season. Mr. Daniel reported that the two pavilions are completed and the picnic tables and grills are installed. The playground equipment is being assembled and should be ready soon.

Chairman Poole urged everyone to make use of the picnic areas and walking trail.

- Hubert Sparks, Chief Appraiser, Tax Assessors Office. Mr. Sparks reported that the Sales Ratio Study had been received from the Department of Revenue. Acceptable ratios are 36-44, with 40 being perfect. Haralson County is currently at 40.63. Mr. Sparks credited his staff and the county governing authority for this accomplishment.

**Item #1 – Fried Pie Festival**

Donnie Boswell told everyone about the Fried Pie Festival scheduled for September 17, 2016. He said this is a county wide festival that will be held on the square in Buchanan. It will include 75 vendors, a beauty contest, fried pie contest, and a car and bike show.

Chairman Poole pledged to donate \$100 as a personal donation and challenged the rest of the board and elected officials to make a personal donation also.

**Item #2 – Tax Anticipation Note – vote**

Chairman Poole stated that the county is asking for a line of \$1 million. Community and Southern bank is offering the loan at 1.5% interest and a one-time \$500 loan fee. Interest is only accrued on the actual amount drawn and the note must be paid in full by December 31, 2016. He stated that last year, the county only had to draw \$720,000. Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the Tax Anticipation Note. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**Item #3 – Millage Rate**

Chairman Poole stated that the county would like to set the proposed millage rate at 12.42, which is staying at the same rate as last year. The full rollback rate would be 12.32; therefore the county must hold the three public hearings. Commissioner Smith motioned to advertise the millage rate at 12.42. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**Item #4 – Humana Vitality Participation**

Chairman Poole referred this item to County Clerk, Alison Palmer. Mrs. Palmer reported that at the May work session, the board had instructed her to find out how Polk County's wellness program was set up. Mrs. Palmer reported that she had spoken to Matt Denton, the Polk County Administrator. Mr. Denton stated that employees who are on the county insurance must reach a particular goal with the wellness program or they are assessed a fee for their insurance. The fee is:

\$25 for employee only

\$30 for employee/spouse or employee/children

\$35 for employee/family

This is a fee per pay period for the year. They are paid biweekly like Haralson County. Mrs. Palmer explained that if Haralson County did this, we would need our employees and their covered spouses and dependents (over 18) to reach the Humana Vitality Silver status by March 1, 2017 in order for the county to receive a discount on the health insurance premiums. There was some confusion on this item, so it was tabled until the August work session for further discussion.

**Item #5 – Executive Session**

Commissioner Robinson motioned to go into executive session. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to come back into the regular meeting. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Poole stated that the executive session was for the county attorney to report on potential litigation.

**Public Participation on agenda items**

None

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

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**SEPTEMBER 1, 2016**

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING**

Chairman Poole called the Special Called meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. Sandi Couch offered the Invocation and Commissioner Robinson led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Poole noted for the record that Commissioner Dobbs and Commissioner Bennett were absent.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to waive the reading of the August 2, 2016 Regular meeting minutes and the August 17, 2016 Work Session minutes until the next Regular meeting. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

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

**Item #1 – Joint Resolutions to Amend the Service Delivery Strategy Update 2014 – Vote**

Chairman Poole explained that the Cities of Buchanan and Waco had each approved an amendment to the 2014 Service Delivery Strategy Update. Both wish to participate in all county services.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the Joint Resolution to amend the 2014 Service Delivery Update with the City of Waco. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the Joint Resolution to amend the 2014 Service Delivery Update with the City of Buchanan. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

**Item #2 – Set Millage Rates for 2016**

Chairman Poole asked County Clerk Alison Palmer to read the Resolution to Levy Taxes into the minutes. The millage rates are as follows:

County Millage	12.42	(County-wide)
School Board	16.72	(County-wide)
Recreation Special Service District	00.55	(Unincorporated, Buchanan, Waco)
Fire Special Service District	00.77	(Uninc., Buchanan, Waco, Temple)
Sanitation Special Service District	00.18	(Unincorporated, Buchanan, Waco)

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the Resolution to levy taxes with the levies listed. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Chairman Poole reminded everyone that the meetings go back to 10 AM beginning with the October 4, 2016 meeting.

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**SEPTEMBER 6, 2016**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Allen Poole called the regular meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. Chief Brian Walker asked the Invocation and the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Poole noted for the record that Commissioner Smith and Commissioner Dobbs were absent.

Chairman Poole stated that the board has had an opportunity to review the minutes of the August 2, 2016 Regular Meeting, the August 17, 2016 Work Session and the September 1, 2016 Special Called Meeting. Chairman Poole asked if there were any changes to be made. Commissioner Bennett asked about the September 1, 2016 meeting. Chairman Poole stated that it was to set the millage rate. Commissioner Bennett stated that she wasn't aware of that meeting, so she probably should not vote on it. Alison Palmer stated that it was on the reminders that were given out at the work session that listed the public hearings and special called meeting.

Chairman Poole asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meetings. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting and the work session. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried.

Chairman Poole asked if there were any changes the commissioners wished to make to the agenda. Commissioner Bennett stated that she wanted to add the Fire Department Training center. She has heard the county purchased property and she did not know anything about it. Chairman Poole stated that he would have Chief Walker give a report during the Chairman's report. Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the agenda with the addition to the Chairman's report. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

**Chairman's Report**

**Fire Department Training Center** – Fire Chief Walker was asked to explain this center. Chief Walker stated that the ISO requires the county to have a training center. The piece of property is adjoining the Convenience Center and the new school bus barn property on Macedonia Church Road. He stated that it was purchased with SPLOST V funds that the citizens voted to upgrade fire services. Chairman Poole stated that the sheriff had also alluded to the fact that he would like to use a portion of that piece of land for firing practice and Animal Control could also use a portion for a pen for large animals. This is adjoining the school board property, so it will help both entities.

Commissioner Bennett asked how the county is going to pay for the facility. Chief Walker stated that they will be obtaining Conex boxes through the Forestry Department for \$100 each to build the tower. They will be used for the burn building and a modular classroom that the county has previously purchased will be used for a classroom. County Clerk, Alison Palmer, asked the chief to explain what a Conex box is to everyone. He said they are the big boxes you see on the back of tractor trailers. Chairman Poole asked if we will be able to allow other counties to use the training center. Chief Walker stated that every county will have to have their own facility in order to get the ISO points for their county. He went on to say that this would give the county quite a few points toward keeping homeowners insurance premiums down for our citizens.

### **Digest Approval**

Chairman Poole stated that the digest had been approved by the state, which was good news. Mrs. Ridley is now able to send out the tax bills.

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

None

### **Item #1 – Humana Vitality Participation**

Chairman Poole stated there has been a lot of discussion about the Humana Vitality Program participation and he still has some concerns about the program. He asked Alison Palmer to update the board. She stated the different options available to the commissioners regarding this program. First option that Mrs. Palmer had been directed by the board to research is assessing a fee to the employees who do not reach Silver status by March 1, 2017. Other options are incentives to the employees who do reach Silver status. She stated that the county had purchased 20 Fitbits to be raffled off. All employees who are at Silver status by the end of September will be put into the drawing for the Fitbits. Mrs. Palmer also reported on upcoming ways to earn points. The first is a CPR/First Aid/AED class that will earn the employees who participate 250 points. The county will have a day when employees will be offered flu shots which earns points. She stated that the concern that has come to our attention in the last few days involves employees being able to get points for activities that don't necessarily fit the program. For example, one of the judges participated in a 100 mile bike ride and since it was not a race, where he receives a number and certificate of completion, he did not get any points for this activity. Commissioner Robinson stated there are too many concerns for the board to vote on this at this time. He motioned for this item be postponed for further discussion. Chairman Poole went on to report that the discussion had come about due to the fact that the county pays 100% of the employees insurance premium and we did not get any discount on the insurance renewal because employee participation was so low last year. Chairman Poole then went on to second the motion. The motion carried 3-0.

### **Item #2 – Georgia Power Credit Union ATM**

Chairman Poole stated that the Georgia Power Credit Union had asked for permission to place an ATM at the county courthouse. He said that the county has quite a few employees who are credit union members. This was discussed at the work session. The nearest Georgia Power Credit Union is either in Rome or Carrollton. They will be responsible for all maintenance and servicing. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the placing of the Georgia Power Credit Union ATM at the courthouse. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

### **Item #3 – 2017 Holiday Calendar**

Chairman Poole said that the county has 9 holidays during a short period and some of the employees would like to see one of them swapped to Good Friday. Alison Palmer clarified that 6 of the 9 county holidays fall in a two month period from Veteran's Day on November 11<sup>th</sup> to Martin Luther King Day on January 18<sup>th</sup>. Numerous employees have asked that one of those two holidays be swapped for Good Friday. Commissioner Robinson stated he would motion against doing away with Veteran's Day. Chairman Poole stated that the motion would be, to take away MLK Day and add Good Friday as a holiday. Commissioner Bennett stated that she would not want to take away anyone's preference to celebrating either Veteran's day or MLK day. Commissioner Robinson clarified that this is to do away with a holiday. Alison Palmer said, No, they don't have to change anything if they don't want to. Commissioner Bennett asked if they could just add Good Friday. Chairman Poole said they could do that if they can find the money in the budget. Alison explained that when you add a holiday, you have to take into consideration the time and a half that has to be paid to the public safety personnel who have to work on that holiday and the departmental budgets do not currently have that additional holiday figured in. Chairman Poole stated that it adds about \$18,000 - \$20,000 per holiday. The board discussed an unpaid day or floating holiday. Commissioner Robinson motioned to leave the holiday schedule as it currently stands and if an employee wants to take it off, they get it approved by the department head, in advance, and either use a vacation day or take it as an unpaid day off. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

### **Item #4 – Georgia Trend Focus Article**

This is a paid advertisement that features Haralson County in the Georgia Trend Magazine. Commissioner Bennett asked if the other entities, such as the Development Authority and cities could help pay for the advertisement. Alison Palmer responded that she had been told by Eric McDonald, Development Authority Director, that each entity that wanted to be included would have to pay that amount. Total cost would end up being about \$35,000. After further discussion, Commissioner Robinson made a motion not to advertise in the Georgia Trend. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

**Item #5 – Notice of additional Homestead Exemption for Senior Citizens to go on ballot for General Election**

Chairman Poole asked County Attorney, Julie Cain, to update the board. She stated that the additional exemption was approved by the General Assembly in the 2016 session. However, they did not properly notify the Haralson County Elections office to place this on the November ballot. Therefore, the county has to ask Superior Court Judge Mike Murphy to make a declaratory judgment to place this item on the ballot. Commissioner Robinson motioned to ask the Superior Court judge to make a declaratory judgment placing the additional exemption for senior citizens on the November ballot. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

**Public Participation on Non Agenda items**

None

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

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**OCTOBER 4, 2016**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Allen Poole. The Invocation was offered by Commissioner Bennett and Commissioner Robinson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Poole stated that the minutes of the September meetings had been sent to the commissioners to review. He asked if there were and changes, deletions, or additions. There were none.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the minutes of the following meetings:

September 1, 2016 Special Called Meeting

September 6, 2016 Regular Meeting

September 21, 2016 Work Session

Commissioner Dobbs seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

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

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Poole reported for the record that Commissioner Smith was absent due to a doctor's appointment, but was doing well.

Recreation department has just finished the first season of baseball and participation has been good and the new facility is getting great reviews.

Rockmart Road has just been refinished from Hwy 120 to the Polk County line. This was completed with the LMIG funds from the state.

The Sheriff's Department and Jail has moved into the new jail facility this past week.

**Special Presentation of the CAFR by Rick Hartley, CPA**

Mr. Hartley reported that the staff has pursued the Comprehensive Audited Financial Report for the first time. The CAFR goes beyond the normal requirements of the annual financial statements. They promote transparency and several areas are added to the financial report. The Introductory section, The Financial Section and The Statistical section. This statistical section added about 20 new schedules of information for the past 10 years including finances, operations, constituents and local economy portions. The CAFR included the Auditors "clean" opinion for FY 2015, which is the highest you can get. There was only one finding in the Compliance and Internal Control Reports section. This finding is virtually impossible to alleviate in a government with a small finance department without hiring additional personnel. The number of findings has decreased steadily over the past few years. "The staff prepared a very professional and concise document that has been reviewed by several individuals before submission to the Government Finance Officers Association for their review. The CAFR has the essential components and meets the requirements to be awarded the *Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting* from GFOA for the year ended June 30, 2015." Also, they received the certification the first time they pursued it which is unusual. Only 33 of 159 counties have received this certification. Mr. Hartley finished by thanking Chairman Poole, County Clerk Alison Palmer and the staff of the Commissioner's Office for their hard work on this project.

**Fit Bit Drawing**

Alison Palmer explained that the names of all employees and adult dependents that are on the Humana Health insurance and has reached the "Silver" status by September 30, 2016 have

been put into the drawing. The BOC had approved the purchase of 20 fit bits. Commissioner Bennett drew the names of the winners.

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

None

#### **Item #1 – Haralson County Solid Waste Authority IGA**

Chairman Poole stated that this IGA had been discussed at the work session and is putting into writing the agreement for the county to do some work for the HCSWA for which they would be billed and reimburse the county. Commissioner Dobbs motioned to approve the IGA. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

#### **Item #2 – Haralson County Water Authority IGA**

Chairman Poole stated that this IGA had been discussed at the work session and is putting into writing the agreement for the county to do some work for the HCWA for which they would be billed and reimburse the county. Commissioner Dobbs motioned to approve the IGA. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

#### **Item #3 – Haralson County Transit Drug and Alcohol Policy Updates**

Chairman Poole stated that these are updates to the policy that are required by the state in order to participate in the transit 5311 program. He stated that this was also discussed at the work session. Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the Transit Drug and Alcohol policy updates. Commissioner Dobbs seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

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

None

Commissioner Robinson announced that the Haralson County Veterans Association had nominated three men for the Georgia Military Hall of Fame. They are:

- Ray McKibben, served in Vietnam, received the Medal of Honor
- Paul Cheatwood, was in the Battle of Hue, received the Navy Cross
- Wayne Waddell, served in North Vietnam, received the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Silver Star<sup>2</sup>, Bronze Star, and Purple Heart.

The requirements are very strict and Commissioner Robinson said he was honored to announce that all three were accepted. Their families will be invited to the ceremony.

Commissioner Bennett reminded everyone that Debbie Paul had died in a car accident this morning and asked that everyone keep the family in their prayers.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to adjourn and Commissioner Dobbs seconded. The motion carried 4-0.

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
NOVEMBER 1, 2016  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Poole called the regular meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. Commissioner Dobbs was absent. Seth Hardin offered the Invocation and the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Poole stated that the minutes of the October meetings had been sent to the commissioners to review. He asked if there were any changes. There were none. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2016 Regular meeting and the October 26, 2016 Special Called meeting as written. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Poole asked if there were any changes the board wanted to make to the agenda. There were none. Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**Chairman's Report**

Chief Brian Walker -

Chairman Poole asked Chief Walker, Fire/EMA Director to give an update on the drought and water conditions. Chief Walker stated that although the most of the state is in a drought, Haralson County's water situation is the worst. About October 12, 2016, the Tallapoosa River was at a virtual standstill. On October 15<sup>th</sup>, there was no water flow and the intake began drawing air instead of water. The water was below the intake pipe in the river. Chairman Poole declared a local state of emergency that day. The next day, firefighters, water authority personnel, and volunteers began walking the river and clearing natural obstructions and beaver dams to get the water flowing. Over the next two weeks, a total of 125 obstructions had been cleared. This included assistance from the GBI and DNR. A DNR helicopter flyover of the river is scheduled for November 3<sup>rd</sup>. This will help identify pockets of water that can be released to flow on down to the water plant. There have been teleconferences every 2-3 days with Haralson County, the Water Authority, GEMA, DNR, Forestry, state legislators and the Corps of Engineers to monitor the situation. Chief Walker reported that the water consumption was down from 3.5 million gallons of water per day to a little over 2 million through water restrictions and conservation by the residents of the county.

Chairman Poole stated that he had been working with the Water Authority throughout this crisis to get Governor Deal and the state to address the urgent need to get a permit approved to get a reservoir created to help us avoid similar situations in the future.

Commissioner Robinson also spoke of the importance of getting the reservoir permitted and suggested that the county go to the capitol and fight for the needed funds and permits.

- County Clerk, Alison Palmer, reminded everyone of the upcoming receptions.

November 6, 2016 for Mrs. Barbara Ridley, our tax commissioner who is retiring at the end of the year.

November 10, 2016 for outgoing Commissioners John Dobbs and Kenneth Smith, whose terms will be completed on December 31, 2016.

**Public Participation on Agenda Items – None**

**Item #1 – Proclamation for Mrs. Barbara Ridley, Tax Commissioner.**

Chairman Poole read and presented the Proclamation celebrating and thanking Mrs. Ridley for her service to Haralson County.

## **Item #2 – Tallapoosa Automatic Aid Cost – Vote**

Chairman Poole stated that the county had asked for the cities to meet regarding the service delivery, particularly fire and sanitation. Buchanan and Waco came to meetings with the county and signed agreements that included fire and sanitation services. Tallapoosa postponed their meetings and did not come to the table until after the millage rates had been set. At that time, they were not participating in fire services. Chairman Poole had the county attorney, Julie Cain, stating that the automatic aid agreement would terminate on November 1, 2016. Tallapoosa finally came to negotiate a fire service automatic aid agreement. After a couple of meetings, it was determined that the cost of this service should be \$68,000, which is what Haralson County would have received in property taxes specifically for fire, if the city had been included in the fire services taxes. Tallapoosa asked to have that amount reduced since it is into the fiscal year. Chairman Poole had Alison Palmer clarify how this amount had been determined. Ms. Palmer also reminded everyone that Tallapoosa had still been receiving this service, even though they had not paid anything toward the service. Commissioner Robinson asked if Buchanan or Waco had received a discounted rate. Chairman Poole said they had been assessed the full fire district tax. Commissioner Bennett stated that it concerned her that this discussion would not have been necessary if Tallapoosa had come to discussions in a timely matter and it further concerned her that they now want a discount because they did not do what was needed in a timely manner and if the county gives them a discount, what about the other cities? Commissioner Robinson stated that he thought they ought to pay the full \$68,000. Commissioner Bennett clarified that this is the same service that Tallapoosa and Bremen fought so hard not to pay, saying they did not use these services. After brief further discussion, it was determined that Haralson County would give Tallapoosa a 15 day grace period to make agreement to pay this amount or the Automatic Aid would terminate and the response to the City of Tallapoosa would change drastically. This would give them until the November 16, 2016 work session to make a decision. Ms. Cain will extend the offer and details to the city manager. Commissioner Robinson motioned to set the cost of Automatic Aid to Tallapoosa at \$68,000. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

## **Item #3 – Grow Haralson Initiative Contribution – Vote**

Chairman Poole reminded everyone that this is the \$10,000 contribution to be a voting member of the Grow Haralson Board, which has been set up to assist the Development Authority in promoting Haralson County to potential businesses. Commissioner Smith motioned to make a \$10,000 contribution to become a voting member of the Grow Haralson Board. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

## **Item #4 – Buchanan City Parking Lot Funds Request – Vote**

The City of Buchanan has a parking lot that was given to the city. To repave and stripe the lot will cost \$24,000. Buchanan is paying \$12,000. They are asking for help paying for the balance. Commissioner Robinson motioned to contribute \$2000 toward the repaving of the lot. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

## **Item #5 – 2017 Budget Amendment #1 – Vote**

Chairman Poole asked Alison Palmer to explain the amendment. Ms. Palmer stated that this amendment includes the additional \$63,878 revenue from property taxes that the county will collect since the BOC kept the millage at 12.42 instead of doing a complete rollback. It also includes the one time return from ACCG work comp of \$53,033 and the \$50,000 that will be paid for work completed by the road department for the Haralson County Water Authority and the Haralson County Solid Waste Authority. Expenses include a part time employee for the Probate Judge's Office, a Christmas bonus for employees, wellness program, the Grow Haralson Contribution, the Buchanan parking lot contribution and a "Patch truck" for the Road department. The second part of the amendment is the additional \$69,203 that was received for the Insurance premium check and the allocations of that to expenses within the fire

department. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the budget amendment. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**Item #6 – ValuTeachers 457 Program – Vote**

Chairman Poole reminded the board that this was discussed at the September work session and the county needed to clarify some details before moving forward with approving the program. Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the program. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

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

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**DECEMBER 6, 2016**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Poole called the regular meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. Fire Chief Brian Walker offered the Invocation and the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Poole noted that Commissioner Smith was absent.

Chairman Poole took a moment to thank Commissioner Dobbs and Commissioner Smith for their service to the county. Commissioner Smith arrived during these comments, so Chairman Poole reiterated his thanks to these two commissioners at this last meeting of the year.

Chairman Poole noted that the minutes of the November regular meeting and work session had been sent to the board to review. He asked if there were any changes or corrections. There were none. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2016 Regular meeting and the November 16, 2016 work session. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Poole stated that he would like to add the Barco Agreement to the agenda. Commissioner Dobbs stated that he would like to add an executive session to discuss a personnel issue. Commissioner Dobbs motioned to approve the agenda with the 2 additions. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Poole reported that he, Chief Brian Walker(HCEMA), Charlie Walker (HCWA Director), and Commissioner Elect Donnie Ridley had been to a meeting at the capitol with Governor Deal. Representative Trey Kelley and a member of Senator Bill Heath's staff was also present. The reason for this meeting was the critical water situation in Haralson County and discussed some potential ways to help keep this from happening again. The main solution that was discussed was dredging and deepening Seabreeze Lake. Some funding options such as GEFA funds was also recommended. Drilling more wells was another possibility that was brought up.

**Public Participation on Agenda Items – None**

**Item #1 – Proclamation Celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of Lowell and Shirley Ayers**

Chairman Poole read and presented the Proclamation to Mr. and Mrs. Ayers. He congratulated them on this momentous occasion and thanked them for their community work, too.

**Item #2 – Region 1 EMS Board Reappointment of Carlton Firestone – Vote**

This item was discussed at the November work session and no other nominations were made. Commissioner Smith motioned to reappoint Carlton Firestone to the Region 1 EMS board. Commissioner Dobbs seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Item #3 – Health Board Reappointment of Faye Ward – Vote**

This item was also discussed at the November work session and no other nominations were made. Commissioner Smith motioned to reappoint Faye Ward to the Haralson County Board of Health. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Item #4 – Transit 5311 Application Resolution – Vote**

Chairman Poole asked County Clerk Alison Palmer to explain this item. Alison stated that this is the resolution required to make application to the Georgia Department of Transportation for Program 5311 funding for the Haralson County Transit department. This is the program that funds 50% of the transit budget. Haralson transit predominantly is used by senior citizens and indigent citizens to travel to doctor's appointments, dialysis, grocery stores, drug stores, etc.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the Resolution to apply for 5311 funding. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Item #5 – Haralson County / Ambucare Rural Healthcare Unit Agreement – Vote**

Chairman Poole had Alison explain this agreement. Alison explained that earlier in the year, the Appalachian Regional Commission had approached Haralson County and Ambucare regarding a program they would like the county to use to apply for a grant from ARC. This would be a pilot program that the federal government would like to see implemented across the country. Alison also asked Ambucare employee Joe Fuller to help explain exactly what this program would provide. He stated that his was for uninsured, indigent, and low income citizens and would provide home healthcare follow-ups after hospital stays and also help them find a regular doctor. At the end of the grant term, 2 years, there is a possibility of reapplying to continue the program. Alison stated that if the program went well, Ambucare would pursue some of the funding from Tanner hospital, if the program is helping the hospital system avoid ACA penalties for patients returning too soon after a hospitalization. Alison went on to explain that the matching funds for the program would come from Ambucare, mostly from the employee salary for the EMT that works the unit and would not cost the county anything. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the Ambucare agreement for the mobile home healthcare unit. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

**Item #6 – Exit Incentive – Vote**

Chairman Poole stated that the county had discussed an exit incentive numerous times over the past couple of years. He asked County Attorney, Julie Cain, to explain the program. Chairman Poole stated that Ms. Cain and Alison Palmer had been working out the details and criteria for the exit incentive program. Ms. Cain started out by saying that she had been in contact with a labor lawyer from Carrollton, to assist with the program. After several discussions, the program was finalized. The intention of the Exit Incentive program is to lower long term payroll expenses. Ms. Cain gave the criteria for being eligible for the program. All criteria must be met to be eligible. It includes minimum age of 50 as of January 1, 2017, and 20 years of *continuous full-time* service to the county as of February 28, 2017. The offer is \$3000 for each 10 years of eligible service. Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the exit incentive with the listed criteria. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**Item #7 – Barco PILOT Agreement – Vote**

Julie Cain stated that Eric McDonald, Haralson County Development Authority Executive Director, felt like this had to be addressed at this meeting due to time constraints, even though this was not on the agenda to begin with. Mr. McDonald stated that this would be discussing how to land a project, not just how to fund economic development. He stated that this is the proposed PILOT agreement with Barco. A PILOT is payment in lieu of taxes. He went on to apologize that this is coming to the board so late. He reported that they did not finish the negotiation on this until about lunch time on Friday. In order for Barco to take advantage of the tax agreement, we have to get the agreement signed and get title to the property signed over prior to December 31<sup>st</sup>, so that when it is assessed, it is in the name of the authority. It will create 20 jobs, \$9 million investment. It is the site of the old Hoover Hanes site in Tallapoosa. The Haralson County Development Authority purchased this site about two years ago. They have almost finished construction of the facility and plan to open about February 2017. This brings back a lot of jobs to Tallapoosa. A standard abatement would be a five year agreement with Haralson County and the City of Tallapoosa with zero taxes year one and increasing 20% per year until they are paying 100% beginning year six. They will still pay school taxes. Since there have been issues with having enough water pressure for fire suppression, they will have to put about \$500,000 into fire equipment including a pump, tank, and plumbing, this abatement was intensely negotiated and goes 0% for the first three years, then goes 25%, 50%,

100% years four through six. This will help offset the upfront expenses for the fire suppression. The lawyers are still arguing a “claw-back” provision, which states that if they do not do at least 79% of this by 2018 (whether investment or job creation), then Barco will owe the county and city the taxes back. He asked that the board go ahead and approve the agreement pending legal review by the county attorney and go ahead and give the Chairman the authority to sign it as soon as the attorney approves the legal language.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to accept the agreement pending legal review and give the Chairman the authority to sign the agreement on behalf of the county once the wording is agreed upon. Commissioner Dobbs seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **Item #8 – Executive Session**

Commissioner Robinson motioned to go into executive session regarding a personnel matter. Commissioner Dobbs seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Poole asked that everyone leave the room until the executive session was completed.

After the room was opened back up to the public, Commissioner Robinson motioned to go back into the regular meeting. Commissioner Dobbs seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Poole stated for the record that the executive session was regarding a personnel matter and that no action was taken.

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

Donnie Boswell noted that apparently the building had a roof leak because he noted that there was a roof tile that was stained and it looked like a water leak into one of the fluorescent lights.

Commissioner Dobbs, District 3, thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve his term as a district commissioner and said, Congratulations to District 3, Commissioner Elect Donnie Ridley.

Commissioner Smith, District 1, said, “ditto, ditto, ditto!”

Commissioner Robinson reminded everyone that the next day was December 7, D Day, and asked that everyone remember the service to our country that our veterans have served.

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