

**Houston County Commissioners Meeting
December 17, 2013
Warner Robins, Georgia**

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 17, 2013 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 Personnel Ken Carter, Fire/HEMA Chief Jimmy Williams, Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar, Houston County District Attorney George Hartwig, Chief Building Inspector Tim Andrews, Director of Purchasing Mark Baker, Walton and Becky Wood, James Erdmanczyk and County Attorney Mike Long.

Commissioner Walker led the audience in the Invocation.

Col. Dan Talati, United States Air Force, led the audience in the pledge of allegiance and spoke of his military career. Col. Talati is the JSTARS 461st Operations Group Commander on Robins Air Force Base. The 461st Maintenance Group is responsible for maintenance, logistics and combat support of the E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar Systems (JSTARS) aircraft wing that provides worldwide command and control, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance support to combat commands. Col. Talati spoke highly of the young men and women who serve in today's Air Force. He had high praise for the maintenance crews that keep the aging JSTARS aircraft serviceable for their missions. He also commented on the high level of support the military receives from the Middle Georgia community.

Chairman Stalnaker recognized the Veterans High School Varsity Cheerleaders for winning the 2013 AAAA GHSA State Cheerleading Championship for the second year in a row. He read a resolution and presented it to head Coach Maryann Fincher on behalf of the squad. Each of the young ladies were introduced and congratulated for their achievement.

Motion by Mr. McMichael second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of December 3, 2013.

Chairman Stalnaker thanked Commissioner Gail Robinson for her service during the 2013 calendar year as vice-chair. Commissioner Robinson thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to serve.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, and carried by acclamation to appoint Tom McMichael as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for 2014. Upon voting, Commissioners Robinson, Thomson and Walker voted yes. Commissioner McMichael abstained.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously to approve a one-time adjustment to the Solicitor-General's annual salary of \$6,933.96 to cover the retirement contribution for that position. This adjustment will be made effective January 1, 2014.

Mike Long presented an abandonment of surplus land item to the Board. This triangular piece of property located at the intersection of Houston Lake Road, Tucker Road and Kathryn Ryals Road is an undevelopable property that the adjacent property owner, Mr. Leon Tompkins, is willing to take. This piece is an odd shaped, undevelopable piece of property due to its size that was created with the construction of the new section of Houston Lake road several years ago.

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Chairman Stalnaker thanked Mr. Tompkins for maintaining this piece of property for the last several years.

Motion by Ms. Robinson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously to approve the abandonment of surplus land pursuant to O.C.G.A. 36-9-3(h), said land described as follows:

All that tract or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Land Lot 62 of the 10th Land District of Houston County, Georgia, being known and designated as that portion of the property described in the right-of-way deed at Deed Book 1677, Page 80, Clerk's Office, Houston Superior Court, more particularly being a triangular portion bounded easterly by the westerly right-of-way of Kathryn Ryals Road and the relocated Houston Lake Road, bounded westerly by the easterly right-of-way of Tucker Road and bounded northerly by the southerly right-of-way of the portion of Tucker Road connecting to Kathryn Ryals Road. The aforesaid property is more particularly described as Parcel "A", containing 0.294 acres according to a plat of survey prepared by Robert L. Story, G.R.L.S. No. 1853, dated September 23, 2013 and revised October 30, 2013, a copy of which is of record in Plat Book _____, Page _____, Clerk's Office, Houston Superior Court. The said plat and the record thereof are incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.

The parcel of land cannot be developed due to its size and according to the statute the parcel can be offered to an adjacent property owner.

Said property is offered to the adjacent property owner Leon Tompkins for two hundred dollars.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. McMichael and carried unanimously to approve the reappointment of Ron Grace to a three year term on the Houston County Board of Tax Assessors effective January 1, 2014. Mr. Grace's term will expire on December 31, 2016.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously to approve the reappointment of Perry Melvin and Art MacDonald to another two year term on the Houston County Airport Authority effective January 1, 2014. Both terms will expire on December 31, 2015.

Motion by Mr. Thomson, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously to approve the selection of International City Builders of Warner Robins as the construction manager for the Perry Library Expansion and Renovation project at an estimated management cost of \$79,000. Chairman Stalnaker is authorized to sign all contract documents. This management fee is based upon a \$2 million dollar construction estimate. International City Builders will prepare the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) once drawings are complete and submit it to the County for acceptance. In the event that the County and International City Builders fail to successfully negotiate the GMP, the County reserves the right to discontinue the contract and subsequently initiate contract negotiations with the next highest ranked firm.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Walker and carried unanimously to approve the purchase of one 2013 Chevy Tahoe from Five Star Chevrolet in Warner Robins for use in the District Attorney's office at a cost of \$33,946. SPLOST 2012 funds in the amount of \$30,000 will be used and the balance of \$3,946 will come from the District Attorney's Drug Fund.

Chairman Stalnaker thanked District Attorney Hartwig for contributing the \$3,946 from drug funds to help cover the cost of the vehicle.

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Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously to approve the award of a bid for the Ball Street Widening improvement project to Georgia Asphalt in the amount of \$667,465.42.

Chairman Stalnaker explained that the additional work on Ball Street was made possible by the savings realized on other SPLOST projects, including savings from the original Ball Street project. Director of Operations Robbie Dunbar stated that the project would have an 8-month timeframe with a bonus offered to the contractor if they could complete the project earlier.

Motion by Mr. McMichael, second by Ms. Robinson and carried unanimously to approve the payment of bills totaling \$9,147,585.59.

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 recognized Mr. Ed Dyson and thanked him for his service on the Hospital Board as well as his service to the community in the educational field. The Chairman wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year. He stated that it was a pleasure to serve the great citizens of Houston County.

Mr. Walker wished everyone happy holidays and urged everyone to remember to help others that may require a helping hand or assistance during the holidays. He also stated that Houston County has the best employees and citizens in the State.

Ms. Robinson wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mr. Thomson wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He also stated that he was born here, traveled to and lived in many other parts of the country, and came back to Houston County for good reason.

Mr. McMichael wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He thanked the Board for electing him vice-chair for the coming year.

Chairman Stalnaker announced the 2014 Board of Commissioners meeting schedule for the benefit of the public and media. He pointed out that the meetings will continue to be the first Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. at the County Courthouse in Perry and on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the County Annex Building in Warner Robins. The only meeting that has been rescheduled is the first meeting in February. This meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 5th in Perry instead of on the 4th so that the Commissioners may attend the ACCG conference in Atlanta on February 3rd and 4th.

There being no further comments, the meeting was continued.

Motion by Mr. Walker, second by Mr. Thomson and carried unanimously to enter into Executive Session for Attorney/Client matters.

Chairman Stalnaker reconvened the regular Board meeting with no action taken.

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

Barry Holland
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner