

**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