

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

Chairman Allen Poole called the Regular meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. Tallapoosa Council member Bobby Parker offered the Invocation and the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Poole noted for the record that all commissioners were present.

Chairman Poole stated that the commissioners had the chance to read over the meeting minutes from three meetings in October. He asked if anyone had changes, additions or deletions to any of these. There were none. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2017 Regular Meeting, the October 18, 2017 Special Called Meeting and the October 18, 2017 Work Session Minutes. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Poole stated that he would like to add two items to the agenda. The first is the Firefighters Cancer Coverage. The second is to designate the Felton Fire Station as Roy McKibben Memorial Station. He asked if the Board had any other changes to the agenda. There were none.

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

Chairman's Report

Chairman Poole stated that he had been to several district meetings around the state regarding the upcoming legislative session and the items that are important to counties. They include E911 fee reform, tax reform, and the broadband initiative.

County Clerk Alison Palmer reminded the board that Haralson County would be hosting the Area Commissioner's luncheon on Monday, November 13th at the commissioner's office.

Public Participation on Agenda Items

None

Item #1 – Proclamation requesting that the new Bridge on Hwy 120 over Beech Creek be named in Memory of Harold Blackmon.

Chairman Poole read and presented the Proclamation to Judge Blackmon's widow, Pat Blackmon, and his son, Jason Blackmon. Chairman Poole recalled the many services that he performed for Haralson County. The proclamation will be sent on to the State to request that the bridge be named in Judge Blackmon's memory.

Item #2 - Dedicated Fees Urging Resolution

Chairman Poole asked Alison Palmer to read the Resolution. It will also be sent to the state to urge the legislature to dedicate the fees that have been statutorily designated to the purpose they were intended. Many of these fees get diverted to other programs. If they are designated fees, they cannot be diverted to some other purpose.

Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the Dedicated Fees Urging Resolution. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #3 – Haralson County Board of Assessors Appointment

Sandra Tant's term is ending in December 2017. She has written a letter to request that she be reappointed to her position for a term 6 years beginning January 1, 2018. Chairman Poole nominated Sandra Tant. There were no other nominations.

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

Chairman Poole motioned to reappoint Sandra Tant to the Haralson County Board of Assessor's. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #4 – Haralson County Water Authority Appointment for Commission Board Member Seat

This is the seat that is currently held by Chairman Allen Poole. Commissioner Tarpley asked to speak before nominations were made. He reviewed the funds that had been designated for water from SPLOST 5 & 6, the land purchased by the Water Authority that was unable to be used because mussels were later found in the creek, and the fact that the authority could sell that land at any time. He stated that he felt like the board needed to put new members on this board who would make good decisions.

Chairman Poole stated that he felt like the authority had made the best decisions based on the information they had before them at that time. He opened the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Robinson nominated Chairman Allen Poole. Commissioner Bennett nominated Commissioner Tarpley. There were no other nominations.

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

Chairman Poole turned the meeting over to Vice Chairman Sammy Robinson since the Chairman was one of the nominees.

Vice Chair Robinson called for all in favor of Chairman Allen Poole to motion with a raised hand. There were 3 in favor, Commissioner Ridley, Vice Chair Robinson and Chairman Poole. Commissioners Bennett and Tarpley were opposed.

Vice Chair Robinson then called for all in favor of Commissioner David Tarpley to motion with a raised hand. There were 2, Commissioner Tarpley and Commissioner Bennett. Commissioner Ridley, Vice Chair Robinson and Chairman Poole were opposed.

Vice Chair Robinson stated that Chairman Poole had been reappointed to his seat on the Water Authority.

Item #5 - Haralson County Water Authority Post 2 Appointment

Chairman Poole stated that this is the post currently held by Bob Downey. Commissioner Bennett asked to speak. She said she believes in term limits for these boards. She stated that she thinks they should consider new people, with new ideas. She stated that in the past she did not support Amos Sparks for reappointment and he was her appointment several years ago when she was first on the board. Commissioner Bennett went on to say that she did not support her chairman for reappointment today. Neither of these was personal and she feels that they should give others a chance to serve on these boards. She concluded by saying that when it becomes controversial, as this board has in the past few years, maybe that is a signal that it is the time to look for people.

Chairman Poole opened the floor for nominations. Commissioner Robinson nominated Bob Downey. Commissioner Tarpley nominated Dr. Stanley McCain. With no other nominations, Commissioner Robinson motioned to close nominations. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Poole asked for all in favor of Bob Downey to raise their hands. Commissioner Ridley, Commissioner Robinson and Chairman Poole were in favor. Commissioner Bennett and Commissioner Tarpley opposed.

Chairman Poole asked for all in favor of Dr. Stanley McCain to raise their hands. Commissioner Bennett and Commissioner Tarpley were in favor. Commissioner Ridley, Commissioner Robinson and Chairman Poole were opposed.

Chairman Poole stated that Bob Downey had been reappointed to the Water Authority Board.

Commissioner Ridley asked to speak. He stated that he had attended all the water board meetings except for one since he was elected. He said they are in the middle of some negotiations that are going to affect this county for years to come and he does not feel like they need to change people in mid-stream. And that is why he voted the way he did at this time.

Item #6 – FY 2018 Budget Amendment #2

Alison Palmer explained that this amendment will move the funds from the holding line to each department to cover the raises that were given after the evaluations had taken place. The amount that is being divided out is \$77,187. Commissioner Tarpley asked how much that leaves in the holding line. Alison stated that it leaves approximately \$34,000.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve Budget Amendment #2. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #7 – Discontinue Mutual of Omaha Group Disability Insurance Coverage effective December 31, 2017

Alison Palmer explained that this policy had begun on July 1, 2017 and to this date the bills have many errors, missing employees, wrong premium amounts, etc. The county never even received a bill until October 20, 2017. Ms. Couch had been in contact with the agent and the company representative many times since early August regarding these issues and they are still not corrected. Ms. Palmer stated that it had become an accounting nightmare for this office and asked that the group policy be cancelled and let the employees take individual coverages that are offered through other companies.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to terminate the Mutual of Omaha Insurance policy effective December 31, 2017. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #8 – Firefighters Cancer Coverage

Chairman Poole stated that the county had received the quote from ACCG for the Cancer coverage required by the state. The quote was much better than previously anticipated and considerably lower than the amount budgeted. Commissioner Tarpley asked how the extra funds that had been budgeted for this would be used. He asked if the county could use this money elsewhere. Alison replied that it had to stay in the fire budget because fire is a Special Service District. Commissioner Tarpley then motioned to restrict the use of these extra funds. Alison asked for the board to finish the current agenda item and then address the remaining funds.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the ACCG Firefighters Cancer Coverage Policy. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #10 – Restriction of funds remaining on the Firefighters Cancer Insurance Budget line

Commissioner Tarpley motioned for the funds remaining in the FF Cancer Insurance budget line to be unavailable for use without a vote of the Board of Commissioners to amend that budget. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #9 – Designate the Felton Fire Station as the Roy McKibben Station

Past Commissioner, Amos Sparks, spoke to the board. He said the Friends of Felton is requesting that the BOC designate the Felton Fire Station Community Center as Roy McKibben Memorial Community Center. He went on to say they would like to house artifacts and memorabilia to his service in the military at this location also.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the Designation of the Felton Fire Station as the Roy McKibben Memorial Fire Station and Community Center. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Public Participation on Non Agenda Items

Kevin Boulton - spoke on Internet, future plans, FCC regulations, etc.

Julie Cain, County Attorney, spoke regarding the rules of Public Participation. She stated that for items on the agenda, you can sign up beginning 10 minutes prior to the meeting. For an item that is not on the agenda, you must call in the week prior to the meeting and either meet or speak with the Chairman or the clerk regarding your topic. Ms. Cain went on to clarify that this is a business meeting and needs to move at a faster pace. It is not that your commissioners don't want to hear from you, but due to the time constraints in meetings, you are responsible for contacting your individual commissioners to voice your concerns.

Jimmy Echols – did not show up.

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

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk