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**Houston County Commissioners Meeting**

**November 17, 2015**

**Warner Robins, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 17, 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, Human Resources Director Ken Carter, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, District Attorney George Hartwig, Solicitor-General Amy Smith, Walt and Becky Wood, Ansel Peck, James Erdmanczyk, and County Attorney Tom Hall.

Commissioner McMichael led the audience in the Invocation.

TSgt Angie Kidder, USAF (ret.) led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and then detailed her military career. After trying college for one year, Ms. Kidder joined the Air Force in May of 1986 and trained as a computer operator. After her first assignment to Misawa Air Base in Japan she also was assigned to Okinawa, then the Philippines, Brooks AFB in Texas, Izmir Air Station in Turkey, Keesler AFB in Mississippi, and finally Ramstein Air Base in Germany. Later in her career she became an instructor for advanced computer courses. She retired after 21 years of service in 2007 while at Ramstein and then stayed for three more years in Germany before returning to the States. She came to Houston County in 2010 and worked as a probation officer before being hired in July of this year by the County to be the new Accountability Court Administrator. She has one son who is currently serving in the military. She briefly touched on the progress that has been made starting up the new court and complimented the whole team for their efforts. They currently have four individuals in the program with another four expected in December.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of November 3, 2015.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously to approve the hire of Ms. Dawn Ramirez for the position of Administrative Secretary in the Commissioner’s Office at Grade 13-E effective November 24, 2015.

County Attorney Tom Hall presented the first reading on a proposed amendment to the County Ordinances which would add a new section to Chapter 2, Article IV-Finance titled Sec. 2-283 Purchasing Card and Credit Card Ordinance for Houston County Elected Officials and Employees.

The first reading requires no formal action by the Board. A second reading and public hearing will be held at the regularly scheduled Board meeting December 1, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously to approve the hiring of the following workers for the upcoming December 1, 2015 Senate District 20 Special Election:

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**Amount Total**

17 Managers $130.00 $2,210.00

34 Assistant Managers 90.00 3,060.00

29 Clerks 80.00 2,320.00

74 Training 25.00 1,850.00

6 Janitors 15.50 93.00

3 Janitors 25.00 75.00

81 TS Units 3.00 243.00

2 Election Night Helper 50.00 100.00

1 Supply Pick Up Helper 50.00 50.00

2 Election Night Check In 50.00 100.00

15 Supply Pick Up/Return Supplies 10.00 150.00

15 Cell Phones 10.00 150.00

**Total $10,401.00**

Chairman Stalnaker commented that this cost is for the December 1st election only. If required, the run-off election will be an additional cost.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously to approve the surplus and sale of a 1989 Ford D80 pumper truck (M#426 VIN# IFDYD80U8KVA28767) to the Bleckley County Commission for $2,000. The Purchasing Department is authorized to transfer title on the truck once payment has been received.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously to authorize Chairman Stalnaker to sign all documents necessary to accept $82,499 of federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant funds from the Prosecuting Attorney’s Council (PAC) through the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC). Both new employees, along with the District Attorney and the Solicitor-General, will be required to sign an agreement stating that the positions will terminate if, or when, the funding is discontinued or is reduced to a level that is not sufficient to fully fund them.

Solicitor-General Amy Smith briefed the Board on the importance of the advocate positions as they help guide crime victims through the criminal justice process.

Mr. Thomson asked Ms. Smith how she would accomplish the volunteer hours required as part of the County-match. Ms. Smith explained that she utilizes second and third-year law students to achieve those volunteer hours.

Chairman Stalnaker thanked DA Hartwig for his cooperation and innovative way of providing funds that will cover the additional County-match by giving up one current part-time position in his office.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously to approve the conveyance of a portion of the original right of way for Fire Tower Road from Ayers Farms, Inc. shown at Deed Book 6808, Page 281, Clerk’s Office, Houston Superior Court, back to Ayers Farms, Inc. and authorize the Chairman to sign the deed.

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Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously to approve the award of the maintenance project on Houston Lake Road from SR 127 to the Sandy Run Creek Bridge to Wall Asphalt Services of Carrollton, GA in the amount of $21,300. This project is funded by 2001 SPLOST.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously to approve the payment of bills totaling $1,122,150.80.

Chairman Stalnaker then opened the meeting for public comments.

There being no public comments, the meeting was continued.

The Chairman then asked for comments from the Commissioners.

Chairman Stalnaker announced that Ms. Diane Sweat’s retirement party would be held as a drop-in event on Wednesday, November 18th, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the large conference room of the County Annex building. He also asked the Board members to consider whether an additional holiday on December 31st should be granted for all County employees. Currently the County observes December 24th and 25th for Christmas and January 1st for New Years. This action would give all employees back-to-back weeks with Thursday and Friday off. If the other Board members agree this matter would be voted on during the December 1st Board meeting. Finally, Chairman Stalnaker mentioned that Commissioner McMichael would be standing-in for him at the I-75 Corridor meeting to be held at Flint Energies on Wednesday, November 18th from 8:00 a.m. to Noon.

Ms. Robinson wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Thomson also wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. McMichael wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving and also thanked Flint Energies for hosting an appreciation dinner for all first responders last night.

Mr. Walker wished everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving and remarked that we will all miss Diane Sweat as she retires from the Commissioner’s office.

Chairman Stalnaker reminded everyone to vote in the upcoming District 20 Senate election on December 1st. Early voting will end on Wednesday, November 25th due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

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

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Barry Holland Chairman

Director of Administration

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Commissioner

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