

**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 60th 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 31st, 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.