

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

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

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

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

Chairman's Report

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

Public Participation on Agenda Items

None

Item #1 – FY 2016 Certified Audited Financial Report

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

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

Item #2 – Building Codes Update

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

Item #3 – Development Authority Appointment Process Resolution

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Item #4 – Fire Truck Lease

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

Item #5 – Executive Session

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

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

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

Public Participation on Non Agenda Items

None

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

Submitted by Alison Palmer
County Clerk