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**Houston County Commissioners Meeting**

**September 15, 2015**

**Warner Robins, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at the Houston County Annex in Warner Robins, Georgia with Chairman Stalnaker presiding and Commissioners McMichael, Walker, Thomson and Robinson present. Also present were Director of Administration Barry Holland, Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar, Director of Purchasing Mark Baker, HEMA/Fire Chief Jimmy Williams, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, Human Resources Director Ken Carter, Perry-Houston County Airport Manager Patsy Goff, Georgia State Patrol Sgt. Hamilton Halford, SP Design Lead Architect Mike Parker, Walt & Becky Wood and County Attorney Tom Hall.

Commissioner Thomson led the audience in the Invocation.

Major Richard McKee, USAF (ret.) led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and then detailed his military career. He served as a navigator in the KC-135 Stratotanker aerial refueling aircraft and later, in Vietnam from 1971-1972, flew on the C-130. He recounted stories of the 15,000 pound bombs, known as ‘daisy cutters’ that were dropped from the rear cargo hatch of the C-130. The bombs were utilized in Vietnam to clear helicopter landing zones in the dense jungle foliage. Later in his career he requested Robins AFB as his next duty assignment and spent his last three years of service as Executive Officer at the 19th Air Refueling Wing.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of September 1, 2015.

Chairman Stalnaker explained that there were two items that he would like to add to the meeting agenda. One is concerning a funding request from the Perry-Houston County Airport Authority and another concerning a proposed Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for the HVAC systems replacement project for the Annex and State Court buildings.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously to add a funding request from the Perry-Houston County Airport Authority for a land purchase as agenda Item #8; and to add a proposed Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for the HVAC systems replacement project for the Annex and State Court buildings as agenda Item #9.

Chairman Stalnaker then opened a public hearing on the abandonment of right of way for a portion of Hwy. 127 Loop.

Speaking in favor of the abandonment Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar explained that this would not be a closure of the road but rather the abandonment of the old, unused portion of right of way that is currently County-maintained. He further explained that a recent incident where a tree had fallen in the right of way had brought into question whether that portion of the road was public or private. After a brief discussion, Chairman Stalnaker suggested that although all legal requirements necessary to consider the abandonment had been satisfied further consideration was needed before action should be taken.

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He asked Mr. Dunbar and Mr. McMichael to meet with property owners to discuss the possible action before bringing it back before the Board. Mr. Walker asked how many property owners were affected. County Attorney Tom Hall stated that there were only two.

There was no opposition to the abandonment.

There being no further comments, the meeting was continued.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously to table the abandonment of that portion of the right of way for Highway 127 Loop formerly Old Houston Factory Road northeast of the northeast boundary of Tract 3 as shown on the plat of survey recorded in Plat Book 73, Page 94, Clerk’s Office, Houston Superior Court to the termination at the right of way of the new Georgia State Highway 127 a/k/a Houston Lake Road.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously to approve a supplemental agreement to the existing contract with Saunders Engineering Consultants, Inc. for the Dunbar Road SPLOST 2012 project providing additional design services changing the typical road section on Hwy 41 from a rural to an urban section. The agreement will add $5,000 to the original $52,000 contract amount making the new contract $57,000.

Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar briefed the Board on the status of the construction plans and stated that the bids for the construction phase of this project should be let in October.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously to approve Chairman Stalnaker to sign all documents awarding the contract for architectural services on the new fire station (#6 Perdue) construction project to JMA Architecture of Perry. JMA’s fee will be a fixed fee of $60,000.

Chairman Stalnaker recognized Chief Williams and asked him when the last new fire station was constructed in Houston County. Chief Williams said that although the Henderson fire station was moved to a newly constructed building around 2004, that the last actual new station was the Meadowdale station built in the mid to late 1980’s. Chairman Stalnaker commented that the fire station is designed to house a 24/7 EMS ambulance crew as well as have living quarters for the firefighters. Mr. Thomson added that the station is to be built on property donated by Perdue Farms.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously to approve the execution of a reforestation proposal for 368 acres at the Houston County Landfill with American Forest Management, Inc. of Sandersville, GA in the amount of $79,120. Project will be funded by Solid Waste Capital funds.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously to approve the award of six Dodge Charger pursuit vehicles (5 for use in the Patrol Division funded by SPLOST 2012 and 1 for use in the Detention Center funded by Inmate Funds) to Don Jackson Chrysler-Jeep-Dodge of Union City at a unit cost of $24,346 each totaling $146,076; one Ford F-150 XL crew cab pick-up truck (for use in the Warrants Division funded by SPLOST 2012) to Brannen Motor Co. of Unadilla at a cost of $24,508; and two Chevy Tahoe’s (1 for use in the Traffic Division and 1 for use in the Juvenile Division – both funded by SPLOST 2012) to Brannen Motor Co. of Unadilla at a unit cost of $34,821 totaling $69,642.

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Mr. Thomson commented that none of the funding for these vehicles would come from ad valorem taxes since one was from Inmate Funds and the other eight from SPLOST.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously to approve a bid for filters for warehouse inventory covering the base period from September 15, 2015 through June 30, 2016, plus two one year renewal options covering July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017, and July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018, to TruckPro of Macon, Georgia. Filters will be ordered on an ‘as needed’ bases.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously to approve the payment of bills totaling $895,725.15.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously to approve the reimbursement of $127,062 for the purchase of 9.412 acres of property adjacent to the southwest corner of the airport to the Perry-Houston County Airport Authority.

Chairman Stalnaker remarked that this property acquisition by the Airport Authority will provide long-term viability for future growth and would also help to prevent encroachment upon the existing airport properties. Mr. Walker commented that the airport has come a long way over the years. Mr. McMichael recognized Patsy Goff, Airport Manager, and thanked her for her efforts. Ms. Goff thanked the Board for their continued support.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously to approve Chairman Stalnaker to sign all contact documents with International City Builders accepting the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) of $999,819 on the HAVC systems replacement project for the Annex and State Court buildings.

Ms. Robinson commented that she was amazed by the high cost of this project. Mr. Thomson stated that this was a customized system. Chairman Stalnaker recognized Mike Parker of SP Design Group who stated that although the cost of this project is higher than anticipated he is satisfied with the GMP. He explained that the equipment is not standard 15-year equipment, but rather 20 to 30 year equipment that is manufactured here in Georgia. He briefed the Board on the various reasons why the costs may have come in higher than expected.

Chairman Stalnaker then opened the meeting for public comments.

Paul Brown, 113 Oklahoma Avenue, Warner Robins asked the Board to consider installation of additional sidewalks on Elberta Road.

There being no further public comments, the meeting was continued.

The Chairman then asked for comments from the Commissioners.

Mr. McMichael thanked Mr. McKee for coming to the meeting and sharing his military experience.

Chairman Stalnaker expressed congratulations to Miss Betty Cantrell who was recently crowned Miss America.

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Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

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Barry Holland Chairman

Director of Administration

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