

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MARCH 1, 2016**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Poole called the Regular Meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order and Commissioner Bennett offered the Invocation. The commissioners led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Chairman noted for the record that Commissioner Robinson and Commissioner Dobbs were absent, but there was still a quorum, therefore, county business could be conducted.

Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on February 2, 2016, the Work Session on February 17, 2016 and the Special Called Meeting on February 17, 2016. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Chairman Poole asked to amend the Agenda to include Item #3 Executive Session regarding a personnel issue. Commissioner Smith motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

**Chairman's Report**

The Chairman reported that the county had received the Certified Audited Financial Report for FYE 2015. He reported that there was only one finding that the county would always have while we have very small departments that deal with money. There is not enough of a segregation of duties in these departments that only have one or two employees. He reiterated that it did not apply to the Commissioner's office. The chairman also stated that the list of findings has improved every year.

**Public Participation on Agenda Items**

None

**Department Head Reports**

Road Department – Terry Edwards, Assistant Public Works Director. Mr. Edwards reported that the treacherous, rainy weather had wreaked havoc with the county roads, culverts, and schedules. He stated that they were working diligently to repair and work the roads, etc as soon as possible. They had major delays receiving pipes due to the large amount of rain throughout the area and state. Many companies were backlogged getting pipe out to everyone. He stated that the road department had also been helping with the parking lots and other items at the Recreation Project.

Recreation Project – Greg Dewberry, Project Manager. Mr. Dewberry reported that they were working hard to get the finishing touches on this project, so that it could open on time for the first baseball games during the first week of April. He stated that this had been a challenge since they had shown 20" of rain at the facility from Halloween until New Year's day. He went through a list of all the items that had been a part of this project and the cost of each, giving everyone an idea of the scope of this project. He stated that there were 25 separate bid

events, 17 of which were awarded to county businesses. This is a 75% local participation rate. The Grand Opening will be announced as soon as it is scheduled. He hopes all the commissioners will be able to attend the festivities.

Ann Crim, the director of Keep Haralson Beautiful stated the KHB will be providing recycle bins for use at the Recreation facility as promised.

Recreation Department – Johnny Williams, Recreation Director. Mr. Williams stated that this was a very exciting time for his department. The first practice on the new fields was earlier this week. He stated that they had just finished basketball and were getting ready to start volleyball for the first time. He also reported that the baseball participation is higher than in the past and that for the first time, Haralson County would have T-ball and 5-6 year old boys and girls would be separated.

#### **Item #1 – Jim Grubiak Proclamation**

Commissioner Bennett read the Proclamation honoring Mr. Grubiak for his 34 years of work with ACCG, the Association County Commissioners of Georgia, serving as their chief legal counsel. Mr. Grubiak has been a tremendous asset to the Association and the member counties.

#### **Item #2 – Recognition of County Clerk**

Chairman Poole announced that Alison Palmer had received her Master's Certification as a County Clerk at the February 2016 clerks training institute in Macon. He explained the requirements for this certification, which included 10 classes over two and a half years and a major project at the conclusion. He stated that Mrs. Palmer has been working on a complete update of the Haralson County Employee Handbook for her project. Chairman Poole and his staff also presented Mrs. Palmer with her certification plaque and a bouquet of roses.

#### **Item #3 – Executive Session**

Commissioner Smith motioned to go into executive session. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

After the session, Commissioner Bennett motioned to go back into the regular meeting. Commissioner Smith seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Chairman Poole stated that the executive session was regarding a personnel issue.

#### **Public Participation on Non Agenda Items**

Gary Broadstreet, Broadstreet Contract Services, Inc., General Contractors. After telling about himself, Mr. Broadstreet explained that he did not feel like the county was issuing their business licenses properly. He felt like one of the companies that had bid and won a contract for the batting cage pavilion was not properly licensed as a general contractor. He insisted that everyone that did any of this kind of work was required to have a state contractor's license and

3H Construction, which is owned by Chairman Poole's brother, did not have a state license. He went on at length about this.

When he was finished, Chairman Poole asked Helen Wilson, who manages business licensing for the county to explain the way the county handles the licensing. Ms. Wilson stated that if the state requires a license, such as for a contractor, electrician, cosmetologist, then the business owner had to produce a copy of their license before the county would issue a license. She went on to state that not all aspects of construction require a license, such as a roofer, a handyman, or remodeling. She went on to state that these people could not pull a permit to work in the county, that the property owner acted as their own contractor to pull a permit and then when the project is finished the county building inspector would come out to inspect and approve the work. However, if you wanted your business license to say construction or contractor in any way, then you would have to have a stated license. She stated that 3H is on the books as 3H Remodeling and Consulting.

This caused David Greene to ask the board several times if they thought it was ethical for the chairman's brother to be awarded a contract. Before the board could respond, Greg Dewberry responded for them. He stated that in a small county like Haralson, it is practically impossible to use local vendors without them either being related to a commissioner or friends with one, or connected to one of them in some way. He went on to state that this was not the first time that an immediate family member of one of the commissioners had won a bid and worked on this project. He went on to state that the bid from 3H was one of 4 that were received ranging from \$60,000 to the highest of the 4, which was from Mr. Broadstreet, at \$97,000

Chairman Poole stated that his only role in the bid opening process is to be present to see that it is carried out properly. He also stated that this bid is on hold because the project fund possibly won't have enough money to proceed with this item.

Commissioner Smith asked to make a statement. He said after much thought and prayer and discussions with his family and heart doctor, that he has decided not to seek re-election.

Chairman Poole stated that everyone appreciated Commissioner Smith's service to the county over the past 3 years.

Commissioner Bennett motioned to adjourn, Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
County Clerk