

**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