

HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 8, 2019
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Allen Poole called the regular meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. Mrs. Sandra Tant offered the Invocation and the board led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Poole noted that all the commissioners were present. County Attorney David Mecklin was present.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Poole welcomed new District 4 Commissioner Brad Vines, County attorney David Mecklin and his associate attorney Sam Newsome.

Chairman Poole asked everyone to remember several of our county's people who are battling health issues. He asked to keep former Commissioner Amos Sparks, Tallapoosa Mayor Pete Bridges, Coroner Danny Hutcheson and Deputy Randy Entrekin in our prayers. Also, Aletha Smith, who is former Commissioner Kenneth Smith's widow.

Chairman Poole stated that we would be presenting the audit today; that the county had received the needs assessment for the county government complex, and that TSPLOST funds had come in close to \$1 million thus far. He stated that when the weather improves, projects will get underway. He verified with Public Works Director Bill McConnell that it costs approximately \$140,000 to gravel and pave one mile of road. The chairman stated that the county has approximately 260 employees and that the finances are in good shape. He stated that the Board of Commissioners and county staff are here to serve the citizens of Haralson County.

He asked County Clerk Alison Palmer if she had any information to add. Ms. Palmer stated that the request to permit a trailer park had been withdrawn and there would not be a need for a public hearing on that matter. Also, reminded the board that the work session is next week, January 16, 2019 at 2:00 PM.

Commissioner Tarpley asked about the IT issue. Chairman Poole stated that he had received an RFP template from ACCG just the day before. Ms. Palmer stated that it would need to be customized to include only the items needed at this time.

Commissioner Tarpley asked about the progress of the Tallapoosa Fire Station. Chairman Poole asked Chief Brian Walker to give a report. Chief Walker stated that the building is up and the framing will start next Monday. He said the project is on schedule and they are aiming to move into the station at the first of May, 2019.

Commissioner Tarpley asked about the IWispr grant. Chairman Poole stated that the Development Authority would be meeting at 12:30 today to discuss this grant application. Chairman Poole also reminded everyone that anyone can apply for this grant. The chairman went on to say it is his goal to have internet brought into this county. The county is not obligated in any way. The Development Authority is a conduit for this project. He also said the county is not showing preferential treatment to anyone in the county. Chairman Poole stated that any of the commissioners could go to the Development Authority meeting.

Commissioner Bennett asked what would happen if IWispr did not get the grant. What would the county do with their relationship with them? Would it end the relationship with them? Chairman Poole stated, no, that IWispr would continue to try to fund the services, to extend internet to the county. The grant would just help them with their portion. Commissioner Bennett asked if someone else got the grant would the county end their relationship with IWipr

and team up with the grant recipient. Chairman Poole stated that the county could team up with anyone they wanted to.

Eric McDonald, Executive Director of the Development Authority, expanded on the process. The Development Authority would have to put out a competitive RFP to choose a provider to partner with on those three towers. They have to follow federal guidelines for this procedure. Mr. McDonald also stated that the SPLOST money and the grant are two entirely separate programs. One does not have anything to do with the other.

Approval of previous month's meeting minutes

Chairman Poole stated the minutes had been sent to the board to review. He asked if there were any changes to be made. There were none. Commissioner Ridley motioned to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Agenda

Chairman Poole stated he would like to add Item #6 – IT. He asked if the commissioners had any changes to the agenda. There were no more. Commissioner Brown motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Public Participation on Agenda Items

None

Item #1 – Appoint Vice Chair

Chairman Poole nominated Commissioner Ronnie Ridley.

Commissioner Tarpley nominated Commissioner Jamie Brown.

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to close nominations. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Poole motioned to appoint Commissioner Ronnie Ridley to serve as Vice Chairman. Commissioner Vines seconded.

Attorney David Mecklin stated that the board could either handle this vote this way and then vote call for the vote count or just ask for all in favor of Commissioner Ridley and then Commissioner Brown. Either way would be acceptable.

Commissioner Brown stated that she saw a conflict coming and she did not want to start the year out in conflict. She went on to state that she is the most qualified with 6 plus years of experience, but she did not intend to cause conflict. She asked Commissioner Tarpley to withdraw his nomination. Commissioner Tarpley withdrew his nomination of Commissioner Brown for Vice Chair.

Chairman Poole stated there is a motion and a second to appoint Commissioner Ridley as Vice Chair and called for the vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Item #2 – Appoint County Attorney

Chairman Poole stated that the county had put out an RFP and Mr. Mecklin had applied to serve as the county attorney. The board had interviewed Mr. Mecklin at the last work session. Chairman Poole stated that it was a pleasure and an honor to motion to approve David Mecklin as the County Attorney. Commissioner Bennett seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Mecklin stated that he would like a moment to speak at some point during the meeting. Chairman Poole stated he would give him that opportunity.

Item #3 – Appoint County Clerk

Commissioner Ridley motioned to reappoint Alison Palmer as County Clerk. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #4 – Budget Amendment #1 – FY2019

Finance Director Don Johnson stated that this was the amendment that was discussed at the December work session and did a quick review. Commissioner Tarpley questioned the item that moves the \$20,000 Jury fee line out of the Clerk of Superior Courts' budget and into the Superior Court Judge budget. He cited a legal code he felt made this an improper change. Chairman Poole stated that he did not think there was a problem with making this change because it is the judge that controls this item. He stated that the Clerk did not feel like it was proper to have a line in her budget that she had no control over. County Attorney David Mecklin stated that the judge controls the jury pools and he was not aware of any law that stated which budget this must be included in. He stated the Judge has control of these fees. Commissioner Ridley asked why the Superior Court Judge's office didn't write the checks for jurors. Mr. Mecklin stated that the offices generally were not set up with enough staff to handle that responsibility.

Commissioner Ridley motioned to approve the budget amendment pending the final opinion from Mr. Mecklin regarding this item. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #6 – IT

Chairman Poole brought up the problems of dealing with IT issues and having different vendors working on different parts of systems. He stated that he would be motioning to approve Digital Agent to take on the IT portion that Mr. Brown was handling. Commissioner Bennett stated that she thought that Mr. Brown was going to be asked to stay on in a limited capacity until the county had chosen a vendor. Chairman Poole stated that it was his understanding that as of January 1, 2019, Mr. Brown was no longer available. Commissioner Vines stated that he had talked to Mr. Brown and that was his understanding also.

Chairman Poole stated that it was going to be almost as expensive to have them for a short period of time as it would for a year due to the up-front cost to get set up. Commissioner Tarpley stated that they were already familiar with the system and it should not cost much to get up to date. County Clerk Alison Palmer stated it was not the familiarity; it was the lack of access to the work stations. They have to put the software to access the systems on each computer so they can remote into them instead of having to send a technician out every time someone has an issue.

Commissioner Tarpley stated that he would want to know an exact time period that we would have Digital Agent and it not be open ended.

Commissioner Bennett stated that she was not comfortable voting on this today, because she did not have any information in front of her. She stated that the documents that were given to her in the last meeting did not make sense to her and she did not know what they would be doing.

Commissioner Vines stated that he has been to numerous departments regarding this issue and every one of them had nothing bad to say about Digital Agent and every one of them was very concerned. The Constitutional Officers will get their own support if they are not comfortable with who the board chooses and this will be an additional expense. Commissioner Vines finished by saying that after the research that he has done, he will vote for Digital Agent whether it is today or next month.

Commissioner Ridley stated, we already have other contracts with Digital Agent, don't we.

Commissioner Vines stated that the other thing is Digital Agent has already shown their hand with their price quote. Whatever the dollar amount is, someone else can underbid.

Commissioner Bennett stated that this goes back to our own policies and procedures. We will be breaking those procedures, not giving people opportunities to bid to apply to serve us.

Attorney David Mecklin asked to speak. He stated that he had received a copy of the county's policies and procedures and it does provide for obtaining RFP's and bids on a normal basis; however there is a section of the procedure that pertains to emergencies. He stated it is up to a majority of the board to decide if they consider this an emergency. The board can vote to bypass the procedures.

Commissioner Ridley asked E-911 Director if it would be an emergency if her computers went down. She stated yes, 911 would then not be available for about 30 minutes when they could be started in a different location to another agency. Mrs. Thompson also stated that the county's servers are located in the computer room of the 911 building and any vendor accessing that area must be vetted by the GBI, certified to access the GCIC system and possibly by the sheriff, too.

Commissioner Tarpley stated that he heard the urgency and he motioned to accept Digital Agent as the interim IT, no more than 90 days and then an RFP can be sent out. After 90 days, if the RFP process is not complete, the board can look at extending.

Commissioner Bennett asked if we were giving them an unlimited checkbook.

Commissioner Tarpley said go by the numbers given last month.

Commissioner Vines stated he did not think Digital Agent would take advantage of the county.

Commissioner Ridley disagreed with Commissioner Tarpley. He stated that it would have to be more than the quote for the monthly rate with a yearlong contract. He also thought this was unfair because their bottom price is already public. Anyone can go in and quote \$1 less and win the bid!

After more discussion, Commissioner Ridley seconded Commissioner Tarpley's motion.

Commissioner Vines asked to go into executive session. Mr. Mecklin directed the board to vote on the motion that was on the table first.

Motion carried 5-0.

Public Participation on Non Agenda Items

None

Chairman Poole recognized Mr. Mecklin to speak at this time. Mr. Mecklin stated that he appreciates the opportunity to work with the board. He said he works for the entire board, not any individual member. He asked the board not to ask him to keep secrets from other BOC members and said he prefers to communicate with everyone at the same time as much as possible. He went on to state that the Chairman runs the meeting, but it is his understanding that he is to act as the parliamentarian. In his view debate is good. He said it means everyone is paying attention. However, he will act aggressively to stop any kind of personal attacks from the board or the audience.

Chairman Poole commended Attorney Sam Newsome on his service with the military and asked everyone to give him a hand.

At this time Commissioner Vines asked if the board could have an executive session. He stated it is important. Mr. Mecklin stated the acceptable reasons to have an executive session. Commissioner Vines was not sure about his topic so he asked if he and the attorney could step out of the room for the attorney to make a call on this topic.

While they were out of the room, Commissioner Tarpley asked Mr. Key if he had received back the quit claim on his easement. Mr. Key stated he had not, so Commissioner Tarpley asked Sam Newsome if he would follow up on this item with Mr. Mecklin.

Commissioner Tarpley also asked Chairman Poole about his position with the state. Chairman Poole stated that he is on the transition team and that ends on January 14, 2019. He stated he has been elected to stay in Haralson County for two more years and until the Governor calls, "I am here. My allegiance is to Haralson County".

Mr. Mecklin returned and stated that there was not a need for an executive session.

Commissioner Brown motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk

HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 16, 2019
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Allen Poole called the Special Called Meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. All commissioners and county attorney David Mecklin were present.

Marshal Tim Wautelet offered the Invocation and the board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Ridley motioned to waive the reading of the January 8, 2019 regular meeting minutes and the January 16, 2019 Work Session minutes until the regular meeting in February. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Ridley motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #1 – IT Proposal

Chairman Poole stated that this item had been discussed in detail in the work session prior to this meeting and he was going to call the question.

Commissioner Bennett stated that she wanted to make it clear that she does not have anything against the company, but because this board is not following its own policies and procedures.

Chairman Poole motioned to waive policies and procedures of purchasing in order to get a critical service taken care of. Commissioner Vines asked if you had to waive them in an emergency situation.

County Attorney Mecklin stated that in order to preserve your integrity you should.

After some more discussion including the ending dates for the other contracts currently held by Digital Agent the following motion was made.

Chairman Poole motioned to supersede the motion from the January 8, 2019 meeting regarding an interim IT contract and extend a contract to Digital Agent in accordance with the proposal given to the Board. This also includes the extension of the other Digital Agent contracts on a month to month basis at the current contract cost so that all the contracts will end on December 31, 2019. The final contract will be approved by the attorney prior to being signed. Commissioner Vines seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-2 with Commissioners Tarpley and Bennett opposed.

Commissioner Ridley motioned to adjourn. Chairman Poole seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk

HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 16, 2019
WORK SESSION MINUTES

All commissioners and county attorney David Mecklin were present.

Item #1 – CPS Courthouse Needs Assessment

Doug Shaw from Jericho Design Group, which is part of the CPS team, reviewed the assessment for a new courthouse and government complex. He stated that this is just a preliminary document that was derived from a short visit with each office that would be part of this facility. He said it was designed with room for growth built in to each area. He said a finished facility should be workable for several decades.

Chairman Poole stated that he had spoken to Randall Redding of R. K. Redding Construction, Inc. from Bremen. He asked for a good price estimate for this size facility. Mr. Redding stated \$225 -\$250 per square foot, which comes out to approximately 18.3 million dollars. Chairman Poole suggested this for a SPLOST project for the next SPLOST. The current SPLOST will run out in March of 2021. If the county gets this on the ballot in 2019 and it fails, then they still have another opportunity in 2020.

Commissioner Tarpley asked if the cities had been included in the decision to put this on as a SPLOST item. He stated he felt they would not agree to have all of their SPLOST funds taken for this project. Chairman Poole stated no, this is just the beginning of determining what was needed. Negotiations with the cities would follow in the next few months. County Clerk Alison Palmer stated that she did not think the Chairman had ever intended for the county to take the entire SPLOST. She said the county had to have this information in order to determine what the needs of the county are and then the board would have to determine what projects they feel want to include on the next SPLOST. Then, as the county goes into negotiations with the cities, they would know what they need to ask the cities to help fund.

After a few questions from the board, Eric McDonald (HC Development Authority Director) asked if this assessment included a “cost of doing nothing analysis”. Mr. Shaw stated they could do that also. Commissioner Tarpley asked if it would be included in the amount that had already been agreed to for payment. Mr. Shaw stated that this could be included within the funds already allotted.

Item #2 – Court Reporter’s Station in Large Court Room

Chairman Poole stated that the court reporter’s station in the big court room needed to be expanded like the one in the small court room. He said there is not enough room for the reporter to sit comfortably as it is now. After some discussion Commissioner Bennett stated she felt like it had worked fine for everyone else and she did not feel like it needed to be changed in order for the current reporter to be a little more comfortable. Commissioner Vines stated that if it was him, he would want to be reasonably comfortable in a situation where he had to sit for extended periods of time. It was determined that the board needed to go look at the situation and then discuss this further in the next meeting. Alison Palmer stated the staff would look back to the last expansion and determine what it had cost.

Item #3 – Managed IT Proposal

Chairman Poole stated that after talking to Digital Agent about an interim arrangement, he felt like this was not a good way for the county to proceed. The original time to set up on all systems and the cost of the licenses is the same whether the county has a 3 month or year long contract. He would like to ask the board to suspend the procedures and approve a one year contract with Digital Agent. Then at the end of the year, the county can put out an RFP for all the components of the IT, phones, computers, servers and security.

Commissioner Tarpley stated he is not in favor of doing this. He still prefers a 90 day interim.

Cabot Howell, Digital Agent Representative, gave the board ideas of the cost if this is on a 90 day basis. \$150 per hour including drive time, with a minimum of 2 hours. He detailed the county's system, stating that the county has a phenomenal structure which requires a high level of maintenance. He stated that the rates for the year were on the contract the commissioners had in their packet. He also stated that he did not want this published because it would give others an unfair advantage.

County Attorney David Mecklin stated that it appeared the year-long contract had a discount built in that the county would lose if they went to a 90 day period. Mr. Howell stated there was a discount but that was for some services that he was putting in that he is not charging the county to include. He stated this is an extra item to shore up some loops.

Mr. Howell went on to explain that the biggest up front expense was going to be buying the licenses to put their agent on each device. He stated the agent would be \$12,000 a year, but would cut out drive time in the majority of cases. Mr. Howell was asked if he had any technicians in Haralson County and he said only himself at this time, however, he does have someone in Paulding and Douglas and would like to hire someone in Haralson County.

There was more discussion regarding the other components that are already under contract with Digital Agent and when those contracts ended. All were late in the year.

Commissioner Ridley asked Mr. Howell if we could approve this contract and then let all of them run out at the end of the year. Mr. Howell stated yes, this could be arranged, with each one going on a month to month basis until December 31, 2019.

Commissioner Vines stated that he had been to numerous departments including the sheriff, 911, tax commissioner, and all of these people are comfortable with the quality of service they are receiving with Digital Agent. He stated they trust this company.

Chairman Poole recognized Sheriff Mixon to speak. The sheriff stated that his systems have so many security requirements that some of his employees aren't even allowed to access them. He referred to GBI, GCIC, NCIC, etc. as having to be approved. Mr. Mecklin asked if Digital Agent was approved to work on his units. Sheriff Mixon answered yes. The sheriff also stated that he would be doing extensive background checks on any of the technicians who would be working on his equipment.

Tax Commissioner Sherri Mobley stated that she is in the middle of a major program change with the state. Her systems have a lot of private, confidential information also.

Commissioner Ridley stated he would like to move forward with this item. Chairman Poole stated it is on the agenda for the Special Called Meeting following this meeting.

Item #4 Chief Appraiser, Hubert Sparks

Mr. Sparks stated that after reviewing the reports from the state for last year's digest, the Board of Assessors is requiring his office to update valuations on all small and large tracts of land in the county. He gave the commissioners a handout detailing the sales ratio study for 2017. Mr. Sparks went on to explain the importance of keeping within the ratios required by the state, including how public utilities pay according to this ratio and when the county is out of compliance, the percentage that the public utilities pay drops down, reducing the revenue collected in this area.

Commissioner Tarpley asked what a large and small tract of land was. Mr. Sparks stated that a large tract is 30+ acres, and a small tract is <30 acres. Commissioner Tarpley asked about residences on tracts of land and also whether these parcels would receive a different appraisal. Mr. Sparks stated it could affect those on 7+ acres. He also said that assessment notices break the values down by land, improvements, accessories.

Item #5 – Development Authority, Eric McDonald

Mr. McDonald first announced that the board of the Development Authority had agreed to the Tallatoona Lease.

- 1. ARC Grant** – Mr. McDonald reported that the Development Authority had applied for the ARC Grant. It was a reduced amount from that first discussed. Approximately \$350,000 with a 30% match. He stated that whatever company they partner with would be expected to put in at least 20%. The Development Authority would have a maximum expense of \$35,000. He asked the commission board if they would agree to cover up to \$25,000 of that amount.
- 2. Temporary Loan to cover grant outlay** – Mr. McDonald stated that his second request also involved the grant. He said he was concerned that since this is a reimbursement type grant, he was concerned about cash flow. He asked the county to loan the Development authority the funds if this is the case. Just from the time the money is expended until the reimbursement is received from ARC. County Clerk Alison Palmer was able to explain how these grants work with the recipient making the purchases and then in quarterly reports, sending in all the backup documentation along with a reimbursement request. Usually works fairly smooth.
- 3. Maintenance needs at the Georgia West Industrial Park** – Mr. McDonald stated that he had taken a prospect to this site recently and there was garbage everywhere, brush grown up and the road to the top of site was in terrible shape. He asked the county to pour gravel to the top of this road, bush hog the area and get the detail to clean up the garbage. Commissioner Tarpley asked if the landowners or Grow Haralson would be willing to help. He stated that he could ask but did not expect any assistance. He stated that it comes down to the county deciding if it is in their best interests to help get this site to a good condition to show.

Sheriff Mixon and County Attorney David Mecklin left the room for a moment to discuss a possible executive session.

Folsom Road

While they were out of the room, Commissioner Tarpley asked Attorney Sam Newsome if they had received the Folsom Road information from Julie Cain. Mr. Newsome stated that it is in the documents they received from her, but they have not had a chance to review the entire file yet. County Clerk Alison Palmer stated that she spoke to Julie Cain at the beginning of the year to see what had been done with this item. Ms. Cain stated that beyond the board voting to start the process, nothing else had been done. The letters to the landowners had not been mailed which would be the first step.

Commissioner Ridley asked was he missing something. He said he did not understand why the closing of this road was being pursued. The majority of the landowners do not want it closed. He gave Alison Palmer a list of signatures of landowners who are against this to make copies for the attorney.

Mr. Mecklin returned and stated that there was not a need for an executive session at this time.

Chairman Poole adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk



**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY 5, 2019
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Allen Poole called the regular meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. Mr. John Daniel offered the invocation and board led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Poole noted that all the commissioners were present. County Attorney David Mecklin was present and Sandra Tant took minutes in absence of Alison Palmer.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Poole thanked the citizens of Haralson County for the past 14 years that he has served as Commissioner. He stated he is leaving the county stronger in connections with communication of phones, computers and internet service. On February 15th at 5 p.m. he will resign as Haralson Chairman and Haralson County Commissioner. He continued to thank all the county and Governor Kemp for being a part of his administration. He stated he will always have Haralson County at heart and his administration with the Governor will be for everyone. Proud to say three people in our county are with Governor Kemp's office, other than myself, my son, Blake Poole is liaison for the public, trooper John Daniel as a personal driver for the first family. Commissioner Tarpley asked what his position would be, in which Commissioner Poole stated he would be with the Governor's Office of Highway Safety.

Approval of previous month's meeting minutes

Chairman Poole stated the minutes have been sent to the board to review. He asked if there were any changes to be made. There were none. Commissioner Ridley motioned to approve the minutes as written. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Agenda

Chairman Poole stated he would like to add Item #3, he asked if the commissioners had any changes to the agenda, there were no more. Commissioner Vines motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Motion was carried 5-0.

Commissioner Poole explained reason to add item #3 is for election of Vice Chairman. Vacancy for vice chairman would be as of 5 p.m. today with the vacancy of Ronnie Ridley. Commissioner Tarpley asked who would be at liberty to vote. Commissioner Poole stated under current law that was created by the board, in order to have a majority, there has to be three (3) votes. Commissioner Tarpley stated neither Commissioner Poole nor Commissioner Ridley have officially resigned, so they are not officially open at this time. So until Commissioner Ridley resigns at 5 P.M. today and Commissioner on February 15th, there are no open positions to vote on. Commissioner Poole stated he didn't feel like a separate meeting was necessary for another vote. Commissioner Tarpley asked the county attorney to advise the board.

County Attorney Mecklin stated Commissioner Poole was correct on his election, but vice chairman won't be vacant until 5 P.M. today. No absolute law, but does take three votes to vote.

Commissioner Tarpley stated the legislation of 2002 on election of vice chairman and felt it would be in violation to vote before Commissioner Ridley resigned.

Commissioner Poole made motion to add #3 for vice chairman to the agenda, with a second from Commissioner Brad Vines. This motion received a 3-2 vote, with Commissioner

Tarpley and Commissioner Brown opposed. Commissioner Poole stated the intent is to fill the vacancy with a full board.

Public Participation on Agenda Items

None

Item #1 - Development Authority Lease of Tallatoona property Resolution

Attorney Mecklin explained Head Start funds the program and there was a last minute change from a 10 year lease to 20 year lease, with no other changes. This transaction changes lease to the Haralson County Development Authority as a 20 year lease to Tallatoona Partner's Group. Commissioner Poole state the federal government is investing a \$500,000 upgrade and Haralson County will receive the benefit. After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Poole then made a motion to execute an agreement as Tallatoona propriety with the Development Authority on a 20 year lease. This was seconded by Commissioner Ridley and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #2 – Board of Assessor's Appointment

Commissioner Poole stated that Mr. James D. Rogers (Donnie), Board of Tax Assessors Chairman, resigned as a board member in January 2019. Commissioner Poole asked the board if they have a candidate to recommend, if so please get the information to the County Clerk. He then asked Chief Appraiser Hubert Sparks to read the resignation letter from Mr. Rogers, which is attached.

Mr. Sparks stated he did not have a recommendation but one person, Chris Cartwright, had requested consideration. Commissioner Poole stated he too had received a phone call from Mr. Cartwright.

Commissioner Brad Vines stated he just found out and asked for time to consider the matter. Mr. Sparks explained there was no urgency in the nomination.

Commissioner Ridley asked Mr. Sparks to explain the qualifications, in which he did. At that time, Commissioner Poole asked for item #2 to be tabled until March 5th and give all commissioners the opportunity to discuss this in a work session.

Item #3 – Election for Vice Chairman

Commissioner Poole made a motion to nominate Brad Vine's as vice chairman, seconded by Commissioner Ridley. Attorney Mecklin told the commissioners he would like to discuss the issue before the board takes action. He stated that he does not want to see this challenged at a later date. Attorney Mecklin stated in reading the statue-with a vacancy or on vice chairperson, the board shall elect a vice chairperson to fulfill the unexpired term. The board shall elect the person after the vacancy has occurred and there would be four (4) to vote after Commissioner Ridley has gone.

Commissioner Poole stated as chairman, he is responsible to make sure the county is not put in any legal position and that hearing from county Attorney Mecklin, he would withdraw his motion. He did not want to put anyone in a comprising position. Commissioner Poole put in motion to withdraw his motion to nominate Bard Vines as vice chairman; Commissioner Ridley withdrew his motion to second the motion. Commissioner Poole's motion failed with no second.

Commissioner Poole stated he was leaving Haralson County with a fund balance of \$2.6 million and each department and official were within budget.

Financial Recap

Finance Director Don Johnson gave report on 2018 Financial Recap. He stated current total Revenue \$11,057,507 with increase 4.4%, Expenditures \$6,896,729, Cash Reserve \$6,650,189 with 2017at \$5,620,209. Fund balance total at \$2,624,272 with 2017 at \$1,723,484 at 52.3%.

Commissioner Vines thanked Mr. Johnson for keeping all departments in check.

Commissioner Poole announced \$470,000 has come through for blacktopping of Jacksonville Rd.

Commissioner Tarpley asked if all computer equipment had been disconnected from the previous IT company and all restrictions enforced. Commissioner Poole told him Alison would let him know when she returned from school.

Commissioner Tarpley stated at a previous work session discussion on a wall need in a room at the courthouse was requested from Judge Meng Lim at the cost of \$538. After he spoke to Judge Lim, Commissioner Tarpley understood that he did not request the wall. Commissioner Poole stated it cost \$538 and he authorized it to be done and he talked with Judge Lim who was okay with it.

Commissioner Poole adjourned the meeting at 10:55 with a motion and it passed with a 5-0 vote.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk

HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY 18, 2019
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES

Mr. David Mecklin, County Attorney/Parliamentarian, called the meeting to order and offered the Invocation. The Board led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Mecklin noted that Commissioner Vines and Commissioner Tarpley were present and Commissioner Brown was participating by phone.

Mr. Mecklin made a point to clarify that the creative legislation for the Haralson County Board of Commissioners stated that an affirmative vote of three (3) was required for an action to pass. Therefore, since Chairman Poole had resigned to take a position with the state and Commissioner Ridley had resigned to qualify to run for Chairman, it would take a unanimous vote of the three remaining board members to take any kind of action.

Waive Reading of Minutes of February 5, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to waive the reading of the minutes of the February 5, 2019 regular meeting until the next regular meeting. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Item #1 – Discussion of County Operations

Mr. Mecklin explained that this was originally planned to be a deeper discussion of the operations of the county until the new chairman is sworn into office. However, since Commissioner Brown was unable to be here he felt like we should only handle the one item that was urgent. He explained that it is payroll week and the signatures required on the checks are built into the accounting software program and there is no way to get those changed in time for payroll to be processed on time. He reported that the bank needs a letter signed by all three remaining commissioners giving permission to allow the checks to go out with Allen Poole's signature on them. There were some questions from the commissioners clarifying that only payroll checks would go out this way. County Clerk, Alison Palmer, who is the other signer on the accounts, assured the board she would not approve any checks to go out other than payroll unless she got permission from the board.

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to approve the letter to the bank allowing them to clear checks on the payroll account with Allen Poole's signature. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Mr. Mecklin then had Commissioner Brown reiterate that she was giving him her permission to sign the letter for her. Commissioner Brown stated that she was agreeing to that action being taken in her name.

Work Session and Special Called meeting

After a discussion regarding the work session, the consensus of the board was to call a Special Called Meeting to follow the work session, as soon as the work session was completed. Commissioner Tarpley motioned to call a special called meeting for February 20, 2019 to immediately follow the work session. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

With no other business to complete, Commissioner Tarpley motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 3-0.



Haralson County Board of Commissioners
February 20, 2019
Special Called Meeting Minutes

County Attorney David Mecklin, who serves as Parliamentarian, called the meeting to order. Commissioner Brown offered the Invocation and Mr. Mecklin led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners Brown, Tarpley and Vines were present.

Mr. Mecklin explained that the same items that were on the Work Session agenda are on the agenda for this meeting; therefore we will only have the Special Called Meeting.

Commissioner Brown motioned to waive the reading of the February 5, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes and the February 20, 2019 Special Called Meeting Minutes until the next regular meeting. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to approve the agenda as written. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Item #1 – Executive session

Mr. Mecklin stated that this was for the purpose of discussing the appointment, employment, or compensation of a public officer or employee. Commissioner Tarpley motioned to go into executive session. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 3-0. Ronnie Ridley was included by consensus of the board.

When the board came out of executive session, Commissioner Brown motioned to come out of executive session and go back into the Special Called Meeting. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Item #2 – County Operations until the Special Election – Vote

Mr. Mecklin explained that the creative legislation required and affirmative vote of three board members for an action to be approved. He stated this was just for clarification purposes since we are working with an incomplete board.

Commissioner Vines motioned to appoint Commissioner Jamie Brown as the Vice chair of the Board of Commissioners to fill the position vacated when Ronnie Ridley resigned from the Board of Commissioners. The term runs through December 31, 2020. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to hire Ronnie Ridley as an employee to the position of Acting Employee Supervisor until such time as he takes office of the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners subsequent to the Special Election in March. He shall fulfill the duties of the day to day operation of the County. His pay shall be commensurate with the salary he will be paid when he takes office. This hire is to take effect immediately. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk

HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MARCH 20, 2019
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

Vice Chair Jamie Brown called the meeting to order. E-911 Director Cathy Thompson offered the Invocation and Commissioner Vines led the Pledge of Allegiance. Vice Chair Brown stated that Commissioners Tarpley and Vines were present, and that the Chairman's seat and District 3 seat were currently vacant.

Approval of Agenda

Vice Chair Brown added the item to Live Stream meetings. She also was going to add the change to meeting times, but after a quick discussion, it was determined that this item would be put on the regular meeting agenda. This would give the citizens a chance to voice their opinion of this change.

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Approval of Minutes

Since the regular meeting for March was cancelled, the minutes of the following meetings needed to be approved.

February 5, 2019 Regular Meeting

February 18, 2019 Special Called Meeting

February 20, 2019 Special Called Meeting

Vice Chair Brown stated that the minutes had been emailed to the commissioners to review. Commissioner Vines motioned to approve the minutes of these three meetings as written. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Item #1 – Authorization for the county finance director to co-sign for Joint Task Force Funds – Vote

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to NOT approve the resolution to change the signer for the DTF funds from Mr. Ridley to the county finance director. Commissioner Vines seconded. Vice Chair Brown stated that she thought the board had decided to allow this change because it was for best practices, avoiding any illusion of a conflict of interest. Commissioner Vines stated again that he felt like they should stand their ground and that Chairman Elect Ridley should be treated as innocent until the issue was settled.

County Attorney David Mecklin spoke up and stated that it was better if the two sides did not have to interact on matters at this time. He recommended changing the Resolution to be worded, that the board was approving the finance director to sign checks upon the authorization and review by Chairman Elect Ridley.

Commissioner Tarpley withdrew his motion and Commissioner Vines withdrew his second of the motion.

Commissioner Vines motioned to allow the Finance Director Don Johnson to sign checks for the Drug Task force upon the review and authorization of these checks by Chairman Elect Ridley. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Item #2 – Live Streaming of Meetings

This item had been discussed in the work session prior to this meeting. Commissioner Tarpley motioned to research the county's options for live streaming the commission meetings.

Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

Vice Chair Brown announced the **Litter Law Enforcement** work shop to be held by Keep Haralson Beautiful. County Clerk Alison Palmer stated that they would especially appreciate any of the commissioners attending.

Vice Chair Brown adjourned the meeting.

HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MARCH 20, 2019
WORK SESSION MINUTES

Vice Chair Jamie Brown called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Brown, Commissioner Tarpley and Commissioner Vines were present. The Chairman's seat and District 3 seat are currently vacant.

Item #1 – Authorization for County to Co-sign for Joint Task Force funds

County Attorney David Mecklin explained that this resolution would allow the finance director, Don Johnson, to be the signer on the DTF checks along with the Task Force commander. Commissioner Vines was not comfortable with this item. He felt like it was the county agreeing that Chairman Elect Ronnie Ridley had been involved in wrongdoing. He felt like the county should take the approach of innocent until proven guilty. Mr. Mecklin explained that this was not the case. It simply kept it from looking like there was a conflict of interest involved. A lengthy discussion followed.

Item #2 – Amendment to the Gebcorp Defined Benefit Plan to include the Magistrate Judge

County Clerk Alison Palmer explained that in the original plan documents the Magistrate Judge was not included in the eligible participants because the position was considered part time. Now, Judge Heath is working full time hours but has not been designated as full time by the state, so he is not currently eligible for their retirement plan. Since he is working full time hours, he has requested the county allow him to participate in the county retirement plan. Gebcorp has put together the needed plan amendment and resolution. This would be retroactive to January 1, 2019. This item will be put on the agenda for the April regular meeting.

Item #3 – Commission Meeting times

Commissioner Vines asked about changing the meeting times since several commissioners have a regular job. He said it is very hard on him to attend at 10 am and 2 pm. Causes him to miss an entire day of work and sometimes lose an entire job. After a discussion about different possibilities, the board proposed the following schedule.

- Regular Meeting – remain on the 2nd Tuesday of the month but start at 6pm year-round.
- Work Session – remain on the 3rd Wednesday of the month but start at 4 pm.

This item will be put on the agenda for the April regular meeting.

Item #4 – Executive Session

Laura Camper from the Times Georgia papers stated that she has concerns regarding the executive sessions. She stated that while the law allowed the board to go into executive session about hiring & compensation of employees, they did not have to do that.

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to go into executive session for a personnel issue and to discuss the acquisition of land. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion was unanimous.

When the board returned, Commissioner Tarpley motioned to come out of executive session and Commissioner Vines seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chair Brown stated that the commissioners had discussed the acquisition of land and personnel issues. No action is to be taken at this time.

Item #5 – Sheriff Mixon regarding the Drug Task Force Checks

Sheriff Mixon explained that the task force is governed by a control board which consists of the head of each member unit and the GBI commander of the force. He stated that this item came up and the GBI was not comfortable having Chairman Elect Ridley as the signer of checks because of the investigation being performed by the GBI. Sheriff Mixon stated that he and

Chief Worthy had voted to leave Mr. Ridley on as signer since he is the designee of the county but had been outnumbered in the vote.

Item #6 – Live Stream Meetings

A citizen in the audience asked if the board had considered streaming the meetings like the debate between the District 3 candidates had been streamed. The board discussed this possibility and Kevin Boulton spoke up and stated he could do that for the county. The board agreed to research doing this.

Vice Chair Brown adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk



HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 2, 2019
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

All Commissioners were present except for District 3 which is currently vacant. County Attorney David Mecklin and County Clerk Alison Palmer were also present.

Chairman Ridley called the meeting to order. Commissioner Brown offered the Invocation and the board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Ridley reported that the Jacksonville Road paving project should be completed by this upcoming Friday. He reported that the company went ahead and paved Jacksonville Loop and Monroe Road while they were that close. \$470,000 of the funds needed for Jacksonville Road were out of the special fund from the state, due to the damage of the increased usage of this road while the state was building the new bridge over Beech Creek on Highway 120. The balance of that project and the other two roads were completed with TSPLOST funds. The Chairman also reported that the bid for the LMIG project, Loftis Road and Baxter Road, was won by C.W. Mathews and that six other roads were put out to be paved with TSPLOST funds. That bid was won by E.R. Snell.

Approval of March Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Brown motioned to approve the minutes of the March Meetings as written. The Regular meeting was cancelled. March 20, 2019 Work Session Minutes and March 20, 2019 Special Called Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Vines asked to address Laura Camper from the Times Georgia papers before continuing. He stated that he wanted to reply to her issues with the county going into executive sessions. Commissioner Vines stated that he felt it was important to be able to go into a closed meeting when discussing personnel. You don't want to drag the names out in public. He did not think that any discussion regarding hiring, firing or discipline should be carried out in public. He stated that "Mr. Mecklin keeps us in line."

Commissioner Brown motioned to approve the agenda as written. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Ridley asked Finance Director Don Johnson to give a financial report.

Public Participation on Agenda Items

None

Item #1 – Child Abuse Prevention Resolution

Commissioner Brown read and presented the Resolution to Belinda Bentley, the Executive Director of CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates. Ms. Bentley told what CASA does and reported that there would be a candlelight vigil on April 23rd.

Commissioner Vines motioned to approve the Resolution. Chairman Ridley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Item #2 – National Telecommunications Week Proclamation

County Attorney David Mecklin read and presented the Proclamation to E-911 Director Cathy Thompson. Ms. Thompson spoke briefly about what her department does for the community.

Chairman Ridley motioned to approve the Proclamation. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Item #3 – Confederate History and Heritage Month Proclamation

County Clerk Alison Palmer read and Presented the Proclamation to Billy Bearden, Nathan and Susan Forrister, who were all dressed in Civil War period attire. Nathan and Billy spoke briefly regarding the importance of remembering our history.

Chairman Ridley motioned to approve the Proclamation. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Item #4 – Amendment to Gebcorp Defined Benefit Plan to include Magistrate Judge

County Clerk Alison Palmer explained that the state has not made Magistrate Judge Brandon Heath a full-time position, so he is not eligible for the state retirement plan. He is working full time hours for Haralson County and has asked to be added to the retirement plan. This would be retroactive back to January 1, 2019.

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to approve the amendment to the Gebcorp retirement plan to allow the Magistrate Judge to participate. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Item #5 – Change to Commission Meeting start time

The board discussed options for the meeting and work session start times to better accommodate the board members who have full time jobs and the working public.

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to have the Regular Meetings remain on the first Tuesday of the month and start at 6:00 PM year-round. The work sessions will remain on the third Wednesday and begin at 4:00 PM. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Item #6 – “Battle of the Badges” Red Cross Blood Drive

County Clerk Alison Palmer stated that the Red Cross had contacted her regarding a blood drive for county employees and the public to participate in. It would be held at the Recreation Department on June 27, 2019. It takes very little work on the county’s part but is very important at this time of year.

Commissioner Brown motioned to approve hosting the blood drive. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items

None

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to adjourn. Chairman Ridley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RETREAT WORK SESSION
APRIL 17, 2019**

Chairman Ridley, Commissioners Tarpley, Brown and Vines were present. Commissioner Elect Adam Budde was present. Attorneys David Mecklin and Sam Newsome, County Clerk Alison Palmer and Finance Director Don Johnson were also present.

Item #5 – Courthouse Roof

Past Commissioner Tony Ellis reported on the proposal to put a metal structure and roof over the current courthouse. Mr. Ellis stated that his engineers had reviewed the plans and the building and contrary to the common belief that the building was constructed in such a way as to support another floor, he has concluded that it was not. His recommendation is to put support beams on the outside of the existing building and build a metal roof over the top. Brick the support beams to make it look nice. He said there will have to be exhaust fans on each end to draw the exhaust from heat and air conditioning units.

Courthouse Renovation and Courthouse Annex

Instead of trying to get a SPLOST passed that includes a new courthouse, the board discussed renovating the existing one and bringing it up to code with the ADA requirements. Renovate bathrooms, elevator that will enable handicapped access to all offices in the courthouse. Also, renovating the old jail into offices and possible storage was discussed. The board decided to research architects in the area. Commissioner elect Budde stated he could write an RFP for architectural services.

Item #3 – Employee Evaluations

Job descriptions for each position in every department. Alison will check with ACCG to see if we can get a training set up for the department heads to teach them how to evaluate their employees. Then the department heads will perform the evaluations for their employees and the Chairman/Board can evaluate the department heads.

Fingerprint time clocks – Start with one for the road department for a trial run.

GPS time clocks – possible option for fire department.

GPS County Vehicle - Can we get better insurance rates for having a GPS in the cars? We will also review the need for each of the drive home vehicles on an individual basis for all departments.

Road Department miscellaneous Gas Key

This key is used for filling up the tanks in the fuel truck to take to work sites to fill equipment. It is also used for small equipment and vehicles that do not have a working speedometer. Recommend setting up a log book to be signed by the user each time and the purpose.

Item #2 – Board Appointments

Development Authority

Three positions with terms ending 4/30/19. Danny Hutcheson, 4-year term. Jerry Luckey and Richard Davis, 2-year terms. All are At-Large positions.

Water Authority

One open position to fulfill the unexpired term of Amos Sparks which goes through 12/31/2020. This is a 2-year term.

Highland Rivers Health Board

Faye Ward has served on this board for a long time and is requesting reappointment.

Tallatoona

There is one open position on this board for an elected official.

Board of Assessors

There is one position open on this board. There is mandatory training each year for this position. Must be a dedicated person.

Hospital Authority Board

There is a great deal of confusion regarding this board. The only appointment that has been made by the BOC in over 10 years is Philip Eidson whose term ends December 31, 2019. Alison will research and report back to the board.

Mr. Mecklin suggested having a list of the boards and their responsibilities on the website. Also, put an application on the website. Alison will also advertise for volunteers interested in serving on these boards.

Item #8 – Haralson County Compliance with Federal Emergency Management Agency/Flood Insurance Rate Program (FEMA/FIRP) Audit

Haralson County was audited by FEMA last fall and was found to be out of compliance with several items regarding Flood Plain management and permitting requirements dealing with properties in flood plains. At that time, the county formed an action plan to get us in compliance. The first step was to revise the process in the building permit office that is followed when someone wants to build in the flood plain.

The second item is surveying the existing structures and form a database of all existing structures that are currently inside the FEMA flood plain. This could cost up to \$30,000.

The consequence of not getting into compliance would be the property owners could not get federal flood insurance coverage.

Item #9 – Haralson County Participation as a Georgia EPD Local Issuing Authority

Kevin Dallmier, Jason Rogers, Georgia EPD- Mountain District – Cartersville, GA

Haralson County has adopted an ordinance that deals with Erosion control to become a local issuing authority. Any land disturbing activities that are over 1 acre must be compliant. This ordinance must be kept current with state requirements. Must have a “red card” level certification. Haralson county gets ½ of the fee paid for land disturbing activity permits. County is the one who must keep up with land disturbing activities and make sure the rules and regulations are being followed. The Building Inspector must verify that the rules are being followed by the owners. The County Marshal becomes the enforcement official.

Item #4 – FY 2020 Budget Proposal

Alison reported that the health insurance had been through a devastating year and the renewal from United health care was quite high. The Broker will be requesting quotes from numerous other carriers. Chairman Ridley, Don Johnson and Alison Palmer are reviewing the proposed budget again and looking at more cuts before presenting it to the board for review. This will be discussed in a future meeting.

Item #1 – Agenda Procedures/Open Meetings/Open Records

Alison stated that she would like to set up a procedure for setting the agendas for board meetings. She stated she would like to have the commissioners turn in any items they want on the agenda one week prior to the meetings. That way we can prepare reports, documentation, etcetera and have the corresponding department representatives in attendance if needed. This is also more transparent to the public. Adding items at the meeting should only be considered if there is an emergency or there is a tight time constraint.

Alison also gave a quick review of open meetings, open records, for the new commissioners. She reminded them that three of them cannot meet and discuss county issues unless a meeting has been posted or in a regularly scheduled meeting. Also, all notes, texts, etc. made during a meeting are subject to open records requests.

Item #6 – SPLOST 7 – postponed until later date

Item #7 – Grants – postponed until later date

Chairman Ridley adjourned the meeting.

HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MAY 1, 2019
RETREAT WORK SESSION

Chairman Ridley called the retreat work session to order. All commissioners were present. Attorney Sam Newsome was present. County Clerk Alison Palmer and Finance Director Don Johnson were present.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Ridley reported on his trip to the ACCG Annual Conference in Savannah. He stated that Chairman Poole was given the Emory Greene Award for his accomplishments as a local government leader and public servant.

He also stated that Governor Kemp was in attendance and signed two bills into law at the conference.

One was House Bill 182 – Local Government; Sales & use tax; lower threshold amount for certain dealers.

The second was House Bill 322 – Local Government; advertisement of certain bid or proposal opportunities; change provisions.

Item #1 – Georgia Public Safety Training Center – Director Chris Wigginton and John Hutcheson.

Chief Brian Walker introduced Mr. Wigginton, who is the training Director and John Hutcheson who is in charge of the vehicles at the facility.

Implementing a new driver training program for EMS and Fire. There is currently not a program for this in place. They need a truck to use for this program. Chief Walker stated that we have a truck that has been taken out of service and he would like to request that we donate it to POST for this new program.

When questioned, Mr. Wigginton stated that they could put on the truck, "Donated by Haralson County."

Discussion followed regarding the value of the truck.

The board will discuss later, and this item will be put on the agenda for the May 7, 2019 regular meeting.

Item #2 – Budget Proposal

Health Insurance - Alison and Don explained the catastrophic year that we have had. They explained the 243% loss ratio. Alison explained that the broker is looking for all available options. Don stated that Cigna, Humana and Aetna will not even quote the group.

Probation Office – Inmates incarcerated for exceptionally long periods of time for minor offenses. Is there a way to improve this?

Planning & Zoning & Marshal

Discussed possibly restructuring into one department. Need a full-time building inspector. Discussion is to disband the Marshal's office. Hire a full time fully certified Building Inspector/Codes Enforcement employee.

Fire Department

Do we reduce the number of the administration staff? 1 or 2? After discussion, the chairman was instructed to talk to the fire chief and tell him to reduce his top 4 administrative positions down to 2 positions. Also, can a fireman be trained to perform the inspections of the fire extinguishers each year?

Development Authority

Eric McDonald, Executive Director, along with Donnie Boswell, Chairman of Development Authority and Gary Broadstreet, Co-Chair came to speak for the Development Authority. The Authority has sent a letter requesting funding of \$100,000 be included as part of the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Eric explained how the Development Authority works, what they need, what they are

trying to accomplish. He explained the lack of publicly owned lands put them at a distinct disadvantage. He explained the working relationship between HCDA, Grow Haralson and private individuals.

The HCDA board is also asking for a standard intergovernmental agreement for tax abatement that they can have to offer to prospects.

It was discussed that any title the Development Authority has for the Georgia West land be quit claimed back to the owners and get it back on the tax digest. They are asking \$30,000 per acre. Mr. Boswell stated that an offer of \$20,000 per acre was offered and the owners declined it.

Animal Control – The state requires the county to have a rabies control officer. This person could work out of the marshal's office or the sheriff department. The board discussed the possibility of closing this facility down for a period of a year or two. Restructure and reopen when funds are available. Another possibility is to restructure and reduce to 3 employees and Inmate labor. Need to put in a line for food for the animals since Walmart is no longer donating.

E911 – Alison explained how the 911 budget works. The fees that come in for 911. Don reported on the request to update the 5500 radio consoles and the different options to finance this upgrade. The system is becoming obsolete and we could get into a situation where we cannot get parts when one goes down. Consensus was to put the upgrade in the budget using the 3 year financing plan.

Cleaning Contract – Discussion was for hiring an employee for 30 hours per week instead of it being an outside contract.

Road Department – The board discussed the fact that extra funding was left in the current years budget in order to attract better qualified applicants who have more certifications and qualifications that can be hired in at a better pay rate. At this point, that has not been adhered to.

Sanitation

This service was discussed. One possible change will be lowering the cost of the convenience center stickers for the residents of Tallapoosa and Bremen to \$40. Hopefully, this will increase the number of these sold. Another idea is to take out the land line phones and put an inexpensive cell phone in (attached to something so that they cannot be removed from the premises) at a much less expensive monthly rate.

Recreation/Seniors

After discussing this department, it was determined that the senior department will be absorbed back into Recreation with one department head, Mike Daniel. The number of trips will be reduced, and all trips must be approved by the chairman prior to booking with the travel agencies.

Sheriff/Jail

Don explained a couple of line items that the budget request did not cover adequately. He stated that his proposed amount is what will be needed to cover the expenses. The three-year history proves his point. Inmate medical is the biggest one. The board was also advised that the sheriff has included raises for all his employees in each department. These have not been cut out in the proposed budget because we knew he would be giving those regardless.

Drug Task Force

The Task Force Commander has asked for \$40,000 to be included in his budget for operations. He has stated that if the board does not include this in the budget, he will request the grant monies be distributed so that he gets operations funding from that and the salary reimbursements will be reduced by that amount.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk



**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MAY 7, 2019
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Ridley called the regular meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. All Commissioners were present along with Assistant County Attorney Sam Newsome.

Commissioner Brown offered the Invocation and the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman's report

Chairman Ridley stated that the county was working on the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Chairman Ridley also reported on the progress of the roads being paved with the TSPLOST funds. He stated that Jacksonville Road, Jacksonville Loop, Crossroads Church Road, Poplar Springs Church Road, Monroe Road and South Georgia Avenue had been completed.

County Clerk Alison Palmer noted that applications had been created based on a template Mr. Mecklin obtained for use by the board to gather information regarding individuals who are interested in serving on the boards appointed by the commissioners. These are available at this office and by email.

Finance Director Don Johnson gave a financial recap as of March 31, 2019.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Ridley stated that the board had been sent the minutes of the three previous meetings.

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2019 Regular meeting and the April 17, 2019 Retreat Work Session. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 4-0, with Commissioner Budde abstaining since he had not taken office at that point.

Commissioner Budde motioned to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2019 Retreat work session. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Agenda

The board reversed the order of the items on the agenda. Commissioner Brown motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Public Participation on Agenda Items

None

Item #3 – Haralson County Junior ROTC

Lieutenant Colonel Hardy, the commander of the Haralson County High School Junior ROTC introduced his Cadets to present a concern to the commissioners. The students presenting this are Cadet Kaitlyn Crews, Cadet Ethan Driskell and Cadet Austin Helton. A power point presentation was given out to the board. Their project is requesting a four way stop at Cashtown Road and Liberty Church Road. At the age of nine, Cadet Crews witnessed a serious accident at this location and the memory has stayed with her. The Cadets gave statistics and photos of accidents at the location. They also had information for requirements from the state DOT to put a 4 way stop there. In conclusion, they asked the board to consider helping them achieve this goal.

Chairman Ridley thanked the group and stated he would talk to the public works director to review this location and determine what action the county could take.

Item #2 - Foster Parent Appreciation Proclamation

Commissioner Brown read and presented the proclamation to Foster Parents Tim and Carol Files and DFACS Director Susan Ollis. Ms. Ollis thanked the commissioners, partners and foster parents. Jennifer Dobbs, the HC Family Connection Director noted ways the public can help the program and the foster parents. Also, Mr. Wayne Driver was introduced. He was a foster parent for Haralson for 24 years and Mr. Files stated that he is a wonderful mentor to foster parents.

Commissioner Brown motioned to approve the proclamation and Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #1 – Commissioner Amos Sparks Memorial presentation

Chairman Ridley asked past Chairman Allen Poole to present this memorial. He noted that Chairman Poole had resigned his position in February to become the Director of the Governors Office of Highway Safety. Mr. Poole told of the many improvements that Commissioner Amos Sparks was responsible for accomplishing during his tenure as sole commissioner. He presented a plaque of appreciation to Commissioner Sparks widow, Karen Sparks, son Hubert Sparks and numerous other family members. Ms. Sparks thanked Mr. Poole and the Board members and Hubert also thanked them and told a couple of stories about Amos.

Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items

Jason McGee from Forest Resource Consultants was asking for an update to the road closing request made by Jamestown Timber last year. They are asking for a portion of Folsom Road and Folsom Spur to be closed. Chairman Ridley stated that most people on that road did not want to see it closed. Commissioner Vines stated that he disagreed. It is a bad road and nearly impassable after a rain.

Assistant County Attorney Sam Newsome stated he will research the requirements to close the road. Commissioner Tarpley asked him to also research the county's responsibility to work and bring the road up to a decent standard if the board chooses not to close the road.

Chairman Ridley asked Chief Appraiser Hubert Sparks if it would reduce the value of the property of the other citizens if the road is closed since they will no longer have road frontage on the property. Chairman Ridley asked the attorney if the county could close a road and landlock parcels? Chairman Ridley also asked Mr. McGee what arrangements would be made for the owners to easily access their properties that are past the point of closure. Mr. McGee stated that Jamestown Timber is friendly to neighbors and willing to work with them on an easement. The chairman asked if there would be a gate with a lock and if so, would all the owners have a key or would they have to travel to the Jamestown Timber offices to get a key each time they wanted to access their land.

Mr. Sparks stated that typically public road frontage increases the value of property. However, since this is in such rough shape, it would not change much either way.

Chairman Ridley stated that this would be turned over to the county attorney. Mr. Newsome stated he would get a report back to the board quickly.

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to adjourn. Chairman Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk



HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MAY 15, 2019
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Ridley called the special called meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. All commissioners were present.

Chief Brian Walker offered the Invocation and the board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to waive the reading of the May 7, 2019 regular meeting minutes until the next regular meeting. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Agenda

Commissioner Brown motioned to approve the agenda as written. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #1 –Rezoning Request - Haralson County Tax map 0046-0005, Jacksonville Rd. Zoned A-1. Requesting Conditional Use for Kayak Outfitter. Requested by Robin Carter – Vote
There was a public hearing held during the work session immediately following this meeting regarding this request. There was no opposition present and the Planning and Zoning board has made a unanimous recommendation to approve the conditional use request.

Chairman Ridley motioned to approve the request for conditional use zoning for a kayak outfitter. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #2 – Employee Health Insurance – Vote

The commissioners have been given the opportunity to review the options for the health insurance and to ask questions of the broker. Chairman Ridley motioned to approve Unbundled option 2 with a \$4000 deductible and lower premiums and instructed County Clerk Alison Palmer to try to get a 2 year contract at this price. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Ridley motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk

HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MAY 15, 2019
WORK SESSION MINUTES

Chairman Ridley called the work session of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. All commissioners were present, along with County Attorney David Mecklin.

Item #1 – Public Hearing – Haralson County tax map 0046-0005, Jacksonville Road Zoned A-1. Requesting Conditional Use for Kayak Outfitter. Requested by Robin Carter.

Ms. Carter stated that the vehicles will park here and the customers will be shuttled upriver to one of the two canoe launches. At first this will be a very simple outfitter. This will be an “exit only” from the river. No one will be allowed to enter the river here because she could not control where they would then exit. Ms. Carter states there is a house on this property where she resides. It is 35 acres. The Planning and Zoning Board made a 5-0 recommendation in favor of approving this request. There was no opposition present at this meeting. This item will be on the Special Called Agenda to follow this work session.

Item #2 – Resolution to request sales tax information from the Georgia Department of Revenue.

Finance Director Don Johnson explained that this would allow one person to be designated to request confidential sales tax information from the state. This is not public information and would only be used to verify that businesses within the county are paying sales tax. If they are not on the report, the county could notify the state and the state would then address the business. This item will be on the agenda for the June 4, 2019 regular meeting.

Item #9 – Development Authority RLF Requests

Eric McDonald, the Director of the Haralson County Development Authority explained about the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). This is HUD money to be an incentive to bring businesses and jobs, especially in poverty level census tracts. The money is loaned out by the Development Authority with approval from the county and then it goes back into this fund to do the same with another business. The Georgia Department of Community Affairs monitors this fund. Reporting goes to them. If the money sits too long, they will request it be given back to loan to different localities. Currently, we have \$430,000 and it has remained unused for too long. Mr. McDonald has two requests for the board to consider today.

(A) Shareable Forms, Bobby Mehan, CEO

Before this discussion began, Commissioner Tarpley stated that he is involved with this company and asked Mr. Mecklin if he needed to leave his seat for this portion. Mr. Mecklin stated that he did not need to leave since this is a not a voting meeting. He instructed Commissioner Tarpley to just listen and do not answer questions. Mr. Mehan stated that he is requesting \$300,000 at 3% interest for five years. He stated that this company would reside in a poverty census track south of Hwy 78 in Bremen. There will be six jobs at first, two who were retained and hire four more. The business has a process for the medical community to track and input information at the time of services that will track the patient from pre-op clear through discharge. Information available real time since it is input on tablets at the time it is happening. They have \$549,000 invested, mostly local. Biggest investor is Mr. Mehan’s father. Hope to make this a large technology business and draw in more of the same to our county.

Eric McDonald explained that if the county approves this, the fund Administrators will hold the required public hearings, etc. Mr. McDonald will get a timeline sent to Alison when it is available.

(B) Project Shrubbery

Mr. McDonald described the second project they are asking to fund. There is a company interested in the old Waco Pipe and Precast location. It will create 30 jobs with an investment of approximately \$7 million. They want to have the county use

\$100 to improve the road to this location. There will be trucks coming and going and this is a bad road. This would actually work like a grant. The county would use the money to improve the road to land this project. After discussion, there is concern and doubt that \$100,000 to \$130,000 would be enough money to fix this road. There will need to be more research before this will be considered.

Item #3 – Development Authority Appointments

There are three terms expired. These are all four-year terms. Some of the people who expressed interest filled out applications and some did not. A discussion followed of whether or not to require applications. It was stated that at this time, there is no requirement to fill out an application, but it is a good way to get information from those who are interested. For example, it gives information about their qualifications, experience, willingness to travel for training, etc. After some discussion, the board decided to try to get applications to those who are interested in serving. County Clerk Alison Palmer had given the board copies of the applications that had been received. Commissioner Vines stated that Bobby Webb was interested in this board and he did not see anything from him. Alison explained that everyone who contacted her had been notified that they need to fill out an application. He was called more than once and did not respond. Alison will forward a copy of the application to all the commissioners to get to the people they know are interested in serving on any of the boards. This item will be on the agenda for the June 4, 2019 regular meeting.

Item #4 – Water Authority Board Appointment

This is to fill the unexpired term of Amos Sparks and to replace Chairman Allen Poole. Chairman Ridley stated that the special legislation states the Commissioner or his designee. Mr. Mecklin stated that since we are now a Board, the board should take a formal action to appoint the chairman to this board. This item will be on the agenda for the June 4, 2019 regular meeting.

Item #5 – Budget Amendment, Don Johnson

Mr. Johnson stated the board needs to approve a budget amendment to account for additional revenues that have come in and expenses that have occurred. He handed out a copy of the amendment for the board to review. The amendment includes some additional grant monies received such as the additional funding for Jacksonville Road and the Drug Court and for expenditures related to those along with some departmental expenditures that have gone over the original budgets for various reasons.

Item #6 – Employee Health Insurance

County Clerk Alison Palmer explained that the county had a catastrophic year claims wise. The renewal quote for United Healthcare was an increase of nearly \$700,000 for the year. Upon renewal requests, six carriers would not even give a quote for Haralson County including ACCG Blue Cross, Cigna, Humana, and various others. The broker has found a plan that is “out of the box” from normal insurance. This program will require a little more responsibility on the employee but is only about \$60,000 more than last year. The commissioners have received this information and been given the options for the next year. After some discussion, the consensus was to choose the Unbundled Option 2 which has a \$4000 deductible but would cost the employees less to cover any dependents. The county will offer the \$2000 reimbursement with some stipulations attached. The board also asked Alison to request a two-year contract. This item will be on the Special Called Agenda to follow this work session.

Item #7 – GovDeals Online Auctions

Chairman Ridley stated that he had been in contact with GovDeals to research auctioning off surplus equipment and vehicles. He asked for the board to approve listing a few items to see if this works well for the county. Mr. Mecklin stated that several of his clients have used this service and it has worked very well for them. Chairman Ridley stated that the 7.5% seller fee and the 5% fee to have GovDeals collect the money can be passed on to the buyer. The consensus of the board was to try a couple of items on the website and see how it works.

Item #8 – Board of Assessors appointment

This board also needs to have one member be appointed to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Rogers. The board received a couple of applicants to review for this position. This item will be on the agenda for the June 4, 2019 regular meeting.

Item #10 – Highland Rivers Health Board appointment

The board received one applicant interested in serving on this board. This item will be on the agenda for the June 4, 2019 regular meeting.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk



**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RETREAT WORK SESSION MINUTES
MAY 28, 2019**

Chairman Ridley called the meeting to order. All commissioners were present.

Item #1 – Executive session. Chairman Ridley motioned to go into executive session to discuss potential litigation. Commissioner Vines seconded. 5-0.

Item #3 – Courthouse roof. Quote from company. HVAC is too close to roof for them to do a complete job. Would cost approximately 40,000-50,000 to lift up the units and put them high enough to put the new roof on. After that is done, the new roof would cost approximately \$ 140,000 and have a 20 year warranty. Constant complaints from employees about being sick and worrying about mold in the building. Commissioner Budde thinks we still need to put out a full RFP for roofing, HVAC and General Contractor.

Mr. Mecklin stated that you can expedite the process and solicit quotes to proceed with the roof project as an emergency.

Commissioner Brown – Will this require ADA compliance? Commissioner Budde said he doesn't think this would involve ADA compliance.

Commissioner Budde will prepare an RFP to go out immediately. We will include and expedited timeline for accomplishing this project.

Item #2 – Budget Proposal FY2020

- Delete contingency line in 1300
- Delete Wellness program from budget. Not required by new company
- Post new position for a fulltime cleaning person @ \$10 per hour. Eliminate cleaning contract
- Set up a meeting with Probation, Judges, District Attorney, Jail and Sheriff to discuss ways to reduce time inmates spend in the jail
- Eliminate the position of Operations Chief in Fire Department
- Combine Planning, Zoning, Codes Enforcement, Marshal into a new department. Eliminate Marshal position. Post for Fulltime department Head, full time Building Inspector and Full time code enforcement. There will be no take home vehicles with this department.
- Budget \$25,000 for Development Authority this year and next year. Work on the IGA for PILOT agreement with cities for the Development Authority to be able to offer to prospective businesses.
- Senior program will report to Recreation Director. All trips must be approved by the Chairman prior to booking.

Chairman Ridley turned the meeting over to Vice Chair Brown and left the building prior to the budget discussions that would involve any of the courts, District Attorney or Drug Task Force. He asked that this be noted in the minutes.

Vice Chair Brown led the remainder of the meeting. The court system budgets were discussed. No major changes were made to the proposed budgets.

Commissioner Vines motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk



**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 4, 2019
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Ronnie Ridley called the regular meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. Ms. Sandi Couch offered the Invocation and the board led the Pledge of Allegiance. All commissioners were present along with County Attorney David Mecklin.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Ridley reported the E. R. Snell had completed the multiple road TSPLOST contract. The next project is Loftis, Francis White, and Baxter Roads to be completed by C. W. Mathews. This is scheduled to start by July.

Finance Director Don Johnson gave a financial report as of April 30, 2019.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Chairman Ridley motioned to approve the minutes of the following meetings as written.

May 7, 2019 Regular Meeting

May 15, 2019 Work Session

May 15, 2019 Special Called Meeting

May 28, 2019 Retreat Work Session

Commissioner Vines seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Brown asked to add item #9 – posting of special meetings. Commissioner Budde asked to add item #10 – automatic aid with Bremen.

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

Public participation on agenda items

None

Item #1 – Budget Amendment

Finance Director Don Johnson quickly explained the budget amendment that had been discussed at the work session. Commissioner Brown motioned to approve the Budget Amendment. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #2 – Resolution to request sales tax information from the Georgia Department of Revenue

After discussion with several opposing opinions, Commissioner Budde motioned to table this item for additional review. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #3 – Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts Sales Ratio Study, Chief Appraiser Hubert Sparks

Mr. Sparks gave the commissioners a copy of the sales ratio study. He also asked that his staff and any members of the Board of Assessors that were present to come forward. Mr. Sparks stated that a ratio of 40 is perfect. He explained that you are still good from 38-42. However, if you go above or below those parameters, you get penalized by the state and start losing taxes from utilities, etc. He stated that he was proud to report that Haralson County has a ratio of 40.1. Chairman Ridley stated that he had already reviewed this report and Haralson County came the closest to 40 of any county in the state. He congratulated the group for a job well done.

Chairman Ridley stated that he had received the preliminary digest numbers and after review by his staff, he was able to say that with the budget that has been proposed, the millage will not be going up. He stated it may not go down, but not going up.

Item #4 – Haralson County Board of Assessor’s Appointment

County Clerk Alison Palmer stated that there are three individuals interested in serving on the board. They are Jerry Wright, who currently serves on the Planning and Zoning Board, Chris Cartwright and Jimmy Pope. Chief Appraiser Hubert Sparks stated that the appointee must attend 40 hours of state mandated training within 180 days of appointment and then must attend 20 hours of training each year thereafter.

The commissioners had been given the applications to review. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Tarpley nominated Jerry Wright for the Board of Assessor’s appointment. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #5 – Haralson County Development Authority Appointments (3)

There are three positions on this board that have expired terms. Richard Davis and Jerry Luckey asked to be reappointed. The commissioners had been given copies of applications turned in for this appointment also. Commissioner Vines also noted that Terry Gore would like to be considered. He gave some information about him.

1. Commissioner Brown nominated Kevin Boulton. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried 3-2 with Chairman Ridley and Commissioner Vines opposed.
2. Commissioner Budde nominated Jacob Mullins. Chairman Ridley seconded and the motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Vines opposed.
3. Commissioner Tarpley nominated Richard Davis for reappointment. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

These are all four-year terms that end April 30, 2023.

Item #6 – Haralson County Water Authority

This is to fill the unexpired term of Amos Sparks who passed away. There were several applications for this position. After a brief discussion, Chairman Ridley nominated Tony Ellis. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Budde opposed.

Item #7 – Highland Rivers Health Board

This is a three-year term from July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2022 for the Haralson County representative on this board. Ms. Faye Ward has asked to be reappointed. There was one other application from Karen Sparks. Commissioner Brown nominated Karen Sparks. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 5–0.

Item #8 – Executive Session

Commissioner Vines motioned to go into executive session. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 5-0. Chairman Ridley stated that this is a personnel issue.

Upon return, Commissioner Tarpley motioned to go back into the regular meeting. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

County Attorney David Mecklin stated for the record, the executive session was a personnel issue and no action is needed at this time.

Item #6 re-visited – Water Authority appointment

County Attorney Mecklin stated that the position vacated by previous Chairman Allen Poole needed to officially be appointed. Chairman Ridley stated that he had been going to the meetings for two years and would like to be the commission board appointment. Chairman Ridley motioned that he be the board appointment to the Water Authority. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried –

Chairman Ridley then motioned for the board to ratify the actions he had participated in as chairman attending the water authority meetings. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #9 – Posting of Special Called Meetings

Chairman Ridley asked County Clerk Alison Palmer how special called meetings are posted. She stated that we are required to have it posted on the door at least twenty-four hours in advance of the meetings. She stated that she tries to get it on the website also. After discussion, Chairman Ridley directed Ms. Palmer to post special called meetings on the website and to start an email list that citizens can get put on to receive notice also.

Re-open Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Vines motioned to reopen the approval of the agenda. Chairman Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0. Commissioner Vines asked to add #11 – Radar Machines. Commissioner Vines then motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Chairman Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #10 – Automatic Aid with Bremen

Commissioner Budde asked Fire Chief Walker to explain the difference in Automatic Aid and Mutual Aid. Cathy Thompson, 911 Director also explained the difference between the two that affect her department. To put it in simple terms, Automatic Aid gets a response from the county and Bremen at the same time. Mutual Aid, they must ask the other entity for help. In terms of the 911 department, both are toned out at the same time or if it is mutual, the main entity is toned out and then if they ask for help, the other is then toned out increasing response times. After discussion, the board directed Chief Walker to begin talks with the surrounding cities and counties to set up Automatic Aid agreements.

Item #11 – Speed Detection Radar Trailers

Commissioner Vines asked if it would be possible to purchase a couple of the radar trailers to be moved around the county, especially on some of the roads that have excessive problems with speeding. Audience member Brian Finley stated that Carroll County uses them and they do help slow people down. Chairman Ridley stated he would speak to Sheriff Mixon about this idea. Commissioner Vines stated he would just like to slow people down in our problem areas.

Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items

None

Commissioner Brown motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk



**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 19, 2019
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Ridley called the special called meeting to order. All commissioners were present. Assistant County Attorney Sam Newsome was present.

Commissioner Brown offered the Invocation and the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Budde motioned to waive the reading of the minutes of the June 4, 2019 regular meeting. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Ridley motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

There was a public hearing during the work session prior to this meeting regarding the three items below.

Item #1 – Rezoning Request – Haralson County Tax Map 0104-0033, present zoning R-2, Requesting C-NB. Property of Maryland Terrell. No opposition due to stipulations attached to this request. Commissioner Brown motioned to approve this rezoning request. Chairman Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #2 – Rezoning Request – Haralson County Tax Map 0016-0037A, present zoning A-1, Requesting Conditional Use for Internet Tower. Property of Robin & Betsy Windom. Kevin Boulton objected. Chairman Ridley motioned to approve this rezoning request. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 4-1, with Commissioner Budde opposed.

Item #3 - Rezoning Request – Haralson County Tax Map 0098-0005, present zoning A-1, Requesting Conditional Use for Internet Tower. Property of Kenneth J. Swann. Kevin Boulton objected. Chairman Ridley motioned to approve this rezoning request. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 4-1, with Commissioner Budde opposed.

Commissioner Brown motioned to adjourn. Chairman Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk

HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 19, 2019
WORK SESSION MINUTES

Chairman Ridley called the work session to order. All commissioners were present along with assistant County Attorney Sam Newsome.

Item #1 – Public Hearing – Haralson County Tax Map 0104-0033, present zoning R-2.

Requesting C-NB, property of Maryland Terrell.

Building Inspector Robert Smith recommended rezoning this property for conditional use with the following stipulations. He stated that C-NB means Conditional use, neighborhood property. The owner would like to convert the building that was an old school building into a general store. Mr. Smith recommended no alcohol or gas sales at the location and the property converts back to R-2 if the Terrell family sells it. One neighbor was present that stated she had no issue with the store if there were no gas or alcohol sales and that Mr. Terrell puts up a buffer between the store and the neighbors. The Planning and Zoning Board recommended 4-0 in favor of approving the request.

Prior to item #2 being discussed, Commissioner Budde stated that the board needs to talk about the contract with IWispr before discussing these two tower applications. Attorney Newsome stated that the board can vote to add an item to the agenda. Commissioner Budde asked to add item #8 the IWispr contract to the agenda and discuss it before moving on to the towers. 5-0 in favor of adding item #8.

Item #8 IWispr Contract

Commissioner Budde stated that it was his understanding that the contract with IWispr expires tomorrow (June 20, 2019). He felt like the county should not do anything else or spend any more money. He stated that there is not much need to talk about the towers. Kevin Boulton asked if IWispr had asked for an extension on the contract. Chairman Ridley stated this contract is between the Development Authority and IWispr. It is not our contract to terminate. Commissioner Tarpley agreed but stated that in the beginning, the Development Authority made it clear that they were only a conduit for funds and would act according to the wishes of the Board of Commissioners. They did not want to get caught up in the politics. Chairman Ridley stated this is not political, he just did not want to get the county into a lawsuit. Attorney Sam Newsome stated he had not seen the contract.

Gary Broadstreet stated he was Co-Chair of the Development Authority and that they would be taking this item up at their meeting on the 27th. He stated we were the conduit and entered at the pleasure of the BOC. He stated he thought IWispr was in violation and had not hit the milestones. He stated he was interested in IWispr's plans. Chairman Ridley stated we need to do this legally and asked for a fifteen-minute break to allow the attorney to review the contract.

Commissioner Bennett asked Daryl Moore, the IWispr representative to speak. After being asked several questions, Daryl Moore stated that he was not comfortable giving details with his competitor sitting beside him and motioned toward Kevin Boulton. He did state that IWispr has the heart and intention to continue in Haralson County. He stated they have two sites to get approved today and stated they are working with the water authority to add equipment to existing structures within the county. When asked to give details about the customer base, he stated that is not part of his job and he doesn't have those answers. Chairman Ridley asked him how many towers they currently have up. He said they have six existing towers, with numbers seven and eight to be approved today. Plus, one to go on a water tower would bring the total to nine.

Kevin Boulton asked several more questions and Daryl Moore stated this was not a question and answer session for his competitor. After being questioned some more, Daryl Moore stated that he was not the one able to answer these questions, he is only here to try to get the towers approved.

Commissioner Tarpley stated he would like to table these issues until after the Development Authority meeting on June 27, 2019.

County Clerk asked about the zoning issue, stating that the company had met all the requirements for the rezoning request, the Planning and zoning board had advertised and held their meeting and the commissioner's office had advertised today's meeting. What kind of problems will it cause to delay the zoning hearing? Attorney Sam Newsome stated that it would then have to be advertised again.

Chairman Ridley called for a fifteen-minute break for the attorney to review the contract and advise the board on the best course of action. It was 5-0 in favor of taking a short break. Chairman Ridley and Attorney Newsome left the room.

Announcements

While they were out of the room County Clerk Alison Palmer gave some announcements.

- Battle of the Badges Blood Drive June 27, 2019 at the Recreation Center from 3:00-8:00
- Drug Court Graduation June 26, 2019 at 4:30 at the courthouse. Commissioner's invited.
- 2020 Census. Alison reported that a representative from the census bureau had come in earlier today to meet with Chairman Ridley and Alison. They would like the county to form a complete count committee that would include representatives from the county, cities, faith groups, civic groups, etc to help promote the importance of the census. Hubert Sparks had agreed to head up this committee. The census count impacts local governments in several ways, including funding for grants, local political district lines, legislative districts, etc. The census will be available online this time. Haralson County has some areas that are very hard to get accurate counts completed within and hopefully this committee can help overcome that problem. Alison asked Laura Camper to get involved with providing information to the residents.
- Alison also reported with the very heavy rain recently, there were several roads that were washed out. She stated that all had been reopened at this time.

Item #8 – Continued

Upon return, Chairman Ridley stated that on the recommendation of the attorney, the board should move forward with the zoning since all requirements had been met. We can deal with IWispr after the Development Authority has their meeting. This will be a conditional use zoning and will revert to original zoning if not used for a tower. There were more questions regarding ownership and who pays taxes on the towers. Gary Broadstreet stated that the Development Authority owns it and IWispr pays the taxes. Chairman Ridley stated that at the end of the contract, Iwispr can buy the tower and equipment for \$10.

Kevin Boulton stated that the contract ends tomorrow. He stated that IWispr was supposed to have a store front and employees in the county and he can't see that this exists. He stated that "if we approve on an expired contract, we may tread in water. We need to do our due diligence and not shoot from the hip."

Daryl Moore stated that if this was from a concerned citizen it would be one thing, but this is coming from his direct competitor and his goal is to delay, slow down and stop any progress so that he can get a better foothold in areas IWispr has divulged. He stated that he hasn't seen any permitting of the HCI structures and that he doesn't put up 200' towers like IWispr.

Attorney Newsome stated that the zoning is separate from the contract. You can approve the zoning and the board can determine later regarding the contract. This is two separate issues.

Commissioner Brown asked how this did not tie all together. Why move forward if they have not accomplished their goals.

Chairman Ridley asked Daryl Moore if they would move forward with or without the funds, he stated, "yes, absolutely."

Commissioner Tarpley asked if there was a survey of where the towers would be or would the owner be deeding an acre to Iwispr. Robert Smith stated that this is not like a cell tower. The set backs make it good to go. Commissioner Tarpley asked if the Development Authority takes over the property. Eric McDonald, Executive Director of the Development Authority answered no, the property remains with the owner and on the tax digest. Robert Smith stated that he could require IWispr to show the location on the property prior to the final CO. County Clerk Alison Palmer asked if paperwork could be added going forward. It did not seem proper that a company thought they had completed the requirements and the Building Inspector add a requirement at the public hearing. Robert stated that he just facilitates, he does not vote. Commissioner Tarpley stated that he did not want to require something of IWispr that we don't others.

Item #2 – Public Hearing – Haralson County tax map 0016-0037A, present zoning A-1. Requesting Conditional Use for Internet Tower, property of Robin/Betsy Windom. Planning and Zoning Board Recommends 4-0 for approval or request.

Item #3 – Public Hearing – Haralson County tax map 0098-0005, present zoning A-1. Requesting Conditional Use for Internet Tower, property of Kenneth Swann. Planning and Zoning Board Recommends 4-0 for approval or request.

Item #4 – Tallapoosa Fire Works Request for Donation

County Clerk Alison Palmer reported that the City of Tallapoosa has requested a donation of \$1000 for the 4th of July fireworks. She stated that in past years the county has given \$500 for either the 4th of July or for New Year's Eve. Occasionally we have given to each.

Item #5 – Grand Jury recommends increasing Juror pay

The Grand Jury has recommended that the county increase the daily pay for a juror from \$30 to \$50. There is currently \$20,000 in the budget and they were over budget at \$30. Commissioner Brown asked if the state sets this amount. Attorney Newsome stated that the 1st Grand Jury in the fall term sets the amount. Chairman Ridley motioned to table this item.

Item #6 – Employee Health Insurance Deductible Reimbursement

County Clerk Alison Palmer explained that the deductible on the employee health insurance went up from \$3500 to \$4000. For several years the county has reimbursed 50% of the deductible that is met by the employee. Ms. Palmer was asking the board to consider a reimbursement up to \$2250 in order to keep the out of pocket the same for the employee. She stated that there is normally 15-20 reimbursements each year and some of those are not the full amount. Commissioner Tarpley stated so that would only increase the expense by \$6000-\$7000. Chairman Ridley stated this would fill the gap for the employees. Someone asked if we could go to a different company. Chairman Ridley responded that most companies would not take us this year because we had such a bad year last year.

Item #7 – Courthouse Roof Proposal Opening

Alison reported that two proposals had been received, however, one was received past the deadline of 3:00 pm. The one that was received on time was from Guy Roofing out of Spartanburg, South Carolina. Attorney Newsome stated that the one that was late should not be accepted. The proposal will have to be reviewed to determine if all the requirements have been met. A copy was given to the commissioners to review. Also, references need to be checked.

Chairman Ridley adjourned the work session.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk



HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 27, 2019
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Ridley called the special called meeting to order. All commissioners were present except Commissioner Brown, who arrived a little later. Mike Daniel offered the Invocation and the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Waive reading of Minutes

Chairman Ridley motioned to waive the reading of the minutes from the June 4, 2019 Regular Meeting, the June 19, 2019 Work Session and the June 19, 2019 Special Called Meeting until the next regular meeting. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Agenda

County Attorney David Mecklin asked to add an executive session to the agenda to discuss potential litigation. Chairman Ridley added the 13-14 year old baseball team. Commissioner Budde motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Item #1A - 13/14-Year-old Haralson County Baseball Team

Recreation Director Mike Daniel introduced the 13/14 year old team that won the state championship in Ellijay. The team is coached by Brandon Benefield, Donald Harper and Brad Hughes. They will be going to the Dizzy Dean World Series in Mississippi. The team is having several fundraisers such as a bake sale and car wash to raise the money needed to pay for the trip. Mike stated they are asking the county to help with the funding to pay for the trip. Chairman Ridley congratulated them and asked how much the trip is going to cost. Mr. Benefield stated that the lodging would be \$7064.80. Chairman Ridley recommended that the county commit to pay ½ of the lodging. Commissioner Brown arrived at this time. Commissioner Budde motioned for the county to pay ½ of the lodging bill. Chairman Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #1 – Public Hearing – 2019-2020 Proposed budget

Finance Director Don Johnson gave a recap of the proposed budget summary. Also, there were questions and discussion about items on the budget. Chairman Ridley asked if the 3% was added to give merit raises. Mr. Johnson stated it was in the contingency line in the Department 1300 budget. Commissioner Tarpley asked if there were funds included for the department heads and who would be determining what the department heads would receive. County Clerk Alison Palmer responded the chairman would be evaluating the department heads and determining what they would receive. Commissioner Brown asked what the employees would receive. Chairman Ridley stated the department head would determine that based on the evaluations. A few other items were briefly discussed.

Item #2 – Courthouse Roof Proposals

Chairman Ridley stated that only one bid was received on time. Guy Roofing. He stated that there were three options. \$209,000 with a 20-year warranty. \$212,000 for a 30-year warranty and \$233,000 with a 30-year warranty using a different type of material. Commissioner Budde reported that he has spoken to Tim Stokes from Guy Roofing. He was concerned that they were not planning to move the HVAC units. After speaking to him and hearing the way they plan to proceed with the project, he is comfortable that the units will not need to be removed.

Discussion followed that included the fact that this is an out of state company. Will we get good follow up service if needed; what is their reputation; should we try again for local participation, etc. Commissioner Budde stated that we had about 19 representatives from different companies attend the walk-through meeting and only two responded. He stated we did our due diligence and gave the local companies ample opportunity to respond.

Commissioner Budde motioned to accept the Proposal for \$212,000 with the 30-year warranty. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #3 – Donation of old Fire Truck to GPSTC

Chief Brian Walker was asked to report on this request. Chief Walker stated that GPSTC (Georgia Public Safety Training Center) was starting a new training program for driving a firetruck. Currently, there is no training for this. Local entities train in house and do not have the capability of providing this type of emergency driving course. They are asking for trucks to be donated to use for this training. When asked why they would ask a small county like Haralson, it was noted that the person in charge of the program is from Haralson. John Hutcheson. Commissioner Brown asked if there is any monetary value to sell the truck. She said she is against donating the truck. Commissioner Tarpley also stated he is not sure we should donate the truck.

Commissioner Brown stated she wished she could take back her decision to fund a portion of the ball teams' trip. She said she is not comfortable with that decision. She said we should sell the truck to make up for those funds. She stated she is not comfortable using taxpayer funds to support a ball team. Commissioner Tarpley stated we are supporting county recreation, not a private travelling team. Chairman Ridley stated we have spent \$3 million to build the facility and now we are not going to support them? Commissioner Budde stated he was in favor of supporting the teams' trip.

Chairman Ridley steered the discussion back to the firetruck. Commissioner Budde stated he was a fireman for 12 years with no formal driver training in a truck and he felt like this is an important program that will benefit our fireman and county.

Commissioner Budde motioned to donate the firetruck to GPSTC. Chairman Ridley seconded and the motion carried 3-2 with Commissioners Brown and Tarpley opposed.

Commissioner Vines stated he would like to plug for the fire department. He stated that the fire truck is always in front of the ambulances going to scenes.

Item #4 – Resolution for Continuing Operation

This is the resolution allows the county to continue operations until July 9, 2019 when the budget is scheduled to be approved. Commissioner Brown motioned to approve the resolution for continuing operation. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #5 – Postpone Regular July Meeting to July 9, 2019 at 6pm

Commissioner Budde motioned to postpone the July meeting. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #6 – Executive Session

Attorney David Mecklin stated that this is to discuss potential litigation. Chairman Ridley motioned to go into executive session. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Upon return, Mr. Mecklin stated that no action was taken or needed at this time.

Commissioner Budde motioned to adjourn. Chairman Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

JULY 9, 2019

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Ronnie Ridley called the meeting to order. Commissioner Brown offered the Invocation and the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Ridley stated that the proposed budget is a good budget. The board has added 3% to each salary line for merit increases for the employees; not an across the board raise, but to be determined on merit by the department heads. He also reported that the road department was working hard to get the shoulders of the newly paved roads built up so that the barrels could be removed and the roadsides could be bush-hogged.

Finance Director Don Johnson gave a recap of the finances as of May 31, 2019.

Approval of previous meeting minutes

Chairman Ridley stated that the board had received the minutes to review and asked if there were any changes to be made. There were none. Commissioner Budde motioned to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2019 Regular Meeting, the June 19, 2019 Work Session, the June 19, 2019 Special Called Meeting and the June 27, 2019 Special Called Meeting. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Budde asked to add item #6 Automatic Aid agreement between Haralson County and the City of Bremen. Commissioner Budde motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Public Participation on Agenda Items

None

Item #1 – Tallapoosa Fireworks Donation

Commissioner Budde motioned to donate \$500 to Tallapoosa for the fireworks display on July 4th. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #2 – Employee Health Insurance Deductible Reimbursement

County Clerk Alison Palmer explained that in order to get the lower premium on the employee health insurance, the deductible was increased from \$3500 to \$4000. The county has reimbursed employees up to 50% of the deductible met for several years now. The employee is responsible for the first half and then the county reimburses the difference up to the deductible amount. Ms. Palmer asked the board if they would be willing to commit to reimbursing up to \$2250 instead of \$1750 so that the employees would have the same out of pocket expense. She also reported that the county usually only has 15-20 reimbursements per year and some of those are not the full amount. Commissioner Tarpley stated that would only be \$6000-\$7000 more over the year. Commissioner Brown motioned to increase the deductible reimbursement up to \$2250 for this enrollment year. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #3 – Resolution to approve the Juvenile Judge Salary

County Attorney David Mecklin stated that he had reviewed this item and believes this is set at the proper amount of \$121,708. Commissioner Tarpley motioned to approve the resolution. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 4-1 with Chairman Ridley abstaining.

Item #6 – Fire Automatic Aid Agreement between Haralson County & City of Bremen

Deputy Chief John Entekin reported that Chief Walker and Chief Hurley had met and discussed the details of an Automatic Aid agreement between the two entities. Chief Entekin had a copy of the agreement and said each were ready get the agreement signed and the aid started as soon as they had been approved by the county and city.

Commissioner Budde stated that this will be an enhancement to public safety in the county and commended both departments for working on this agreement.

Commissioner Brown motioned to approve the Automatic Aid Agreement. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried 5-0, authorizing Chief Walker to sign this agreement on behalf of the county.

Guy Roofing – County Clerk Alison Palmer stated that she had contacted the references for Guy Roofing and they all spoke very well of the company. These were engineers that had worked with the company on large projects. The Board agreed to move forward with this project.

Item #4 – Executive Session

Commissioner Budde motioned to go to executive session. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 5-0. County Attorney David Mecklin stated that the topic is potential litigation.

Upon return, Commissioner Budde motioned to go back into session. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Ridley stated that the executive session included a discussion of potential litigation which does not need any action to be taken at this time. He stated that the board also considered the severance agreement for Bill McConnell. Commissioner Brown motioned to approve the severance agreement with Bill McConnell. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #5 – 2019-2020 Budget

At this time, Chairman Ridley turned the meeting over to Vice Chair Brown. He stated that on the advice of his attorney, he would not be participating on the discussion or vote of the budget.

Vice Chair Brown stated that the board would be voting on the budget tonight with the exception of the Juvenile Court Departmental budget. She stated that there was a new judge and this budget was still under review to make sure they are given a proper budget. When this is finalized a vote will be taken to approve and incorporate this into the budget.

County Clerk Alison Palmer explained that the budget sounds higher than normal, but the amount from the state for the LMIG funds is included in revenue and in the road department as an expense. She explained that normally, we do not know this figure yet, so an amendment has to be done at a later time. Ms. Palmer stated that if you take out the \$685,000 for the LMIG, then the proposed budget is approximately \$40,000 less than last year. Without the LMIG figure, the budget would be \$15,538,962.

Laura Camper asked what the amount that is being voted on tonight is. Alison stated that it is \$16,095,504.

Commissioner Budde motioned to approve the budget minus the amount for the Juvenile Court. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Public Participation on Non Agenda Items

None

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk

HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JULY 17, 2019
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Ridley called the meeting to order. Ms. Sandi Couch offered the Invocation and the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present along with County Attorney David Mecklin.

Commissioner Budde motioned to waive the reading of the July 9, 2019 Regular meeting minutes until the next regular meeting. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Brown motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #1 – Rezoning Request – Haralson County Tax Map 0099-0068D, located on Gilley Road. Current zoning is R-2. Requesting C-GB. Requested by Michael & Casey Cook.

There was a public hearing for the request in the work session immediately preceding this meeting. There was no opposition. After a brief discussion, it was determined that the Cook's would get one acre where the building is located surveyed out and only zone that one acre as Commercial-General Business. They will get a copy of the survey to the permits office.

Commissioner Budde motioned to approve the Rezoning Request. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Mutual Aid

Commissioner Budde stated that Bremen had approved the Mutual Aid agreement and it is now ready for the fire chiefs to sign.

Commissioner Brown stated that she saw the mutual aid in action at the Behavioral Health building and felt like it was going to be a benefit to both entities.

Chairman Ridley motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk

HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

JULY 17, 2019

WORK SESSION

Chairman Ridley called the work session to order. All commissioners were present along with County Attorney David Mecklin.

Item #1 – Public Hearing – Haralson County Tax Map 0099-0068D, located on Gilley Road. Current Zoning is R-2. Requesting C-GB. Requested by Michael and Casey Cook.

Building Inspector Robert Smith stated that the Planning and Zoning Board had recommended 4-0 to approve the request. No opposition. All adjoining property is zoned A-1. The Cooks own 5.4 acres. After discussion, it was determined that they would have 1 acre surveyed out to designate as C-GB, Commercial-General Business. This item is on the agenda for the special called meeting that follows this work session.

Item #2 – WARRS (Western Area Regional Radio System) Board Appointment

Chairman Ridley stated that Haralson County has two seats on this board. Brian Walker currently holds one and past Chairman Allen Poole held the other seat. Chairman Ridley stated he would take this unless someone else wanted it. Commissioner Budde stated he would like to serve on this board. This item will be on the agenda for the regular August meeting.

Item #3 – Planning and Zoning Board Appointment

Glenda Wade from the Permits and Zoning Department had recommended Jason Hulse, who is a surveyor out of Bremen to serve on this board. He has served on the Zoning Board of Appeals for years. He also sent an application requesting to be appointed to this board. Chairman Ridley stated that there is 3 or 4 days of training required in this position and Mr. Hulse is willing to go to training. Chairman Ridley stated that this will be on the August agenda and for the commissioners to bring any other nominees at that time.

Item #4 – West Georgia Regional Library Board Appointment

This will be put on the website and County Clerk Alison Palmer will contact the local Libraries for recommendations. This will also be on the August agenda and nominations can be made at that time.

Item #5 – Website

Commissioner Brown stated she would like to have the county website upgraded. Discussion followed regarding the current website and price; the cost of upgrading, time to manage site, etc. Alison suggested incorporating the website upgrade into the IT RFP later in the year.

Item #6 – Recording Meetings

This item and the website ended up being discussed simultaneously. After the discussion, Chairman Ridley recommended getting some prices for both items and then discussing because no funding had been put into the budget for these items.

Item #8 – Space for Essential County offices

Commissioner Tarpley asked about the offices within county buildings that are occupied by individuals who are not county employees and not necessarily essential to county operations. He stated that we do not have enough space for the employees and offices as it is and asked if some determination could be made about others that are occupying and office. Chairman Ridley stated that he would research this item and come back to the board with the information.

Item #9 – Uniform Seal & Numbering System for County Vehicles

Commissioner Budde stated that he would like to see the county have a uniform seal and numbering system on all vehicles owned by the county. Chairman Ridley stated that he had instructed the road department to start working on this item for all vehicles. Terry Edwards, Interim Public Works Director stated that this takes time. Different Departments have different seals. Road only has their road department stickers. After more discussion, it was determined that the chairman would address this with the department heads. Also, as stickers get old and need to be replaced, we would start going to a uniform design. Purchasing a machine to make the stickers was also discussed.

Item #10 - Road Signs

Commissioner Budde stated that there are many missing road signs in the county and he would like to see the county get these replaced. Chairman Ridley stated that many of them get stolen as fast as we can put them up. Someone suggested putting a trail cam up to watch the most stolen ones and if the county can catch someone, we might could slow this problem down.

Item #11 – Cashtown & Liberty Church Road Intersection

Commissioner Brown reminded the board that the JROTC had approached the board with a research project that they had completed regarding the danger of this intersection. That had asked for a 4-way stop or traffic light to be installed there. Commissioner Brown went on to tell how bad the guard rail looks there also. Commissioner Vines asked if we must get permission from the state to put either of those items into place. Chairman Ridley stated that these are county roads. Terry Edwards stated that the state would have to approve a safety or red light. A 4-way stop would be at the discretion of the Board of Commissioners. This will be on the August Agenda.

Terry Edwards was directed to get a price to replace the guard rail at this location and report back to the chairman.

It was also noted by Mr. Edwards that the county could get payment from insurance companies when someone has a wreck that damages guard rails, but we usually don't get notified when it happens. It was recommended that the fire department and sheriff's department could help with this information. If they could let 911 know of damage, they could log the information for the county.

Item #12 – Resolution to request sales tax information

Commissioner Tarpley stated that back in June the board had tabled the resolution to request sales tax information from the state. Commissioner Vines stated that he was not for this. Chairman Ridley asked why a commissioner would be against the county finding out if a business is paying sales tax. If they are not paying, this is lost revenue for the county. Commissioner Vines stated that he would not want to be harassed. Chairman Ridley stated that Don Johnson, the finance officer would be the only one to see the report. More discussion followed and Commissioner Budde stated that if they have a business, they should be paying the tax. He would have to vote in favor of this item. Commissioner Tarpley stated that he is also against this. Commissioner Vines stated that someone could be harassed by us reporting that we don't think they are paying the right amount of tax. County clerk Alison Palmer stated she thought the commissioners were misunderstanding this item. She said it has nothing to do with how much they are paying, but if there is a store on the square that is not listed on the report, Don would notify the state of its existence and then the state would check it out. Alison went on to say that if they are not paying sales tax to the state of Georgia, the Haralson is also not getting its portion and the taxpayers are not getting their portion that could be helping with property tax.

A couple of citizens were against this also. Stated it is hard enough to start a business as it is.

Finally, it was determined that this would be on the agenda in August to vote up or down.

Item #7 – Executive Session for personnel issue

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to go into executive session. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Upon return, Commissioner Tarpley motioned to go back into the work session, Commissioner Brown seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Ridley stated that the session was regarding a personnel issue that needs some more legal research by the attorney. No action to be taken at this time.

Chairman Ridley adjourned the meeting.

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AUGUST 6, 2019
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Ronnie Ridley called the regular meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. Recreation Director Mike Daniel offered the Invocation and the board led the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners were present along with County Attorney David Mecklin.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Ridley stated that the county would be making the full roll back on the millage plus a small reduction. He also reported that the paving of Baxter and Loftis Roads would begin tonight and would take about a week to complete. He said when these are completed the county will have resurfaced 29.01 miles of roads since March. Chairman Ridley asked Finance Director Don Johnson if he had a financial report for June. Mr. Johnson stated that there are still a few revenues and expenses coming in and that report will not be available until the fiscal year is completely closed out.

Approval of previous meeting minutes

Chairman Ridley stated that the commissioners had been sent the minutes of the July 9, 2019 regular meeting minutes, the July 17, 2019 Special called meeting minutes, and the July 17, 2019 Work session minutes to review. He asked if any changes needed to be made. There were none.

Commissioner Budde motioned to approve these minutes as written. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Agenda

Chairman Ridley stated that he would like to add the DATE Fund Agreement to the agenda as Item #7 and asked Mr. Mecklin to give a quick review of what this is. Mr. Mecklin stated that there is a mandatory add on fee to fines on drug charges that go into a separate fund referred to as the DATE fund. These funds must be used for Drug Awareness and Treatment. Judge Lim makes the recommendation for the use of these funds. All the money collected here must be used for cases in this county.

Chairman Ridley also added item #8 – CDBG for the Water Authority.

Chairman Ridley motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #1 – WARRS Board Appointment

This is the appointment to replace former Chairman Allen Poole on the Western Area Regional Radio System Board. Chief Walker was asked to explain this board. He stated that the WARRS board consists of representative from each of the entities who are members, which is Haralson, Carroll, Coweta and Heard at this time. He stated that Polk and Paulding are possibly interested in joining. This system makes it possible for the member entities to be able to communicate and work together in the instance of a regional disaster, etc. Commissioner Budde stated that he would like to serve on this board.

Commissioner Brown nominated Commissioner Adam Budde. With no other nominations, Commissioner Tarpley motioned to close nominations. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Ridley motioned to appoint Commissioner Budde to the WARRS board. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #2 – Planning & Zoning Board Appointment

Chairman Ridley nominated Jason Hulsey, the only individual that had shown an interest in serving on this board. He is a land surveyor out of Bremen. There were no other nominations.

Commissioner Brown motioned to close nominations. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Ridley motioned to appoint Jason Hulseley to the Planning and Zoning Board. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #3 – West Georgia Regional Library Board Appointment

Diane McDowell, a retired librarian had expressed an interest in serving on this board. Commissioner Tarpley nominated Diane McDowell. Chairman Ridley motioned to close nominations. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to appoint Diane McDowell to a 3-year term on the West Georgia Regional Library Board. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #4 – Four Way Stop at Intersection of Cashtown and Liberty Church Road

This was discussed at the last work session and the Haralson County Junior ROTC brought a presentation to a meeting earlier this year that detailed the dangers of this intersection. Commissioner Budde asked if we were discussing the guard rail also. Interim Public Works Director Terry Edwards stated that he had put out a bid to replace the guard rail. Commissioner Tarpley stated that he had talked to several residents of the area and they are concerned that the guard rail will block the view coming up to the intersection. He asked if we could cut the radius of the guard rail. Mr. Edwards stated that the state came up with the specs for this guard rail. Chairman Ridley asked if it would increase the county's liability if the radius is changed. Commissioner Tarpley asked if the county had any flashing warning lights. Mr. Edwards stated no. Commissioner Budde stated that the fire department has one. Chief Walker stated that EMA has one through the Department of Health for emergency situations. Chairman Ridley stated that we could install the 4 way stop and let Terry Edwards determine the safety needs of the intersection.

Commissioner Brown motioned to install a 4-way stop at the intersection of Cashtown and Liberty Church Road. Chairman Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #5 – Resolution to request sales tax information from Georgia Department of Revenue

This item had been discussed in a couple of prior meetings. There were a couple of residents in attendance who voiced their objections to this item. Commissioner Budde stated that after talking to constituents he was also not in favor of this Resolution.

Chairman Ridley stated this is not to get into how much a business is paying, but just to assure that they are paying the sales taxes. It is confidential information and only one person have access to the data. He stated that it is designed to make sure the taxes are being paid to the proper entity. Chairman Ridley gave an example of a Target locating behind the Dollar Tree and Auto parts stores in Bremen. Those two are in Carroll County but the land behind it is in Haralson. This would make the information available to the county to be sure the taxes are coming back to Haralson. After a bit more discussion, there was no action taken.

Item #6 – RLF Loan Request from Strategic Management Consultants, LLC

This item has been discussed at prior meetings. The Development Authority would administer the loan for the county. They have voted 4-1 in favor of this loan with Kevin Boulton opposed.

Commissioner Budde motioned to table this item until further research could be done. He recommended a special called meeting at a later date to vote on this item. Commissioner Vines seconded the motion.

Bobby Mehan from Strategic Management Solutions stated that "we have been working on this for a year. If you don't approve it, the RLF funds will go back to the state." He went on to say they county would be forfeiting the money and the 3% interest. He said they brought this business here from Carroll County and the concerns with the documents can be addressed by the attorneys. Commissioner Budde stated we could have a special called meeting next week. Mr. Mehan stated that the special called meetings cost the county \$50 per commissioner to

hold. Chairman Ridley asked if we have time to postpone this, because the money was supposed to go back to the state on April 1, 2019. Mr. Mehan stated that Richard Davis (CFO of Wayne Davis Concrete) had reviewed the company financials and he is comfortable with the securities for the loan.

Commissioner Budde stated that he would withdraw his motion to postpone this item if we go ahead and discuss it tonight. Commissioner Vines withdrew his second.

County Attorney David Mecklin was asked to report on this item. He stated that he had reviewed the documents. The interest rate needed to be corrected to 3% from 2% and a couple of typos corrected. He stated that the county finance director should look at the amortization schedule to verify that it is correct. He also stated that this is a little different from most of these type loans, because the collateral is not a hard asset. It is accounts receivables and equity in the company. However, he felt that this is a legally justifiable loan.

Mr. Mehan clarified that it is accounts receivable that are already owed to the company.

Commissioner Brown stated that she wanted to make it clear that the BOC has not been working on this a year. They just heard about it a couple of months back.

Commissioner Budde stated that he would motion to authorize Chairman Ridley to sign the documents after the attorney had verified that the corrections had been made.

Chairman Ridley stated that Mr. Boulton had asked for a moment of public comment on this item. Mr. Boulton stated that he was not against the company. He is pro IT. However, he is against getting a document at the last minute to vote on that has errors and is not in order.

Commissioner Budde stated that he is in favor. He trusts the attorney to correct the errors.

Commissioner Brown asked what happens if the business fails. Mr. Mecklin stated that most RLF funds are grants. The county must be a good steward of the money but will not have a liability to repay the state if a company defaults.

Mr. Boulton stated that he is not opposed because of Bobby but feels like the documents are not well prepared. He is afraid that is the RLF is not properly handled, the county may be risking federal funds in the future.

Commissioner Budde reiterated his motion to allow Chairman Ridley to sign the documents after the attorney has edited the documents. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 4 in favor, none opposed and Commissioner Tarpley abstaining from the vote.

Item #7 – DATE Fund / Tallapoosa Circuit Resource Foundation Inc.

Mr. Mecklin explained that this fund is made up of mandatory add on fines from drug charges in Haralson County. Judge Lim handles the drug court program and directs the use of these funds. They are used for Drug Awareness programs, counseling, treatment, classes, etc.

Commissioner Tarpley asked where the funds had been going before. County Clerk Alison Palmer answered that the Tallapoosa Judicial District would request the funds. It was a set amount per person that went through the program. Since a new foundation was set up the county attorney was asked to research how these funds could legally be used.

Commissioner Brown asked who set up this foundation. Mr. Mecklin replied that Judge Lim set it up and is the CEO. He went on to say the judge is accountable for the use of the funds.

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement with the Tallapoosa Circuit Resource Foundation to direct the use of the DATE funds. Commissioner Vines seconded.

Commissioner Brown stated that she works at Haralson County Behavioral Health and has never seen this before. She would like to see some of these funds directed to the HBH center, not going to some group outside of the county.

Commissioner Budde stated that he would like to know more about the foundation before voting. After deciding to ask Judge Lim to come to the next work session and explain the foundation, Commissioner Tarpley withdrew his motion. Commissioner Vines stated that he trusts Chairman Ridley but would withdraw his second.

Commissioner Budde motioned to table this item until the board could learn more about this foundation. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #8 – Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Chairman Ridley stated that the Water Authority was asking for permission to apply for the CDBG again. He said the Water Authority has put in a received this grant for several years now. It must go to help lower income families. 70% must benefit low to moderate income areas. The amount is up to \$750,000, but anything over \$300,000 has a local matching amount.

Discussion included other items this can be used for and whether or not the board should look into applying for this grant. County clerk Alison Palmer stated that it can be used for items such as shelters for homeless citizens or battered women; girls or boys clubs, health departments or major renovations to these buildings.

Dorothea Graham, the county 4H agent stated that she had discussed getting this for the 4H barn with Chairman Poole and she would still like to see this done. Alison Palmer stated that she and Chairman Poole had looked into that possibility but was told it did not qualify for this program. Chairman Ridley told Ms. Graham the county has plans in place to make the needed repairs to the 4H barn.

Chairman Ridley motioned to postpone this to the work session for further discussion. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion passed 5-0.

Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items

None

Chairman Ridley motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Alison reminded everyone that the meeting to set the millage rate is Monday, August 26, 2019 at 6:00 pm.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk

HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AUGUST 21, 2019
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Ridley called the meeting to order. Commissioner Brown offered the Invocation and the board led the Pledge of Allegiance. All Commissioners and County attorney David Mecklin were present.

Commissioner Budde motioned to waive the minutes of the August 6, 2019 Regular Meeting. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Budde motioned to approve the agenda as written. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #1 - Rezoning Request – Haralson County tax map 0105-0027 and 0105-0027B, located on Highway 78 in Bremen. Present zoning is R-2, requesting C-GB for a convenience store/gas station. Requested by White Diamond, LLC.

Chairman Ridley stated that there had been a public hearing held during the work session for this item. There was no opposition and the Planning and Zoning Board had voted 4-0 to recommend approval of this rezoning request. Chairman Ridley asked if there was any more discussion. There was none. Commissioner Brown motioned to approve the rezoning request. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Brown motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk

HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AUGUST 21, 2019
WORK SESSION MINUTES

Commissioner Brown called the Work session to order. All commissioners were present. Chairman Ridley and County Attorney had to step out of the meeting for a phone call.

Item #1 – Public Hearing – Rezoning Request – Haralson County tax map 0105-0027 and 0105-0027B, located on Highway 78 in Bremen. Present zoning is R-2, requesting C-GB for a convenience store/gas station. Requested by White Diamond, LLC.

Mr. Patterson, who owns the land along with Ronald Ellis own the property. They are selling to Mr. Riponi who is planning a convenience store and gas station at the location. It is located where Cashtown Road dead ends into Highway 78. Bremen Board of Education owns the land behind the location. Mr. Patterson stated that Mr. Riponi owns three other stores. He said it will be a nice store. In answer to questions, from the board Mr. Patterson said he would not think it would affect the other convenience store that is just up the road. He said convenience stores tend to draw their own loyal customers. He also said either Mr. Riponi or the Bremen BOE will cover the cost of adding the 4th side to the current traffic light. There was no opposition at the Planning and Zoning Board hearing. Building Inspector Robert Smith stated they still must go through the permitting process.

Item #2 – DATE Funds/Tallapoosa Circuit Resource Center Foundation, Inc.

Superior Court Judge Meng Lim and Scot Dean were in attendance to give an overview of the Drug Court, DATE Funds, and the Foundation. Judge Lim stated the Drug Court is an accountability court that was created by the state to help deal with the Meth Epidemic. It is a post-verdict program for those found guilty of drug charges and admit their addiction. The Judge offers the individual the opportunity to go through the program instead of going to jail. There is a lengthy interview process they must go through before being admitted to the program. Once in the program, the average time to graduate out is about two years.

The funding for this program comes from state grants, local government marches and drug fees added on to fines. These fees go into a separate account and there is only three permitted uses for the funds; Drug Court, DUI court and Family Treatment (Juvenile Drug Treatment). Polk and Haralson have separate accounts that are held by the county government. Judge Lim stated that he is accountable as to how this is used. That is why he set up this foundation; so he would know it was used properly. It is used for operations of drug court; personnel, equipment, surveillance, treatment. He said that 1/3 to ½ goes to treatment. The judge stated that he has a CD valued at \$150,000 and he is trying to find a place to buy and fix up to house the participants.

Judge Lim stated that Lanier Counseling has handled the counseling for drug court since its inception. Commissioner Brown asked about them using Haralson Behavioral Health and their programs for these services. Scot Dean explained that the participants must keep a job. HBH is only available during the day. Lanier provides counseling services at night and on weekends.

This item will be on the agenda for the September meeting.

At this time Chairman Ridley returned and took over the running of the meeting.

Item #3 – Planning & Zoning Board Appointment

Chairman Ridley announced that at the regular meeting the board had appointed Jason Hulseby to the open position on the Planning and Zoning Board. Mr. Hulseby has since contacted the Chairman and said that he feels like this is a conflict since he is the Chairman of the Bremen Planning and Zoning Board and he has declined to serve. Chairman Ridley asked the board to begin looking for another individual to serve on this board. This will be on the September agenda.

Item #4 – CDBG Discussion

Chairman Ridley stated that as discussed in the last meeting, the Water Authority would like to

apply for the CDBG. Commissioner Budde stated that he thought we should consider a project for the county. Commissioner Vines stated that he did not think we should take this from the Water authority.

County Clerk Alison Palmer reported that she had talked to the consultant that has handled this for many years. She said that if the county does not already have a project in the works, we would not be able to meet all the requirements in time to make application for the grant. It has gotten so complicated that you even have to put out an RFP for the consultant. The consultant said that if the county wants to apply for the next round that we should begin planning a project now.

This will be on the September agenda.

Item #5 – Regional Advisory Council for Behavioral Health and Development Disabilities

Chairman Ridley stated that the county had received a letter stating that Callie Hulseley has resigned from this position and the council would like the county to find a new appointee. Commissioner Brown stated she may want to serve on this council if possible. If not, she can find someone that could serve.

This will be on the September agenda.

Item #6 – 2020 Holiday Schedule

Chairman Ridley stated there are nine paid holidays and one unpaid. He reminded the board that the county had added back a holiday last year, which is Christmas Eve.

Commissioner Budde stated that making an employee take a day off unpaid is a furlough day. He would like for the county to pay them or they work that day as a regular day. Alison explained that they can use a vacation day or take it unpaid. Chairman Ridley stated an additional paid holiday was not included in the budget.

Commissioner Budde asked how much it would cost to pay the employees for that day. Alison replied approximately \$23,000. Commissioner Tarpley asked if we could find that in the budget. Alison replied that we could look for the funds, but there had already been some unforeseen expenses that would have to be covered. Commissioner Vines stated that the board had worked hard and approved a tight budget. He thought maybe we should just plan it into the budget next year.

This item will be on the September agenda.

Item #7 – Website

Commissioner Brown stated that she had spoken to someone at the City of Villa Rica about their website. He said that they used Civic Plus and it was too expensive. Commissioner Brown asked if anyone knew of any local website designers. Mr. Patterson said Red Cube out of Carrollton had designed his website and he was happy with their work. Chairman Ridley recommended that Commissioner Brown talk to them and bring some prices to the next work session.

Item #8 – Change Work Session Meeting Day

Chairman Ridley asked the board what they thought about changing the work session to the 3rd Tuesday at 4:00 PM instead of the 3rd Wednesday. He said then the meetings would be on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday. Easier to remember and it would eliminate the Wednesday evening conflicts that many people have.

This will be on the September agenda.

Item #9 - Fire Academy for Citizens

Lieutenant Dave Wade gave information about the new citizen's fire academy. He said it will be one night a week for seven weeks. The academy will cover all aspects of the fire service and a tour of the E-911 center. He stated that this is an educational program, not one where the

attendees will be called upon during emergencies. Lieutenant Wade said the applications are available at the Commissioner's office and the Fire Station #1.

Item #10 – Senior Citizen Taxes

Commissioner Vines stated that the school board had held their meetings regarding their taxes. Senior citizens had asked Commissioner Vines to help get their taxes lowered. Commissioner Vines would like to have a meeting for the senior citizens to educate them on what their taxes are used for and why the county can't eliminate the school taxes. He said possibly at the next work session. Chairman Ridley stated we will put it on the agenda.

Item #11 – Executive Session

Chairman Ridley stated that the board needed to go into Executive Session. Attorney David Mecklin reminded the board that you could only go in closed session for Legal Litigation, Real estate or Personnel issues. Chairman Ridley stated this is for potential litigation, and personnel. Chairman Ridley motioned to go to Executive Session. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Upon return, Chairman Ridley motioned to resume the Work session. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Ridley stated that the executive session was to discuss pending litigation and a personnel issue. He further stated that no action was taken at this time.

Chairman Ridley adjourned the Work Session.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk

HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SEPTEMBER 3, 2019
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Ridley called the meeting to order and noted for the record that all commissioners except Commissioner Brown were present. Attorney David Mecklin was present. Sandi Couch offered the Invocation and the board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Ridley stated that Commissioner Brown is absent due to the death of her Grandmother, who is Animal Control Director Jackie Brown's Mother. We offer our condolences to the family.

Approval of Minutes of August Meetings

Chairman Ridley stated that the minutes had been sent to the commissioners for review. He asked if there were any changes to be made. There were none. Commissioner Budde motioned to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2019 regular meeting, the August 21, 2019 work session and special called meeting and the August 26, 2019 special called meeting. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Agenda

Chairman Ridley asked to remove item #4 until the next meeting because Commissioner Brown was interested in this position.

Chairman Ridley motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Item #1 – DATE Funds/Tallapoosa Circuit Resource Center Foundation, Inc. Agreement

Chairman Ridley stated that this item had been discussed in detail at the August work session. After a brief recap, Commissioner Tarpley motioned to approve the agreement with the Tallapoosa Circuit Resource Center Foundation. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Item #2 – Planning and Zoning Board Appointment

The board had previously voted to appoint Jason Hulseley to this board, but he declined to serve. He is the chairman of the Bremen Planning and Zoning board and felt it was a conflict of interest. Commissioner Tarpley nominated Dr. Stanley McCain. There were no other nominations. Chairman Ridley motioned to close nominations. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to appoint Dr. Stanley McCain to the Planning and Zoning board. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Item #3 – CDBG Grant Request for Haralson County Water Authority

Chairman Ridley stated that this item had been discussed at the work session also. Since the county does not have any projects that fit this item at the time, he recommends that we allow the Water Authority to apply for this grant. Any projects for these funds must meet certain criteria to benefit 70% low to moderate income areas. It was clarified that if there were any required matching funds, the authority would be providing those. Discussion followed about whether the next SPLOST would include funding for water if the county agrees to allow them to get this grant. Chairman Ridley stated that the discussions for SPLOST were not that far along yet, but this board will have to vote on what projects are included. Commissioner Tarpley stated that at some point the Water Authority would need to stand on their own. Commissioner Vines stated that this will be good for the unfortunate folks in our county.

Commissioner Vines motioned to approve the Water Authority request to apply for the CDBG grant. Chairman Ridley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Item #4 – Regional Advisory Council for the Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Board Appointment

Postponed

Item #5 – 2020 Holiday Schedule

After reviewing the proposed schedule, Commissioner Budde stated that he was not in favor of the unpaid MLK holiday. The other board members agreed, but the additional funds were not put in the budget to make it a paid holiday. When questioned Alison Palmer answered that it costs approximately \$23,000 for a paid holiday. More discussion followed and it was determined that further review of this day would be made. Is it possible to find the funds to make this a paid holiday? Ms. Palmer asked the board to go ahead and vote on the schedule itself and then revisit whether that day would be paid or not. She stated that the court systems need this to begin setting calendars for the next year. She will also further research and give the figures for the amount that is already in the budget and what would need to be added to pay the employees for this day.

Commissioner Budde motioned to approve the holiday 2020 schedule. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Item #6 – Change scheduled day of Work Sessions

Chairman Ridley stated that this was discussed in the previous work session. Commissioner Budde motioned to permanently move the work sessions from the 3rd Wednesday to the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 4:00 PM. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Item #7 – Road Department Equipment Purchase

Chairman Ridley stated that since the county had approved the use of GovDeals to sell items, the road department has sold \$110,000 worth of items that have not been cranked or used in over 2 years. He stated that he would like for the board to approve the purchase of a piece of equipment with these funds. Terry Edwards, the Interim Public Works Director, stated that what the department needs the worst is a Mini Excavator. He has priced them with Caterpillar, John Deere and Kobelco. When comparing the brands, he stated that the Caterpillar has some upgrades on standard tractor that others do not include. This one best meets his needs and if the upgrades had to be added to the others, it would drive their costs up considerably. Commissioner Tarpley asked about the warranties and availability of service. Mr. Edwards answered that the Caterpillar had the same warranty.

Commissioner Vines motioned to allow Mr. Edwards to buy the one that will best fit his needs. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items

Charles Kruse stated that he would like to request that the county enact an ordinance to require mandatory sterilization of all pets.

Commissioner Budde motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk

HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SEPTEMBER 17, 2019
WORK SESSION MINUTES

Chairman Ridley called the work session to order. All Commissioners were present. Attorney Sam Newsome was present.

Item #1 – DFACS Board Appointment

Chairman Ridley stated that Joyce Williams Harper had resigned from this board because she moved out of Haralson County. We need to appoint someone to finish her term which ends June 30, 2022.

Item #2 – Juvenile Court Budget

Chairman Ridley reminded the board that Haralson had approved the county budget without the Juvenile budget since we did not have the information from Polk at that time. He stated that Polk County has now approved their budget and sent us the numbers that were approved for the Juvenile Court. The board was given a copy of the recommended budget for the Juvenile Court. The attorneys would pass this information on to the judge for review and this item will be on the October agenda.

Item #3 – MLK Holiday

After a discussion regarding this unpaid holiday, the board decided to revisit this item in December to see if any funds were available to make this a paid holiday.

Item #4 – IT RFP

Chairman Ridley stated that the RFP for IT/Phone services was nearly complete and should be posted by the end of the week. County Clerk Alison Palmer said she obtained the Lee County RFP from ACCG, then had Digital Agent list all the services they provide for Haralson County. At that point she asked the IT director of a neighboring larger county to review the RFP. He had done so and recommended some changes. This came in late today, so we have not had the opportunity to review and make the changes needed. Ms. Palmer stated that she would also forward this to the board when it was complete. This will be posted on the county website and on the state procurement website.

Item #5 – Road Bid List

Chairman Ridley reviewed the list of roads that have been put out to bid and explained which would be funded by LMIG and which would be funded by TSPLOST. The board was given a copy of this list. The bids are due in on September 23, 2019 with work to be completed in the Spring of 2020.

Item #6 – Final FY2019 Budget Amendment

Finance Director Don Johnson reviewed the final amendment that needs to be made to the FY 2019 budget. It includes the excess funds and expenses from the fiscal year. This item will be on the October agenda.

Item #7 – Update on the new 4-Way Stop at Cashtown and Liberty Church Road

Chairman Ridley stated that the signs were up with the advance warnings on the roads, stop ahead signs prior to the intersection and the signs themselves are the largest that are allowed by the state. He reported that there had been quite a few complaints about this to the commissioner's office. Commissioner Budde stated that he had heard from constituents who were pleased with the new stop.

Item #8 – Courthouse Roof Project Update

Chairman Ridley stated that there had been a meeting yesterday with Guy Roofing. They will have delivery of material today or tomorrow. The work will begin immediately, and they plan to be complete within two weeks, weather or unforeseen problems permitting. Worse case scenario is three weeks. They called first thing this morning and stated that there was some HVAC ductwork that needs to be moved. Chairman Ridley told them they would have to pay for that service.

Item #9 – Cleanup of Industrial Park

Commissioner Tarpley asked who had done the cleanup work at the Industrial Park on Hwy 27. Chairman Ridley stated that he did not know. It was not the county. Someone stated they heard it was the landowners.

Item #10 – VFW Park

The VFW wants to de-annex from the City of Buchanan. The county stated that they would not have a problem with this and could possibly use water from the lake in a drought if the county was the one providing services to the property such as law enforcement, etc.

Item #11 – County Marshal

The county marshal has resigned his position effective today. We will be taking applications to fill this position according to the requirements recently discussed by the Board. Chairman Ridley stated that the Building Inspector Robert Smith will be retiring at the end of the month. He went on to say that for the time being, Nathan Forrister, who works part time as an Inspector will be handling this work.

Item #12 – Zoning questions

Commissioner Vines was concerned about a zoning issue out on Hwy 100. He heard that the property owner has not come for the proper permitting and the zoning of the property does not fit the use that he is using it for currently. Glenda Wade Permits and Zoning Director, stated that he has now come in and applied to have the property rezoned and that all county procedures and policies would be followed.

Chairman Ridley adjourned the work session.

Submitted by Alison Palmer

Certified County Clerk

HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SEPTEMBER 30, 2019
RETREAT MINUTES

The Retreat was called to order by Chairman Ridley. All commissioners were present. Attorney David Mecklin, County Clerk Alison Palmer and Finance Director Don Johnson were present.

Courthouse Roof Project - Chairman Ridley updated the board on the courthouse roof project. He stated that the final inspection is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2019. He stated that a couple of gas lines broke when they were raising the HVAC units. These will be repaired after the roof is completed.

Road bids have come in. C.W. Mathews won the first package. E.R. Snell won the other. The bids were slightly under the Interim Public Works Director's estimate. They would like to start on the roads even though we had not planned on them being completed until the Spring of 2020. LMIG funds generally come in during October so we will probably give permission to proceed on the ones that will be paid with LMIG. Chairman Ridley reported that we have been receiving higher distributions in the TSPLOST than anticipated.

These two road packages will be put on October 1, 2019 agenda for approval.

Garbage Truck update - Chairman Ridley stated that we need to pay off the garbage truck with BB&T. He explained that if BB&T doesn't agree to total just the chassis, it could cost us an additional \$80,000 for the garbage bed. Don Johnson has called for the payoff amount. This item will be on the October 1, 2019 agenda.

Liability and Work Comp claims update – Chairman Ridley updated the board on the meeting with the insurance representative. We are planning items to help us begin to reduce the risk such as driving simulators, defensive driving, “due regard classes”, etc.

Also, we need to get rid of any vehicles that are not being used on a regular basis. The board also discussed taking one of the service trucks from the fire department to be used by the county maintenance department. Possibly station the Argo and Dive trailer at a central location. Implement map training with the firefighters. The Chairman will also meet with some of the department heads to discuss possible changes to their departments.

Fire Truck Wreck – The Insurance company has not given us a cost for the truck which was totaled. However, Cobb County has a 2004 truck and will have two 2008 trucks coming up for sale for an inexpensive price. Possibly will be able to get both 2008 trucks for the payoff on the wrecked truck.

Item #1 – Relationship between the Chairman and the District Commissioners and dealing with Department Heads and employees

County Attorney David Mecklin spoke regarding this issue. Referred to the Charter from 2001 that transitioned the county from a Sole commissioner to a Board of Commissioners. What is the role of the chairman and the district commissioners regarding employees and department heads? Who gives them directions? Mr. Mecklin also referred to the Haralson County Employee Handbook personnel policy which gives specifics regarding department heads and employees.

Mr. Mecklin suggested having a refresher course with the department heads reminding them that the Chairman is their direct supervisor, and if they have any concerns about directions given to them by a district commissioner, then they should come to the chairman for clarification of needed action.

Lift Station on Macedonia Church Rd– The pumps in the lift station had burned up. Had to have it pumped out. Replacement of both pumps will cost approximately \$12,700.

Item #2 – Parliamentary Procedures

Mr. Mecklin stated that after watching the meetings for several months, he feels that they are running smoothly. He stated that one thing he did notice is that they turn into “town hall

meetings” including audience members when it should just be the board members. The county allows public participation before agenda items and then at the end on non-agenda items. Have department heads, etc. who are called on to report or speak to the board come to the podium only after being recognized by the Chairman.

Item #3 – SPLOST VII

Need to have this on the March 2020 ballot. We must negotiate with the cities for the percentage that each entity received. Chairman Ridley stated that he would like to keep the percentages as they are currently and use the \$5 million to renovate the courthouse and old jail into a courthouse annex.

Projecting \$21,500,000 over 6 years. Some recommended projects for the county are:

E-911 Upgrade - \$750,000

Public Safety - \$1,800,000

Recreation - \$983,500

Gov’t Improvements (renovate old jail and courthouse), equipment, vehicles, building upgrades- \$7,346,800

Roads & Bridges - \$2,000,000

Most of the commissioners are opposed to giving a large amount to water at this time.

Commissioner Brown mentioned the building that houses the mental health/substance abuse facility is in desperate need of upgrades. Flooring, computers, paint, office space.

Bank OZK – Does not have a loan officer here and does not loan money to the citizens. American Commerce is the only locally owned bank in the area. Discussion followed to consider spreading the county’s accounts to some of the other banks.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk



**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OCTOBER 1, 2019
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Ridley called the regular meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. All commissioners were present. County Attorney David Mecklin was present.

Chief Brian Walker offered the Invocation and the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Ridley reported that the courthouse roof replacement was finished today. The Building Inspector is scheduled to make the final inspection tomorrow and the manufacturer is scheduled to make their inspection the next day which will begin the warranty.

The Chairman also reported that the lift station at the recreation facility had completely broken down. He had to approve two new lift pumps to be installed and have it pumped out twice in the process. The cost was \$1800 to pump it the first time, labor and parts to replace the pumps will be \$10,900 plus pumping it again in order to make the repairs. This was done on an emergency basis. He stated that the county had quotes a couple of years back to upgrade the lift station that came to well over \$100,000. This serves the recreation facility, E911 and the animal control facility. Chairman Ridley stated that this is the only pumping station that the county owns.

Approval of previous meeting Minutes

Chairman Ridley stated that the board had been sent the minutes to review. He asked if there were any changes to be made. There were none. Commissioner Budde motioned to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2019 Regular Meeting, the September 17, 2019 Work Session and the September 30, 2019 Retreat Work Session. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Agenda

Chairman Ridley stated that he would like to add item #9 – GDOT List of Roads. Commissioner Budde motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Public Participation on Agenda Items

None

Item #1 – Regional Advisory Council for Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Appointment

Commissioner Tarpley has someone that is interested in serving in the position, but needs to know specifics about meeting times and locations. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Tarpley motioned to table this item until the next meeting. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #2 – DFACS Board Appointment

There were no nominees at this time. Commissioner Vines motioned to table this item until the next meeting. Chairman Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #3 – Final FY 2019 Budget Amendment

Finance Director Don Johnson reviewed the amendment with the board and explained that it brought in all additional revenues expenses for the fiscal year. This is a required process to begin finalizing the audit. Mr. Johnson answered a couple of questions from the board. Chairman Ridley motioned to approve the final FY 2019 Budget Amendment. Commissioner Brown seconded. The motion carried 4-0, 1 abstain. Commissioner Budde abstained because he was not here during that time period.

Item #4 – FY 2020 Juvenile Court Budget

Chairman Ridley reminded everyone that the Juvenile budget was not approved during the budget process because we did not have a final budget from Polk County so we could not figure our portion of the shared expenses. Commissioner Brown motioned to approve the budget for the Juvenile Court for \$116,458. Chairman Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #5 – ARC Broadband Grant Update

Eric McDonald, Executive Director of the Haralson County Development Authority, reported that the Authority had applied for a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission for \$349,739 for broadband infrastructure and had been approved for this grant. The Development Authority has voted to accept the grant. However, in the time since they applied, several other area businesses had received large grants for the same thing. He mentioned SyncGlobal/Carroll EMC received a grant. Also HCl and AT&T had each been awarded grants also. The authority will accept the grant but hold off moving forward until the other larger players have proceeded to see what is needed. He also reminded everyone that the grant the Authority received will have approximately \$105,000 required matching funds, which they hope the private company that wins the RFP would put in all or most of this amount.

Item #6 – Sanitation Truck Payoff

Chairman Ridley updated the board on the insurance claim regarding the sanitation truck that was in an accident. He stated that the county is still paying on this truck. We still owe \$92,329.96. The insurance company did not realize that we had this vehicle financed and went ahead and paid the county \$158,000 for the truck chassis portion. They also gave the go ahead to the vendor to remove the Garbage Bed and put it on a new chassis. Chairman Ridley stated that he would like to recommend that the county go ahead and pay off the loan to BB&. He stated that if BB&T continued to hold the lien and did not like the idea of switching the bed, the county could end up having to pay out more than we had received from the insurance company. This is a SPLOST item. By paying this off now, we will save \$2027 on interest for the remaining time on the loan.

Commissioner Budde motioned to proceed with paying off the Sanitation Truck. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #7 – Road Bid Package #1 – Award to E.R. Snell, \$974,873.28 – LMIG Funded

Chairman Ridley stated that the bids for both of the road paving packages had been received and opened. The bids on the first package which is the LMIG projects ranged from \$974,000 to \$1,994,000. Interim Public Works Director, Terry Edwards, reported that even though we had these planned for next Spring, E.R. Snell is ahead of schedule due to the dry weather and can begin these roads in a couple of weeks if the county will also give a notice to proceed. Chairman Ridley stated that this will come out of LMIG funds which should arrive by the end of October. He recommended awarding this project to E.R. Snell for \$974,873.28 and also give the notice to proceed. Commissioner Budde motioned to award Road Bid Package #1 to E.R. Snell for \$974,873.28. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #8 – Road Bid Package #2 – Award to C.W. Mathews, \$1,284,308.21

Bids on this package ranged from \$1,284,308.21 to \$2,453,196.64. The surprising thing about these bids was the fact that the winning bid was only \$400 less than the next closest one. Mr. Edwards stated that the road bids are very competitive at this time of year because the companies are trying to fill up their spring calendar with jobs.

Chairman Ridley motioned to award Road Bid Package #2 to C.W. Mathews for \$1,284,308.21 to be completed in the spring of 2020. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #9 – GDOT List of Roads

Chairman Ridley stated that the state sends out a list of current speed limits in Haralson County and the board has to approve them each year. After a discussion clarifying that these are state routes within Haralson County, not county roads, Commissioner Brown motioned to approve the GDOT list of roads. Chairman Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items

Randy Sanders spoke about the Tallapoosa Lions Club and detailed the different ways they benefit Haralson County residents. He stated that over the past 5 years, the Lions Club had donated over \$102,000 to programs in Haralson County including Glasses and Eye care for children whose families can't afford them, Feed the Hungry, Community Christian Council, Special Olympics and Keep Haralson Beautiful along with numerous other programs.

Tyler Smith commended the Board for putting in the 4-way stop at Cashtown and Liberty Church Road. Commissioner Brown gave credit to the Haralson County JROTC for promoting the idea to the Board.

Jack Dewberry asked why the county is not spending the TSPLOST to pave the roads. Chairman Ridley stated that we are using them for that. He explained that the matching portion for the LMIG funds comes out of the SPLOST. The board had voted not to reduce funding from other sources for the roads when the TSPLOST was approved.

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk



**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OCTOBER 16, 2019
WORK SESSION MINUTES**

Chairman Ridley called the work session to order. Commissioners Tarpley, Brown and Vines were present. Commissioner Budde was absent. Attorney Sam Newsome was present.

Item #7 - Upgrades at Haralson Behavioral Health – request for SPLOST 7

Melody Harpe reported that the state had funded a few upgrades such as LED lights and handicapped toilets. The building is in need of other upgrades and she mentioned that the floor is in very bad condition. Chairman Ridley directed her to make a list of the requested upgrades and the county maintenance director will come help estimate the cost of these items.

Ms. Harpe stated that things were really doing well with the facility. She stated they have a substance abuse program and an Intensive Outpatient Substance Abuse program that is providing excellent services for the county.

Item #1 – DFACS Board Appointment

Commissioner Vines stated that Suzanne Vines would like to serve in this position. There were no other recommendations. This item will be on the agenda for the November 5, 2019 meeting.

Item #2 – Regional Advisory Council for Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Appointment

Commissioner Tarpley stated that he would like to recommend Scott Roberts, Jr. He will find out prior to the November meeting if he is going to be able to serve on this board.

Commissioner Brown stated that if he does not, she would like to serve on this board. This item will be on the agenda for the November 5, 2019 meeting.

Item #3 – Region 1 EMS board re-appointment

Chairman Ridley stated that Fire Chief Brian Walker currently serves in this position. The chairman stated that there are particular requirements to serve on this board. He had County Clerk Alison Palmer review these. For example, an employee of the ambulance company licensed in the county, a hospital employee if one is located in the county, a representative from the fire or EMA department, etc. Ms. Palmer reported that Carlton Firestone, an Ambucare employee, is the other county appointee to this board. In response to questions from the board, Chairman Ridley stated that Chief Walker is a good representative to have on this board. He also reported that a couple of other responsibilities had been removed from Chief Walker to reduce the drain on his time. This item will be on the agenda for the November 5, 2019 meeting.

Item #4 – Codes Enforcement Mandatory Updates

Nathan Forrister gave a brief overview of the required updates to the state minimum standards codes required by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. Mr. Forrister stated that he would recommend that the county vote to update the codes ordinance to read, "The County will inspect to the most current codes required by the state." This will keep the county from

having to pay to change the ordinance with Municode every time there is an update. This item will be on the agenda for the November 5, 2019 meeting.

Item #8 – Zoning and Permitting for Tiny Homes

The Board briefly discussed zoning and permitting for Tiny Homes. Glenda Wade, Interim Permits Director, gave a brief overview of how the zoning and permitting would work. Haralson County's zoning ordinance does not currently address this issue. This is an item that will take some time to work out. It must go through the zoning board and will then come to the Board of Commissioners when it has been completed. The commissioners were concerned that this would bring in an influx of people and students that would flood the school system while bringing in very little tax revenue. It was explained that addressing the issue now would help the county control where and how these tiny homes are allowed in the county.

Item #5 – Title VI Plan Update, Alison Palmer

Ms. Palmer explained that this is a required document in order to receive state and federal funding for the transit program. This policy states that Haralson County will follow all anti-discrimination laws while offering this program. This item will be on the agenda for the November 5, 2019 meeting.

Item #6 – Tallapoosa Fire Station SPLOST Request

Chairman Ridley reported that the quote to finish the cement drive around the new Tallapoosa Fire Station is \$24,000. There is only about \$14,000 left in that capital project fund. Chief Walker has requested to use SPLOST funds to cover the additional \$10,000. Chairman Ridley is concerned because SPLOST is county wide and this station could be taken back by the city in the future. This item will be on the agenda for the November 5, 2019 meeting.

Marshal

Chairman Ridley introduced the new Marshal, Terry Parker.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk



**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
NOVEMBER 5, 2019
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Ridley called the regular meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners to order. All Commissioners and County Attorney David Mecklin were present. Sandi Couch offered the Invocation and the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Ridley reported that Danny Crook has passed away and asked that his family be kept in everyone's thoughts and prayers. The chairman noted that the paving had started on Old Bushmill Road and said that Pope Lake Road would be next. Chairman Ridley stated that there was a miscommunication with Mrs. Brown of Animal Control. He reported that the state had come for an unexpected inspection of the Animal Control facility and they gave excellent ratings. Mrs. Brown will update at the next meeting.

Finance Director, Don Johnson, reviewed the financials for the board. Chairman Ridley followed up with the fact that the county has not had to get a Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) for two years in a row. This is the first time in 16 years that this has been the case.

Minutes

Chairman Ridley stated that the minutes from the October meetings had been sent to the board for review. He asked if there were any changes to be made. There were none. Commissioner Brown motioned to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2019 regular meeting and the October 15, 2019 Work session as written. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Agenda

Chairman Ridley stated he would like to add an item to the agenda. He asked to make #9 the IT Proposal and move the executive session to #10.

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

Chairman Ridley stated that we had a guest. Mr. Glen Simmons had asked to address the board. Mr. Simmons stated that he wanted to publicly apologize for the statements he made on Facebook directed at the Board of Commissioners several months ago. He asked them to forgive him. The board thanked him for the apology and told him they appreciated it.

Public Participation on Agenda Items

None

Item #1 – Honda Precision Parts-Georgia Expansion – Eric McDonald

Eric McDonald explained the expansion to the Honda Precision parts facility in Tallapoosa. He explained that they are phasing out the 6 speed transmissions and will begin manufacturing the phase two 10 speed transmissions. This will not add to the jobs, but will maintain those already there and will add to the machinery and equipment at the location. The new abatement will not incorporate any of the older ones. They will still go back on the digest as originally agreed.

This is a \$41 million expansion. This was a competitive process. Haralson County beat out two other possible expansion locations.

Item #2 – DFACS Board Appointment

This appointment is to fill the unexpired term of Joyce Wilson. The term ends June 30, 2022. Commissioner Brown nominated Suzy Vines.

Chairman Ridley motioned to close nominations. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Brown motioned to accept Suzy Vines appointment by acclamation. Chairman Ridley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #1 revisited

County Attorney David Mecklin stated that the board needed to go back to Item #1 and take a vote.

Chairman Ridley motioned to allow the Chairman to sign the Honda contract after it had been approved and finalized by the Board of Assessors and the Board of Education. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Budde expressed his appreciation to Mr. McDonald for the Development Authority's work to obtain this expansion.

Item #3 – Region 1 EMS Appointment

Chairman Ridley reminded the board that there were some specific qualifications for this position and that Chief Brian Walker was currently holding the position. He nominated Brian Walker to be reappointed to this position. There were no other nominations. Chairman Ridley motioned to approve the reappointment of Brian Walker to the Region 1 EMS board. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #4 – Codes Enforcement Mandatory Updates

County Attorney David Mecklin explained the ordinance update and explained the wording of this ordinance. He stated that the way it is worded would allow the building inspector to use the most recent updates from the state without the entire ordinance being redone in the future.

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to approve the Ordinance of Haralson County Re-Adopting Haralson County Technical Codes. Chairman Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #5 – Regional Advisory Council for Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Appointment

This appointment had been discussed in a couple of previous meetings. Commissioner Tarpley stated that he had a nominee in mind, but the man was unable to attend the meetings at this time due to his current job.

Commissioner Budde nominated Commissioner Jamie Brown. With no other nominations, Chairman Ridley motioned to close nominations. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Ridley motioned to appoint Commissioner Brown to the Regional Advisory Council for Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities by acclamation. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 4-0, with Commissioner Brown abstaining.

Item #6 – Title VI Plan Mandatory Update

County Clerk Alison Palmer explained that this is an update to the Civil Rights plan the county

adopted pertaining to the transit program. Attorney Mecklin stated that this is mandatory if the program has funding from the state and federal government.

Commissioner Budde motioned to approve the update to the Title VI plan. Chairman Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #7 – Fire Station 8 SPLOST request

Chairman Ridley stated that the new station 8 in Tallapoosa needs to have a drive paved from the road to the back of the station. The quote for cement is \$24,000. There is only \$14,000 left in the capital account for that station. They are requesting that the \$10,000 balance be paid from SPLOST. Discussion followed that included getting more than one quote, getting quotes for asphalt instead of cement, approved usages of SPLOST funds, etc. Chairman Ridley stated that his concern with using SPLOST is that it would be coming out of the unincorporated portion and it is possible for the City of Tallapoosa to take the fire department back over at a later date.

Chairman Ridley motioned to table this temporarily and get quotes for asphalt and possibly more cement quotes. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #8 – Fire Personal Protection Equipment Bid Award (Paid with Assistance for Firefighters Grant)

Chief Walker stated that the county had been awarded a grant for \$97,000 for turnout gear. An RFP was put out and 4 bids were received ranging from \$95,000 to \$126,000. Fuller Fire had the \$95,000 bid. Firemaster is in the county but their bid was more than 7% more than Fuller. Commissioner Tarpley asked if there were any matching fund requirements. Chief Walker stated that it is 10%, which would come out of SPLOST. Commissioner Budde commended the Chief for getting this grant.

Commissioner Budde motioned to award the Fire Personal Protection Equipment Bid to Fuller Fire. Chairman Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #9 – IT Proposals

Chairman Ridley stated that we had received four proposals to the IT RFP. One was only the phone and one was \$377,000 and required changing out all of the computers and phones throughout the county. He asked County Clerk, Alison Palmer, to review the RFPs received. Mrs. Palmer reiterated that there were four proposals received and questions from several other companies. One was for phone and internet only, not the whole RFP. One was very high and would require changing all the computers to Chromebooks and an entire new phone system. That narrowed it down to two proposals. One was from Transamerica and one from the current provider, Digital Agent. Mrs. Palmer stated that all four bids were reviewed by the chairman and the entire staff at the commission office.

Chairman Ridley added that we were still continuing to get clarification on one quote late this afternoon. One major concern was that the Transamerica bid only included 40 hours of support each month and all hours over that would be \$120 each. Alison had asked the current provider how many hours a month we usually need, without explaining why she was asking. They stated 60 was an average month.

After comparing the quotes, Transamerica would be \$125,000 per year with just 40 hours of support monthly and Digital Agent would be \$129,000 without a limit put on support. If you used the 60 month average, the Transamerica bill would end up being approximately \$156,000.

Questions from the board and the audience were answered regarding numerous items such as cyber security, comfort level of the elected officials with the current company, security training, location of these companies, was this RFP put on the state website, etc.

Chairman Ridley motioned to accept the Digital Agent Proposal. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

County Attorney David Mecklin asked that the motion and vote be redone to include attorney's review of the contract.

Chairman Ridley motioned to accept the Digital Agent proposal and authorize the Chairman to sign the contract, subject to review by legal counsel. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Public Participation on Non Agenda Items

Chairman Ridley motioned to amend the agenda and hear public participation prior to Item #10 Executive Session. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Jay Smith asked if the Board of Commissioners and the Board of Education meet or talk on any kind of regular basis. Various commissioners responded to Mr. Smith, with the main response being that the Board of Education is not interested in meeting with us.

Item #10 – Executive Session

Chairman Ridley motioned to go into Executive session to discuss possible land acquisition and personnel matters. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Upon return, Commissioner Budde motioned to reconvene the regular meeting. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Ridley stated that there is action to be taken from the Executive session.

Chairman Ridley motioned to appoint Glenda Wade as the Permits/Zoning Director. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Ridley motioned to appoint Terry Edwards as the Public Works Director. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Budde motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk



**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
NOVEMBER 19, 2019
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Ridley called the Special Called Meeting of the Haralson County Board of Commissioners. All Commissioners were present. Attorney Sam Newsome was present. Ms. Sandi Couch offered the Invocation and the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Budde motioned to waive the reading of the November 5, 2019 minutes until the next regular meeting. Chairman Ridley seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Ridley stated that he would like to add two items to the agenda. Item #2 – Possum Drop Sponsorship and #3 – Tallapoosa Fire Station SPLOST Request.

Commissioner Brown motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Item #1 - Public Hearing – Request to amend the Zoning Haralson County Tax Map 0040-0005 from Agricultural-1 to Conditional Use for an Event Venue. Property is located on Riddlespurgeon Road. Property owners are Michael and Greg Forlaw.

This item was discussed in the work session immediately prior to this meeting. Commissioner Brown motioned to approve the request for Conditional use for this property. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried 5–0.

Item #2 – Possum Drop Sponsor Donation

This item was discussed in the work session immediately prior to this meeting. Commissioner Budde motioned to donate \$500 to the Possum Drop. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #3 – Tallapoosa Fire SPLOST Request This item was discussed in the work session immediately prior to this meeting. The request is to use \$10,000 from SPLOST along with the \$14,000 that is in the project budget to finish the drive from the road around to the back of the building with concrete. Commissioner Tarpley motioned to allow the Chairman and the Fire Chief to determine how to finish the drive without going over the \$14,000 that is left in the budget. Commissioner Vines seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Ridley asked to amend the agenda to add #4 - Buchanan request for IWispr to use tower at old Jail to supply Internet to the Buchanan Water Plant

Commissioner Brown motioned to approve amending the agenda to add item #4. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Ridley stated that the City of Buchanan has asked for IWispr to provide internet to their water plant. Daryl Moore, IWispr project manager stated that since the plant sits down in a hole, they would like permission to put equipment on the radio tower at the old jail to send the signal down to the water plant.

Commissioner Tarpley asked if this will help residents of Buchanan. Daryl responded, Yes, it could.

Commissioner Budde asked if the tower would be opened to allow anyone to put equipment on it.

Chairman Ridley asked if the board did not allow the tower to be used what would happen. Daryl stated that they would have to build a tower on the water plant property.

Commissioner Budde asked about a contract and whether this could interfere with any public safety repeaters. Daryl stated he would get the contract to Alison for the attorney to review. He also stated that they are on different frequencies and would not interfere.

Chairman Ridley stated this would be put on the agenda for December.

IWispr Project Update

The Chairman asked for an update on the project. Daryl reported that they have 8 sites up and running. The extension is until March 2020 and they will have the project completed by that time.

Commissioner Brown motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
NOVEMBER 19, 2019
WORK SESSION MINUTES**

Chairman Ridley called the work session to order. All commissioners were present. Attorney Sam Newsome was present.

Item #1 – Public Hearing – Request to amend the Zoning Haralson County Tax Map 0040-0005 from Agricultural-1 to Conditional Use for an Event Venue. Property is located on Riddlespurgeon Road. Property owners are Michael and Greg Forlaw.

Michael Forlaw was present. He stated that the venue would be for weddings, reunions, etc. Permits & Zoning Director Glenda Wade stated that the Planning & Zoning Board recommended approval of this request. Mr. Forlaw answered questions regarding the property. There is not a residence on the property at this time and no plans to build one. They will have an event coordinator on site to oversee events. Commissioner Tarpley asked about camping. Mr. Forlaw stated that this would only be for church or youth groups such as the Boy Scouts on a very limited basis such as weekend trips for these type groups. There was no opposition to this request. This item is on the agenda for the Special Called Meeting later today.

Item #2 – Possum Drop Sponsor Request

Chairman Ridley stated that the City of Tallapoosa is requesting the county again be a sponsor for the Possum Drop. Chairman Ridley stated that the county has been giving \$500 to this and to the 4th of July Festival for several years. He stated that donations will help pay for lighting, generators, extra police, the kid's zone, etc. Tallapoosa will be paying for the fireworks. This will be added to the special called agenda.

Item #3 – Tallapoosa Fire Station SPLOST Request

Chairman Ridley reported that a couple of quotes for asphalt had been received and they were around \$21,000, so not much less than cement. After a brief discussion, it was decided that this would be added to the Special Called Agenda also.

Item #4 – Election Office Voting Machines

Chairman Ridley reported that the new voting machines will take up quite a bit more space than the old ones. Vaughn Gable, the Elections Superintendent, has told the chairman that they will need additional room to store these machines and possibly for early voting too. After discussion, the board decided to get the measurements of the machines so that the amount of space needed can be determined. One possibility is the old sheriff/jail facility.

Item #5 – SPLOST VIII

Chairman Ridley stated that the board needs to determine the projects they would like to put on SPLOST VII and the percentages of the distributions that the county will need to accomplish these projects. He stated that the main project needs to be a courthouse renovation. Chairman Ridley stated that he feels like the county should keep the 66.42% that it had in the current SPLOST because the courthouse renovation will more than likely cost at least as much as the jail did. The board decided to have a SPLOST retreat on Friday, November 22, 2019 at 1:00 PM to discuss these items.

Chairman Ridley stated that the referendum must be to the election superintendent in early January in order to get it on the March 2020 ballot.

Item #6 – Vendor Procedures

A copy of the current procedures was given to the board. Commissioner Budde stated that there were several items that he would like to see changed. After discussion of the items the board thought needed to be addressed, changes were noted and County Clerk Alison Palmer will make the changes and the board can review at the next work session.

Bid Opening Procedures

A Discussion followed concerning procedures for opening of bids in the future. This will be put on the next work session agenda.

Item #7 – West Georgia Youth Range Association

Jim Brewton from WGYRA addressed the board regarding the lease between Haralson County and WGYRA. He stated that it is a 25-year lease with an option for 25 more. The association has made numerous upgrades to the property and would like to construct a building that can be used for meetings, classes, etc. This would cost about \$40,000. The original lease was signed in 2007, so it is about halfway through. Mr. Brewton stated they would like to have the lease written so that they are assured of having it for a long time before they invest that amount of money into the property. County clerk Alison Palmer will get a copy of the lease to the attorney to review. The attorney can then make recommendations.

Chairman Ridley adjourned the work session.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk

**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
NOVEMBER 22, 2019
SPECIAL CALLED RETREAT MINUTES**

Chairman Ridley called the Retreat to order. All Commissioners were present along with attorney David Mecklin.

Item #1 – SPLOST VII PROJECT DISCUSSION

Chairman Ridley began the discussion by saying that he felt like the county should get at least the 66.42% that it is receiving in the current SPLOST because the courthouse renovation will cost as much as the jail project did. Plus, there is the E-911 Upgrade that benefits county wide.

The current percentages are as follows:

County – 66.42%
Bremen – 18.92%
Buchanan – 3.38%
Tallapoosa – 9.70%
Waco – 1.58%

Several projects were discussed for the county portion of the distributions to include:

- Courthouse renovation and making a courthouse annex out of the old jail \$5,200,000
- Government Improvements \$2,266,100
- E-911 Upgrade \$750,000
- Recreation \$600,000
- Public Safety, Sheriff \$600,000
- Public Safety, Fire \$1,000,000
- Roads and Bridges \$3,200,000

Commissioner Tarpley said Bremen is proposing a different set of percentages. They are as follows:

County 64.5%
Bremen – 20.00%
Buchanan – 3.57%
Tallapoosa – 10.26%
Waco – 1.67%

Chairman Ridley stated that based on the amounts coming in, the county proposes a projected figure for the six year SPLOST VII at \$20,500,000.

After discussion, the board decided to invite the cities to a meeting on December 3, 2019 at 4:00 PM at the commission office to discuss the SPLOST VII proposal.

Chairman Ridley adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk



**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DECEMBER 3, 2019
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Ronnie Ridley called the meeting to order. Commissioner Brown offered the Invocation and the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner's Tarpley, Brown and Budde were present along with County Attorney David Mecklin. Commissioner Vines was absent due to a family emergency.

Chairman's Report

Animal Control Director, Jackie Brown, gave a report on the Animal Shelter. Mrs. Brown reported that they have placed animals with 86 different rescue groups, 2 of which are in Haralson County. She also stated that they had an unannounced inspection by the state recently. The inspector gave them excellent ratings and stated that this is always one of the best facilities they visit.

Finance Director, Don Johnson, gave a financial report through the end of October. He also stated that the SPLOST report would be coming out in the paper as required by the state.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Chairman Ridley stated that the board had a chance to review the minutes of the November meetings. He asked if there were any changes to be made. There were none. Commissioner Budde motioned to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2019 Regular meeting, the November 19, 2019 Work Session minutes, the November 19, 2019 Special Called meeting minutes and the November 22, 2019 Special Called Retreat as written. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Approval of Agenda

Chairman Ridley asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Commissioner Budde stated that he would like to add the MLK holiday as a paid holiday. County Clerk Alison Palmer stated that previously the board had decided to put that on the December work session for discussion. This would give Don Johnson time to review the budget numbers through November so that he could give the board an idea of whether there are any excess revenues that could be used to change this to a paid holiday. Commissioner Budde motioned to approve the agenda. Chairman Ridley seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Public Participation on Agenda Items

None

There were no action items on the agenda.

Public Participation on Non Agenda Items

David Greene stated that there was a problem with truck traffic on Pine Grove Road. He said there are chicken trucks, buses for special events at the high school, feed trucks and logging trucks using the road as a cut through from Highway 78 to Highway 120 even though there are signs stating "No thru trucks." He said it is a noise nuisance and they are speeding down the road. A lengthy discussion followed that included comments from Mr. Gore and Mr. Williams, whose farms are serviced by some of these trucks, information from Sheriff Eddie Mixon and the Commissioners.

Chairman Ridley asked Sheriff Mixon if he could have his Department of Public Safety Representative come to the work session to help determine the best solution for this issue.

This will be added to the December 17, 2019 work session agenda.

Commissioner Budde motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk



**HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DECEMBER 17, 2019
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman Ridley called the meeting to order. All Commissioners were present along with Attorney Sam Newsome. Commissioner Brown offered the Invocation and the Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Waive Reading of Minutes

Commissioner Budde motioned to waive the reading of the December 3, 2019 meeting until the next regular meeting. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Agenda

Chairman Ridley asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Commissioner Budde stated he would like to add Pine Grove Road No Truck Signs to the agenda. Commissioner Budde motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

These items were discussed in the work session immediately prior to this meeting.

Item #1 - Rezoning Request - Request to amend the Zoning of Haralson County Tax Map 0029-0078 from Agricultural – 1 to I-1 Light Industrial. Property is located on Georgia Hwy 100. Property owner is Toby Adams.

Commissioner Budde motioned to approve the rezoning request. Commissioner Tarpley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #2 – MLK Holiday

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to change this to a paid holiday effective immediately. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #3 – County SPLOST 7 Project List

The following is the proposed project list for Haralson County's projected portion of SPLOST VII. The county is projected to receive \$13,545,000.

Government Improvements	\$2,195,000
E-911 Upgrade	\$750,000
Recreation	\$1,000,000
Courthouse Renovation/Annex	\$4,600,000
Public Safety	\$2,000,000
Roads & Bridges	\$3,000,000

Commissioner Tarpley motioned to approve the County SPLOST VII Project list. Chairman Ridley seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Item #4 – Pine Grove Road No Truck Signs

Commissioner Brown motioned to remove the No Truck signs from Pine Grove Road. Commissioner Budde seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Budde motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Brown seconded and the motion carried 5-0.

HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DECEMBER 17, 2019
WORK SESSION MINUTES

Chairman Ridley called the work session to order. All commissioners and Attorney Sam Newsome were present.

Item #1 – Sheriff / Georgia Department of Public Safety representative regarding truck traffic on Pine Grove Road

Brent Stephens from the Georgia Department of Public Safety was in attendance to give information regarding truck traffic on Pine Grove Road. The road is posted as a no truck route. Officer Stephens stated that he had an officer working that road and only stopped one truck, which turned out to be a resident. He said that timber and agriculture trucks can weigh up to 80,000 lbs. If the road is built to state standards, they can go to 84,000. He said you cannot stop residents from driving their trucks to their property and you cannot stop the trucks from delivering to and picking up from the chicken houses and farms on the road. He stated that the trucks are to go the “shortest, safest, most direct route.”

Commissioner Budde asked Mr. Stephens to clarify that large trucks pay more to register with the state than passenger vehicles. Mr. Stephens answered yes, they pay additional fees for being over a certain weight.

Chairman Ridley asked Mr. Stephens for his expert opinion. If he was a truck driver, would he go from Waco to Hwy 100 to make a right onto Hwy 120 at Crossroads Restaurant or would he want to go from Waco to Pine Grove Road to Hwy 120? Mr. Stephens stated he would not want to make the turn at Crossroads Restaurant.

Mr. Stephens stated that he had an officer working the road for a week and what they saw was some speeders. Trucks aren't supposed to use Pine Grove as a cut through because the road is posted as no trucks.

Chairman Ridley asked him, if there were no signs, would Pine Grove be the safest route? He answered, yes, that it would be legal to use if there were no signs.

David Greene asked the Chairman if he was taking the signs down. Chairman Ridley stated that he was not indicating anything, he was getting facts.

Mr. Greene then stated that the trucks were also a noise nuisance. Commissioner Vines stated there is a noise ordinance to handle that issue.

After more discussion, it was determined that the board could leave the signs up and no action would be necessary or motion to add the item to the agenda of the Special Called meeting to take a vote on removing the no truck signs.

Item #2 - Public Hearing – Request to amend the Zoning of Haralson County Tax Map 0029-0078 from Agricultural – 1 to I-1 Light Industrial. Property is located on Georgia Hwy 100. Property owner is Toby Adams.

Mr. Adams has requested the zoning be changed from A-1 to I-1 light industrial. He plans to have a facility to work on heavy equipment. Access will be off of Hwy 100. Hours of operation will be Monday – Friday, 7AM to 6 PM with some Saturday hours. There were 2 people in opposition at the Planning & Zoning Board hearing. They were concerned with traffic, appearance, noise and the effect on property values. The Planning and Zoning board recommended approval 5-0. Permits Director Glenda Wade stated that the objections were from people further than 1000' away from this property. She also stated that this fits the long term comprehensive plan for allowing commercial growth along the state highways and main corridors.

Two people were at this hearing to speak against this request. Both were concerned that this would be setting a precedent of moving from agricultural to commercial.

Commissioner Vines stated we have very little growth, so we need this. Commissioner Budde stated that the county wants industry. Without it the tax rate on homeowners will remain higher. He also stated that this may provide job opportunities.

Item #3 – County SPLOST VII Project List

At previous meetings the board had discussed the proposed distribution of the SPLOST VII funds. The projected income over a six year period is \$21 million. The percentages to each entity are as follows:

Haralson County	- 64.50%
Bremen	20.00%
Buchanan	3.57%
Tallapoosa	10.26%
Waco	1.67%

Chairman Ridley stated that the cities had all agreed to this distribution and have sent the county a copy of their resolution along with their project lists. The county is projected to receive \$13,545,000. The proposed project list is as follows:

Government Improvements	\$2,195,000
E-911 Upgrade	\$750,000
Recreation	\$1,000,000
Courthouse Renovation/Annex	\$4,600,000
Public Safety	\$2,000,000
Roads & Bridges	\$3,000,000

Item #4 – Sunday Alcohol Sales

Chairman Ridley stated that he had been approached by a convenience store owner regarding Sunday package sales of alcohol. After a brief discussion, the board decided that this should go to the citizens for a vote.

Item #5 – MLK Holiday

Commissioner Budde had previously recommended that this be made a paid holiday. The board had decided to look at the budget in December and determine if there were any additional revenues that could be used for this holiday. County Clerk Alison Palmer reported that the LOST and TAVT are projected to be above projections by approximately \$460,000 if collections continue at the current rate. Inmate medical expense is projected to be over budget by close to \$240,000 if there are not any more catastrophic claims. A couple of other items are projected to be over or under a small amount. At this rate there, there should be enough to change this to a paid holiday.

Item #6 – Haralson County Vendor and Contractor Procedures

Alison Palmer gave the commissioners a copy of the vendor procedures with the changes discussed at the last work session for their review.

Item #7 – Request to work a road that cannot be verified as a county road

A resident has requested that a road be worked by the public works department. Terry Edwards, Public Works Director, cannot find any documentation to show this is a county road. He stated that it had been worked a couple of times over the years, but not on a regular basis. Chairman Ridley stated that he is not going to send county equipment on a road that is private property. He stated this is the first time this has come up with a new Chairman and new Public Works director in place. After a discussion, it was determined that the attorney would research this item. If it is not deemed to be a county road, the owners can deed a right of way to the county if they want it worked.

Item #8 – Elections Office Equipment Purchase

The Elections Superintendent has brought a request for some items needed for the new elections equipment. This is for items that the state will not be providing. They will need 60-86 voting booths, which are the tables with the privacy dividers. Eventually, they will also need 16 of the tabulator bins that will hold the printed ballots for transport from the precincts back to the courthouse. The total cost will be \$33,000 to \$40,000. After the first of the year, there will be a grant available for approximately \$15,000 of this cost. The elections office will need to get three quotes for this purchase.

Item #9 – Census Update

Tina Southern gave an update on the Complete County Census Committee. She explained that they are tasked with getting information out to people, especially those that are considered hard to count. Ms. Southern explained that a great deal of federal and state funding is determined according to the census count. Overall, it equates to about \$2200 per person to a local government in federal funding. She said they have had some out of pocket expenses personally that they are asking to have reimbursed. The board agreed that these expenses could be reimbursed. They just need to bring a receipt to the commission office for reimbursement.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk