

May 27, 2004

The Walton County Board of Commissioners held a called meeting on Thursday, May 27, 2004 at 6:00 p.m. in the Courthouse Annex V Conference Room, 132 East Spring Street, Monroe, Ga. Those present included Chairman Kevin Little, Commissioners Clinton Ayers, Michael Turner, Lamar Palmer, Gerald Atha and John Robinson, County Clerk Leta Talbird, County Attorney Ken Lander, Personnel Director Janice Holland and Financial Officer Merridy McDaniel. A list of citizens and other employees in attendance at this meeting is on file in the auxiliary file under this meeting date. Commissioner Green did not attend the meeting due to a prior commitment.

Chairman Little gave an update on progress at the South Madison Avenue Park.

Chairman Little called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Robinson opened the meeting in prayer.

Commissioner Turner made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Commissioner Ayers seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Palmer made a motion to approve the minutes of the following meetings: April 29, 2004, May 4, 2004 & May 13, 2004. Commissioner Atha seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Robinson made a motion to appoint Randy Jeffery to the Walton County Personnel Advisory Board. Commissioner Ayers seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Personnel Director Janice Holland presented a request to change third party administrator and excess insurance carrier for the County's self-funded health insurance program to Taylor Benefit Resource and Peoples Benefits commencing July 1, 2004. Commissioner Robinson made a motion to approve the recommendation and give the Chairman the authority to execute any required documents on behalf of the County, with the condition that Taylor Benefit Resource gets a license to do business in the State of Georgia. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Ms. Holland presented a request to approve a change in the provider of the County's basic life insurance and supplemental life carrier from Metlife to Greater Georgia Life through the Franklin Insurance Agency, effective July 1, 2004. Commissioner Robinson made a motion to approve the change and to give the Chairman the authority to execute any required documents on behalf of the County. Commissioner Atha seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Ms. Holland presented a request to allow American General Life & Accident Insurance Company to provide voluntary payroll deducted benefits to employees. Commissioner Ayers made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to approve the request and to give the Chairman the authority to execute the appropriate documents. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Atha made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Robinson, to approve employee new hires and promotions for the record. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Turner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ayers, to approve purchases of \$2,500.00 or greater as presented. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Robinson made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to approve refunds for the record. All voted in favor.

Financial Officer Merridy McDaniel presented a budget transfer for the acquisition of a digital projector for the Fire Department. Commissioner Robinson made a motion to approve the purchase and budget transfer. Commissioner Atha seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Ms. McDaniel presented a budget amendment for reprogramming the County's 911 radio code. Commissioner Robinson made a motion to table a decision on the budget amendment and to request that Motorola provide a cost breakdown on the \$7,620.00 fee. Commissioner Turner seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Ms. McDaniel presented a budget amendment for fuel/mileage for the Planning & Development Office. Commissioner Turner made a motion to table a decision on the amendment. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Turner made a motion to table appointments to the Impact Fee Advisory Committee until the 6/1/04 meeting. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Robinson made a motion to appoint Lee Malcom to the Walton County Planning Commission. Commissioner Ayers seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

The Board considered acceptance of an Office of Domestic Preparedness grant for Citizens Corps initiatives. Commissioner Robinson made a motion to accept the grant. Commissioner Atha seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Commissioner Turner made a motion to table a decision on a Governor's Office of Highway Safety – Innovative Highway Safety Initiatives for the Sheriff's Department. There was no one present from the Sheriff's Department to present the request. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion. All voted in favor. (The Board voted on this matter later in the meeting.)

Coroner Craig League came before the Board to request payment for two indigent burials that exceeded the County's \$250.00 fee limit. Mr. League requested that the Board consider amending its indigent burial fee and policy due to an increase in the costs associated with burials. Commissioner Robinson made a motion to approve the payment of the two indigent burials and to consider amending the policy at the 7/1/04 meeting. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The Board considered a contract for interpreting services for the Magistrate Court. The Board instructed County Attorney Ken Lander to meet with the Chief Superior Court Judge and address the issue of getting one contract for interpreting services for all of the Courts. Commissioner Turner made a motion to approve the contract. Commissioner Atha seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

The Board considered the renewal of the annual maintenance agreement with Motorola for the County's 911 radio system. Commissioner Turner made a motion to approve the agreement contingent upon adoption of the FY 2005 budget. Commissioner Atha seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The Board considered an agreement with Monroe Utilities Network for

exterior lighting for the new jail addition. Commissioner Ayers made a motion to table the matter until the 6/1/04 meeting in order to have the architects present to answer questions regarding the agreement and to compare prices from other electric companies. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The Board considered a Right of Way Acquisition Agreement for DOT Project PR000-S007-00021 – GDBP & Widening on SR 81 for Center Turn Lane & Right Turn Lane and GDBP and Relocation of Skewed Youth Jersey Road Intersection at SR 81. Commissioner Atha made a motion to approve the agreement. Commissioner Ayers seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

The Board considered a proposal from The Potts Company for courtroom benches for the new government building. Commissioner Robinson stated that he would like to know what the contractor's markup is in regard to the 15 percent fee and requested Potts provide a schedule of values. Commissioner Atha made a motion to table a decision on the proposal until the 6/1/04 meeting. Commissioner Turner seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The Board considered a fireworks display contract with Pyrotecnico. Commissioner Turner stated that the County needs to look at having donations pay for the fireworks and that it not be a burden on the taxpayers. Commissioner Robinson made a motion to approve the contract. County Attorney Ken Lander stated that changes regarding liability issues need to be made in the contract. Commissioner Robinson withdrew his motion pursuant to the County Attorney's concerns. After further discussion, Commissioner Robinson made a motion to approve the contract contingent upon removal of the indemnification portion, providing a clear definition of the County's liability, changing the contract to be governed by the laws of the State of Georgia and defining the County's responsibility regarding the fireworks display. Commissioner Atha seconded the motion. Commissioners Palmer, Robinson and Chairman Little voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Ayers, Turner and Atha opposed the motion. The motion failed due to a tied vote.

Planning Director Mike Martin discussed with the Board sight distance issues on the entrance of "The Springs", a private drive subdivision located on Double Springs Road. Resident Carla Mays presented site distance information to the Board for review. Brent Trammel and Darryl Marshall spoke regarding their concerns regarding site distance at the entrance. Mr. Martin stated that the Planning & Development Department would work with Precision Planning, Inc. on a plan to resolve the site distance issues.

The Board considered an Alcoholic Beverage License application for Sandeep Singh – Exxon Food Mart – 5393 Hwy. 138, Oxford, GA. Commissioner Turner made a motion to approve the license. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion; voted and carried unanimously.

Major Travis Brown of the Sheriff's Office came before the Board to request approval to submit a grant proposal for innovative Highway Safety initiatives through the Governor's Office of Highway Safety. Commissioner Turner made motion to approve the request. Commissioner Ayers seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Travis Brown spoke during the public comment segment of the meeting.

At 8:25 p.m., Commissioner Turner made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss personnel and litigation. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion. Commissioners Ayers, Turner, Palmer, Atha and Robinson voted

in favor.

At 8:58 p.m., Commissioner Atha made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Ayers, to return to regular session. Commissioners Ayers, Turner, Palmer, Atha and Robinson voted in favor.

Commissioner Robinson made a motion to approve providing health insurance benefits for Personnel Director Janice Holland, retroactive from May 3, 2004. Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion; vote and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Atha made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Palmer, to approve an expenditure in the amount of \$2,700.00 and the transfer of funds in the Hester lawsuit settlement. All voted in favor.

At 9:00 p.m., Commissioner Ayers made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Palmer, to adjourn the meeting.

All documents of record for this meeting are on file in either the addendum book or auxiliary file under this meeting date.

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KEVIN W. LITTLE, CHAIRMAN

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LETA P. TALBIRD, CLERK

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CLINTON AYERS, DISTRICT 1

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MICHAEL TURNER, DISTRICT 2

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LAMAR PALMER, DISTRICT 4

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GERALD ATHA, DISTRICT 5

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JOHN ROBINSON, DISTRICT 6