

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MAY 3, 2016**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

The Regular Meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Allen Poole. The Invocation was offered by Sandi Couch and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Robinson. Chairman Poole noted for the record that Commissioner Smith was absent due to health reasons.

Chairman Poole stated that the minutes of three meetings had been sent to the board for review prior to this meeting. He asked if there were any changes to be made. There were none. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2016 Regular Meeting, the April 20, 2016 Work Session, and the April 26, 2016 Special Called Meeting as written. Commissioner Dobbs seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Poole asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. There were none. Commissioner Bennett motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**Public Participation on Agenda Items**

None

**Department Head Reports**

**Senior Programs, Rhonda McCoy.** Ms. McCoy said first of all, it is a privilege and a joy to work with the seniors and that they were a blessing to her. She urged everyone to volunteer time to work with seniors. Ms. McCoy stated that some of the daily activities include walking, pool players, group discussions around the table over coffee, and card playing. Weekly activities include line dancing, aerobics, bible study, and pickle ball. Monthly includes bingo and some day trips, such as a visit to Smith Farms in Heflin and to Little Jerusalem in Cullman, Alabama.

The seniors are looking forward to a seven day trip to Niagara Falls in June, with 100 signed up to go. Then, in October, they will be taking their first cruise to New England and Canada.

Chairman Poole also informed everyone that the ½ mile walking track and 2 pavilions had been completed on the Seniors SPLOST Project. The pavilions will have grills and picnic tables for use.

**Fire/EMA, Chief Brian Walker.** Chief Walker stated that fire calls are up this year and that the department had been very busy. He said they are also preparing for a visit from the ISO inspectors, which he expects to happen fairly soon. Chief Walker stated the goal is for the ISO

rating to go down from a 5 to a 4, which will reduce insurance premiums for the citizen's homeowners insurance.

Chief Walker reported on the search the past weekend for an 82 year old woman with Alzheimer's who had wandered away from her home at 10:30 am on Saturday and was found at 9:30 am on Sunday. He reported that the Bremen Police Department K9 unit and one other K9 unit had been brought in, along with the GSAR (Georgia Search and Rescue) Unit and a 10 unit horseback team. These and the Haralson County Firefighters searched through the night over approximately 400 acres. She was found Sunday morning in surprisingly good shape.

Chief Walker reported that they had also searched one well and one lake for a body. None were found.

EMA – Chief Walker stated that Haralson County was included in a federal disaster declaration from the heavy rains and floods earlier this year. He reported approximately \$200,000 worth of road damages, washouts, etc. He reported that he hoped to be able to get approximately 80% of that back. He reported that Robert Bell is working with Bill McConnell and Terry Edwards at the road department on the documentation needed to make this happen.

Chairman Poole stated that he was going to take executive privilege and swap item #1 and #2 on the agenda.

#### **Item #2 – Foster Parent Month Proclamation.**

Commissioner Bennett read and presented the proclamation to foster parents, Andy and Laura Owen. Mrs. Owen stated that there was an enormous need for foster parents in Haralson County. She said that there were 14 homes in the county and approximately 180 children in need of care, therefore they are spread all around the state and siblings are often separated.

#### **Item #1 – R. K. Redding Construction, Inc. Proclamation**

Chairman Poole read and presented the Proclamation to Randall Redding. He congratulated Mr. Redding on the 25 year anniversary of his company. He also thanked Mr. Redding for all his work and contributions to the community.

#### **Item #3 – Highland Rivers Board Reappointment**

Chairman Poole reported that Highland Rivers had written a letter requesting that Haralson County reappoint Faye Ward to their board. They stated Ms. Ward had served diligently and with great compassion and stated that she is an asset to them. Chairman Poole asked if there were any other nominations. There were none. Commissioner Bennett motioned to close nominations. Commissioner Dobbs seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the reappointment of Faye Ward to the Highland Rivers Board. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**Item #4 – Planning & Zoning Board Vacancy**

Chairman Poole asked the board if there were any nominations for the vacancy on this board. There were none. Commissioner Bennett motioned to table this item until the next meeting. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**Item #5 – FYE 2016 Budget Amendment #2**

Chairman Poole asked Alison Palmer to explain this amendment. She stated that this is to account for the revenue above what was budgeted for the Insurance premium. The breakdown is as follows:

\$77,618.34 additional Insurance Premium funds  
(\$33,500.00) Repair & Maintenance vehicle – Fire  
(\$ 6318.34) Tires – Fire  
(\$37,800.00) Fund Balance SSD Fire

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve FYE 2016 Budget Amendment #2. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**Item #6 – Telecommunication Request for Proposal**

Chairman Poole stated that this had been discussed at the work session. It is for the actual phone service. Commissioner Bennett asked if the county had a maximum amount they would allow. Alison explained that there was not a cap, however the board has the option of accepting one of the proposals or rejecting them all if they choose to do so. This is not a request for bids, so price is only one of the factors that determine which option is chosen. This RFP is to get companies to suggest a solution to the county's phone service issues.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the RFP for telecommunication service to be released. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**Item #7 – Fire Inspection Codes Update**

Chief Walker explained that Haralson County does not currently have an approved set of Fire Inspection codes. Waco, Buchanan, and Haralson County must approve the codes. ISO requires this. They are codes that relate to inspecting commercial businesses for fire safety. After a business is inspected, they are given a report on safety issues that need to be addressed, such as blocked exits, no fire extinguishers, etc.

Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve the Fire Inspection Codes. Commissioner Dobbs seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

**Public Participation on Non Agenda Items**

None

Chairman Poole recognized the West Georgia Go Tell Crusade and commended the great number of people and work it took to bring it here and to make it the success it was. He said that over 12,000 people attended over the 4 nights it lasted. Commissioner Bennett stated over 600 commitments were made and also commended the crusade committee.

Chairman Poole motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Submitted by Alison Palmer  
County Clerk